

# Title 48

## INSURANCE

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**48.01.010 Short title.** Title 48 RCW constitutes the insurance code. [1975 1st ex.s. c 266 § 2; 1947 c 79 § .01.01; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.01.01.]

**Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 266:** "If any provision of this 1975 amendatory act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1975 1st ex.s. c 266 § 21.]

**48.01.020 Scope of code.** All insurance and insurance transactions in this state, or affecting subjects located wholly or in part or to be performed within this state, and all persons having to do therewith are governed by this code. [1947 c 79 § .01.02; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.01.02.]

**48.01.030 Public interest.** The business of insurance is one affected by the public interest, requiring that all persons be actuated by good faith, abstain from deception, and practice honesty and equity in all insurance matters. Upon the insurer, the insured, their providers, and their representatives rests the duty of preserving inviolate the integrity of insurance. [1995 c 285 § 16; 1947 c 79 § .01.03; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.01.03.]

**Effective date—1995 c 285:** See RCW 48.30A.900.

**48.01.035 "Developmental disability" defined.** The term "developmental disability" as used in this title means a disability attributable to mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism, or another neurological condition closely related to mental retardation or to require treatment similar to that required for mentally retarded individuals, which disability originates before such individual attains age eighteen, which has continued or can be expected to continue indefinitely, and which constitutes a substantial handicap to such individual. [1985 c 264 § 1.]

**48.01.040 "Insurance" defined.** Insurance is a contract whereby one undertakes to indemnify another or pay a specified amount upon determinable contingencies. [1947 c 79 § .01.04; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.01.04.]

**48.01.050 "Insurer" defined.** "Insurer" as used in this code includes every person engaged in the business of making contracts of insurance, other than a fraternal benefit society. A reciprocal or interinsurance exchange is an "insurer" as used in this code. Two or more hospitals, as defined in \*RCW 70.39.020(3), which join and organize as a mutual corporation pursuant to chapter 24.06 RCW for the purpose of insuring or self-insuring against liability claims, including medical liability, through a contributing trust fund

## Chapter 48.01

### INITIAL PROVISIONS

#### Sections

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shall not be deemed an "insurer" under this code. Two or more local governmental entities, as defined in \*\*RCW 48.62.020, which pursuant to \*\*RCW 48.62.040, \*\*48.62.035, or any other provision of law join together and organize to form an organization for the purpose of jointly self-insuring or self-funding shall not be deemed an "insurer" under this code. Two or more persons engaged in the business of commercial fishing who enter into an arrangement with other such persons for the pooling of funds to pay claims or losses arising out of loss or damage to a vessel or machinery used in the business of commercial fishing and owned by a member of the pool shall not be deemed an "insurer" under this code. [1990 c 130 § 1; 1985 c 277 § 9; 1979 ex.s. c 256 § 13; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 13 § 1; 1947 c 79 § .01.05; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.01.05.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) RCW 70.39.020 was repealed by 1982 c 223 § 10, effective June 30, 1990.

\*\*\*(2) RCW 48.62.020, 48.62.040, and 48.62.035 were repealed by 1991 sp.s. c 30 § 33, effective January 1, 1992.

**Retrospective application—1985 c 277:** "This act applies retrospectively to group self-funded plans formed on or after January 1, 1983." [1985 c 277 § 10.] For codification of "this act" [1985 c 277], see Codification Tables, Volume 0.

*"Domestic," "foreign," "alien" insurers defined:* RCW 48.05.010.

*Merger, rehabilitation, liquidation situations—"Insurer" defined:* RCW 48.31.020, 48.99.010.

*"Reciprocal insurance, insurer" defined:* RCW 48.10.010, 48.10.020.

**48.01.053 "Issuer" defined.** "Issuer" as used in this title and chapter 26.18 RCW means insurer, fraternal benefit society, certified health plan, health maintenance organization, and health care service contractor. [1995 c 34 § 1.]

**48.01.060 "Insurance transaction" defined.** "Insurance transaction" includes any:

- (1) Solicitation.
- (2) Negotiations preliminary to execution.
- (3) Execution of an insurance contract.
- (4) Transaction of matters subsequent to execution of the contract and arising out of it.
- (5) Insuring. [1947 c 79 § .01.06; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.01.06.]

**48.01.070 "Person" defined.** "Person" means any individual, company, insurer, association, organization, reciprocal or interinsurance exchange, partnership, business trust, or corporation. [1947 c 79 § .01.07; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.01.07.]

**48.01.080 Penalties.** Violation of any provision of this code is punishable by a fine of not less than ten dollars nor more than one thousand dollars, or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or both fine and imprisonment, in addition to any other penalty or forfeiture provided herein or otherwise by law. [1947 c 79 § .01.08; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.01.08.]

**48.01.090 Severability—1947 c 79.** If any provision of this code or the application thereof to any circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the code, or the application of the provision to other circumstances, is not affected thereby. [1947 c 79 § .01.09; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.01.09.]

**48.01.100 Existing officers.** Continuation by this code of any office existing under any act repealed herein preserves the tenure of the individual holding the office at the effective date of this code. [1947 c 79 § .01.10; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.01.10.]

**48.01.110 Existing licenses.** Every license or certificate of authority in force immediately prior to the effective date of this code and existing under any act herein repealed is valid until its original expiration date, unless earlier terminated in accordance with this code. [1947 c 79 § .01.11; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.01.11.]

**48.01.120 Existing insurance forms.** Every form of insurance document in use at the effective date of this code in accordance with the commissioner's approval pursuant to any act herein repealed, may continue to be so used unless the commissioner otherwise prescribes in accordance with this code. [1947 c 79 § .01.12; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.01.12.]

**48.01.130 Existing actions, violations.** No action or proceeding commenced, and no violation of law existing, under any act herein repealed is affected by the repeal, but all procedure hereafter taken in reference thereto shall conform to this code as far as possible. [1947 c 79 § .01.13; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.01.13.]

**48.01.140 Headings.** The meaning or scope of any provision is not affected by chapter, section, or paragraph headings. [1947 c 79 § .01.14; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.01.14.]

**48.01.150 Particular provisions prevail.** Provisions of this code relating to a particular kind of insurance or a particular type of insurer or to a particular matter prevail over provisions relating to insurance in general or insurers in general or to such matter in general. [1947 c 79 § .01.15; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.01.15.]

**48.01.160 Repealed acts not revived.** Repeal by this code of any act shall not revive any law heretofore repealed or superseded. [1947 c 79 § .01.16; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.01.16.]

**48.01.170 Effective date—1947 c 79.** This code shall become effective on the first day of October, 1947. [1947 c 79 § .01.17; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.01.17.]

**48.01.180 Adopted children—Insurance coverage.**  
 (1) A child of an insured, subscriber, or enrollee shall be considered a dependent child for insurance purposes under this title upon assumption by the insured, subscriber, or enrollee of a legal obligation for total or partial support of a child in anticipation of adoption of the child. Upon the termination of such legal obligations, the child shall not be considered a dependent child for insurance purposes.

(2) Every policy or contract providing coverage for health benefits to a resident of this state shall provide coverage for dependent children placed for adoption under

the same terms and conditions as apply to the natural, dependent children of the insured, subscriber, or enrollee whether or not the adoption has become final.

(3) No policy or contract may restrict coverage of any dependent child adopted by, or placed for adoption with, an insured, subscriber, or enrollee solely on the basis of a preexisting condition of the child at the time that the child would otherwise become eligible for coverage under the plan if the adoption or placement for adoption occurs while the insured, subscriber, or enrollee is eligible for coverage under the plan. [1995 c 34 § 4; 1986 c 140 § 1.]

**Effective date, application—1986 c 140:** "This act shall take effect January 1, 1987, and shall apply to all contracts or agreements issued, renewed, or delivered on or after January 1, 1987." [1986 c 140 § 6.]

**Severability—1986 c 140:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1986 c 140 § 7.]

**48.01.190 Immunity from civil liability.** (1) Any person who files reports, or furnishes other information, required under Title 48 RCW, required by the commissioner under authority granted by Title 48 RCW, useful to the commissioner in the administration of Title 48 RCW, or furnished to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners at the request of the commissioner or pursuant to Title 48 RCW, shall be immune from liability in any civil action or suit arising from the filing of any such report or furnishing such information to the commissioner or the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, unless actual malice, fraud, or bad faith is shown.

(2) The commissioner and the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, and the agents and employees of each, are immune from liability in any civil action or suit arising from the publication of any report or bulletin or dissemination of information related to the official activities of the commissioner or the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, unless actual malice, fraud, or bad faith is shown.

(3) Any licensee under chapter 48.17 RCW and any trade association of the licensees under chapter 48.15 RCW, and any officer, director, employee, agent, or committee of the licensee or association who furnishes information to or for the commissioner or to or for the association regarding unauthorized insurers or regarding attempts by any person to place or actual placement by any person of business with the insurers, whether in compliance with chapter 48.15 RCW or not, shall be immune from each and every kind of liability in any civil action or suit arising in whole or in part from the information or from the furnishing of the information.

(4) The immunity granted by this section is in addition to any common law or statutory privilege or immunity enjoyed by such person, and nothing in this section is intended to abrogate or modify in any way such common law or statutory privilege or immunity. [1995 c 10 § 1; 1987 c 51 § 1.]

**48.01.220 Mental health regional support networks—Limited exemption.** The activities and operations of mental health regional support networks, to the extent they pertain to the operation of a medical assistance managed care system in accordance with chapters 71.24 and

74.09 RCW, are exempt from the requirements of this title. [1993 c 462 § 104.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.01.230 Eligibility for coverage or making payments may not be contingent on eligibility for medical assistance.** An issuer and an employee welfare benefit plan, whether insured or self funded, as defined in the employee retirement income security act of 1974, 29 U.S.C. Sec. 1101 et seq. may not consider the availability of eligibility for medical assistance in this state under medical assistance, RCW 74.09.500, or any other state under 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1396a, section 1902 of the social security act, in considering eligibility for coverage or making payments under its plan for eligible enrollees, subscribers, policyholders, or certificate holders. [1995 c 34 § 2.]

**48.01.235 Enrollment of a child under the health plan of the child's parent—Requirements—Restrictions.**

(1) An issuer and an employee welfare benefit plan, whether insured or self funded, as defined in the employee retirement income security act of 1974, 29 U.S.C. Sec. 1101 et seq. may not deny enrollment of a child under the health plan of the child's parent on the grounds that:

(a) The child was born out of wedlock;

(b) The child is not claimed as a dependent on the parent's federal tax return; or

(c) The child does not reside with the parent or in the issuer's, or insured or self funded employee welfare benefit plan's service area.

(2) Where a child has health coverage through an issuer, or an insured or self funded employee welfare benefit plan of a noncustodial parent[,], the issuer, or insured or self funded employee welfare benefit plan, shall:

(a) Provide such information to the custodial parent as may be necessary for the child to obtain benefits through that coverage;

(b) Permit the provider or the custodial parent to submit claims for covered services without the approval of the noncustodial parent. If the provider submits the claim, the provider will obtain the custodial parent's assignment of insurance benefits or otherwise secure the custodial parent's approval.

For purposes of this subsection the department of social and health services as the state medicaid agency under RCW 74.09.500 may reassign medical insurance rights to the provider for custodial parents whose children are eligible for services under RCW 74.09.500; and

(c) Make payments on claims submitted in accordance with (b) of this subsection directly to the custodial parent, to the provider, or to the department of social and health services as the state medicaid agency under RCW 74.09.500.

(3) Where a child does not reside in the issuer's service area, an issuer shall cover no less than urgent and emergent care. Where the issuer offers broader coverage, whether by policy or reciprocal agreement, the issuer shall provide such coverage to any child otherwise covered that does not reside in the issuer's service area.

(4) Where a parent is required by a court order to provide health coverage for a child, and the parent is eligible

for family health coverage, the issuer, or insured or self funded employee welfare benefit plan, shall:

(a) Permit the parent to enroll, under the family coverage, a child who is otherwise eligible for the coverage without regard to any enrollment season restrictions;

(b) Enroll the child under family coverage upon application of the child's other parent, department of social and health services as the state medicaid agency under RCW 74.09.500, or child support enforcement program as defined under \*RCW 26.18.170, if the parent is enrolled but fails to make application to obtain coverage for such child; and

(c) Not disenroll, or eliminate coverage of, such child who is otherwise eligible for the coverage unless the issuer or insured or self funded employee welfare benefit plan is provided satisfactory written evidence that:

(i) The court order is no longer in effect; or

(ii) The child is or will be enrolled in comparable health coverage through another issuer, or insured or self funded employee welfare benefit plan, which will take effect not later than the effective date of disenrollment.

(5) An issuer, or insured or self funded employee welfare benefit plan, that has been assigned the rights of an individual eligible for medical assistance under medicaid and coverage for health benefits from the issuer, or insured or self funded employee welfare benefit plan, may not impose requirements on the department of social and health services that are different from requirements applicable to an agent or assignee of any other individual so covered. [1995 c 34 § 3.]

\*Reviser's note: "Child support enforcement program" is not defined in RCW 26.18.170. See chapter 26.18 RCW for child support enforcement generally.

## Chapter 48.02

### INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

#### Sections

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48.02.160	Special duties.
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48.02.180	Publication of insurance code and related statutes, manuals, etc.—Distribution—Sale.
48.02.190	Operating costs of office—Insurance commissioner's regulatory account—Contributions by insurance organizations, fees.

*Commissioner to prepare annuity tables for calculation of reserve fund in cases of death or permanent disability under workers' compensation: RCW 51.44.070.*

*Public bodies may retain collection agencies to collect public debts: RCW 19.16.500.*

*Salary of insurance commissioner: RCW 43.03.010.*

**48.02.010 Insurance commissioner.** (1) There shall be an insurance commissioner of this state who shall be elected at the time and in the manner that other state officers are elected.

(2) The commissioner in office at the effective date of this code shall continue in office for the remainder of the term for which he was elected and until his successor is duly elected and qualified.

(3) "Commissioner," where used in this code, means the insurance commissioner of this state. [1947 c 79 § .02.01; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.02.01.]

**48.02.020 Term of office.** The term of office of the commissioner shall be four years, commencing on the Wednesday after the second Monday in January after his election. [1947 c 79 § .02.02; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.02.02.]

**48.02.030 Bond.** Before entering upon his duties the commissioner shall execute a bond to the state in the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars, to be approved by the state treasurer and the attorney general, conditioned upon the faithful performance of the duties of his office. [1947 c 79 § .02.03; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.02.03.]

**48.02.050 Seal.** The official seal of the commissioner shall be a vignette of George Washington, with the words "Insurance Commissioner, State of Washington" surrounding the vignette. [1947 c 79 § .02.05; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.02.05.]

**48.02.060 General powers and duties.** (1) The commissioner shall have the authority expressly conferred upon him by or reasonably implied from the provisions of this code.

(2) The commissioner shall execute his duties and shall enforce the provisions of this code.

(3) The commissioner may:

(a) Make reasonable rules and regulations for effectuating any provision of this code, except those relating to election, qualifications, or compensation. No such rules and regulations shall be effective prior to their being filed for public inspection in the commissioner's office.

(b) Conduct investigations to determine whether any person has violated any provision of this code.

(c) Conduct examinations, investigations, hearings, in addition to those specifically provided for, useful and proper for the efficient administration of any provision of this code. [1947 c 79 § .02.06; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.02.06.]

**48.02.080 Enforcement.** (1) The commissioner may prosecute an action in any court of competent jurisdiction to enforce any order made by him pursuant to any provision of this code.

(2) If the commissioner has cause to believe that any person has violated any penal provision of this code or of other laws relating to insurance he shall certify the facts of the violation to the public prosecutor of the jurisdiction in which the offense was committed.

(3) If the commissioner has cause to believe that any person is violating or is about to violate any provision of this

code or any regulation or order of the commissioner, he may:

- (a) issue a cease and desist order; and/or
- (b) bring an action in any court of competent jurisdiction to enjoin the person from continuing the violation or doing any action in furtherance thereof.

(4) The attorney general and the several prosecuting attorneys throughout the state shall prosecute or defend all proceedings brought pursuant to the provisions of this code when requested by the commissioner. [1967 c 150 § 1; 1947 c 79 § .02.08; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.02.08.]

**48.02.090 Deputies—Employees.** (1) The commissioner may appoint a chief deputy commissioner, who shall have power to perform any act or duty conferred upon the commissioner. The chief deputy commissioner shall take and subscribe the same oath of office as the commissioner, which oath shall be endorsed upon the certificate of his appointment and filed in the office of the secretary of state.

(2) The commissioner may appoint additional deputy commissioners for such purposes as he may designate.

(3) The commissioner shall be responsible for the official acts of his deputies, and may revoke at will the appointment of any deputy.

(4) The commissioner may employ examiners, and such actuarial, technical, and administrative assistants and clerks as he may need for proper discharge of his duties.

(5) The commissioner, or any deputy or employee of the commissioner, shall not be interested, directly or indirectly, in any insurer except as a policyholder; except, that as to such matters wherein a conflict of interests does not exist on the part of any such person, the commissioner may employ insurance actuaries or other technicians who are independently practicing their professions even though such persons are similarly employed by insurers.

(6) The commissioner may require any deputy or employee to be bonded as he shall deem proper but not to exceed in amount the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars. The cost of any such bond shall be borne by the state. [1949 c 190 § 1; 1947 c 79 § .02.09; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 45.02.09.]

**48.02.100 Commissioner may delegate authority.** Any power or duty vested in the commissioner by any provision of this code may be exercised or discharged by any deputy, assistant, examiner, or employee of the commissioner acting in his name and by his authority. [1947 c 79 § .02.10; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.02.10.]

**48.02.110 Office.** The commissioner shall have an office at the state capital, and may maintain such offices elsewhere in this state as he may deem necessary. [1947 c 79 § .02.11; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.02.11.]

**48.02.120 Records.** (1) The commissioner shall preserve in permanent form records of his or her proceedings, hearings, investigations, and examinations, and shall file such records in his or her office.

(2) The records of the commissioner and insurance filings in his or her office shall be open to public inspection, except as otherwise provided by this code.

(3) Actuarial formulas, statistics, and assumptions submitted in support of a rate or form filing by an insurer, health care service contractor, or health maintenance organization or submitted to the commissioner upon his or her request shall be withheld from public inspection in order to preserve trade secrets or prevent unfair competition. [1985 c 264 § 2; 1979 ex.s. c 130 § 1; 1947 c 79 § .02.12; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.02.12.]

**48.02.130 Certificates—Copies—Evidentiary effect.**

(1) Any certificate or license issued by the commissioner shall bear the seal of his office.

(2) Copies of records or documents in his office certified to by the commissioner shall be received as evidence in all courts in the same manner and to the same effect as if they were the originals.

(3) When required for evidence in court, the commissioner shall furnish his certificate as to the authority of an insurer or other licensee in this state on any particular date, and the court shall receive the certificate in lieu of the commissioner's testimony. [1947 c 79 § .02.13; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.02.13.]

**48.02.140 Interstate cooperation.** (1) The commissioner shall to the extent he deems useful for the proper discharge of his responsibilities under the provisions of this code:

(a) Consult and cooperate with the public officials having supervision over insurance in other states.

(b) Share jointly with other states in the employment of actuaries, statisticians, and other insurance technicians whose services or the products thereof are made available and are useful to the participating states and to the commissioner.

(c) Share jointly with other states in establishing and maintaining offices and clerical facilities for purposes useful to the participating states and to the commissioner.

(2) All arrangements made jointly with other states under items (b) and (c) of subsection (1) of this section shall be in writing executed on behalf of this state by the commissioner. Any such arrangement, as to participation of this state therein, shall be subject to termination by the commissioner at any time upon reasonable notice.

(3) For the purposes of this code "National Association of Insurance Commissioners" means that voluntary organization of the public officials having supervision of insurance in the respective states, districts, and territories of the United States, whatever other name such organization may hereafter adopt, and in the affairs of which each of such public officials is entitled to participate subject to the constitution and bylaws of such organization. [1947 c 79 § .02.14; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.02.14.]

**48.02.150 Supplies—"Convention blanks."** The commissioner shall purchase at the expense of the state and in the manner provided by law:

(1) Printing, books, reports, furniture, equipment, and supplies as he deems necessary to the proper discharge of his duties under this code.

(2) "Convention form" insurers' annual statement blanks, which he may purchase from any printer manufactur-

ing the forms for the various states. [1947 c 79 § .02.15; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.02.15.]

**48.02.160 Special duties.** The commissioner shall:

(1) Obtain and publish for the use of courts and appraisers throughout the state, tables showing the average expectancy of life and values of annuities and of life and term estates.

(2) Disseminate information concerning the insurance laws of this state.

(3) Provide assistance to members of the public in obtaining information about insurance products and in resolving complaints involving insurers and other licensees. [1988 c 248 § 1; 1947 c 79 § .02.16; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.02.16.]

**48.02.170 Annual report.** The commissioner shall, as soon as accurate preparation enables, prepare a report of his official transactions during the preceding fiscal year, containing information relative to insurance as the commissioner deems proper. [1987 c 505 § 53; 1977 c 75 § 69; 1947 c 79 § .02.17; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.02.17.]

**48.02.180 Publication of insurance code and related statutes, manuals, etc.—Distribution—Sale.** (1) In addition to such publications as are otherwise authorized under this code, the commissioner may from time to time prepare and publish:

(a) Booklets containing the insurance code, or supplements thereto, and such related statutes as the commissioner deems suitable and useful for inclusion in an appendix of such booklet or supplement.

(b) Manuals and other material relative to examinations for licensing as provided in chapter 48.17 RCW.

(2) The commissioner may furnish copies of the insurance code, supplements thereto, and related statutes referred to in (1)(a) of this section free of charge to public offices and officers in this state concerned therewith, to public officials of other states and jurisdictions having supervision of insurance, to the library of congress, and to officers of the armed forces of the United States of America located at military installations in this state who are concerned with insurance transactions at or involving such military installations.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the commissioner shall sell copies of the insurance code, supplements thereto, examination manuals, and materials as referred to in subsection (1) of this section, at a reasonable price, fixed by the commissioner, in amount not less than the cost of publication, handling, and distribution thereof. The commissioner shall promptly deposit all funds received by him pursuant to this subsection with the state treasurer to the credit of the general fund. For appropriation purposes, such funds received and deposited by the commissioner shall be treated as a recovery of a previous expenditure. [1981 c 339 § 1; 1977 c 75 § 70; 1959 c 225 § 1.]

**48.02.190 Operating costs of office—Insurance commissioner's regulatory account—Contributions by insurance organizations, fees.** (1) As used in this section:

(a) "Organization" means every insurer, as defined in RCW 48.01.050, having a certificate of authority to do business in this state and every health care service contractor registered to do business in this state. "Class one" organizations shall consist of all insurers as defined in RCW 48.01.050. "Class two" organizations shall consist of all organizations registered under provisions of chapter 48.44 RCW.

(b) "Receipts" means (i) net direct premiums consisting of direct gross premiums, as defined in RCW 48.18.170, paid for insurance written or renewed upon risks or property resident, situated, or to be performed in this state, less return premiums and premiums on policies not taken, dividends paid or credited to policyholders on direct business, and premiums received from policies or contracts issued in connection with qualified plans as defined in RCW 48.14.021, and (ii) prepayments to health care service contractors as set forth in RCW 48.44.010(3) less experience rating credits, dividends, prepayments returned to subscribers, and payments for contracts not taken.

(2) The annual cost of operating the office of insurance commissioner shall be determined by legislative appropriation. A pro rata share of the cost shall be charged to all organizations. Each class of organization shall contribute sufficient in fees to the insurance commissioner's regulatory account to pay the reasonable costs, including overhead, of regulating that class of organization.

(3) Fees charged shall be calculated separately for each class of organization. The fee charged each organization shall be that portion of the cost of operating the insurance commissioner's office, for that class of organization, for the ensuing fiscal year that is represented by the organization's portion of the receipts collected or received by all organizations within that class on business in this state during the previous calendar year: PROVIDED, That the fee shall not exceed one-eighth of one percent of receipts: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the minimum fee shall be one thousand dollars.

(4) The commissioner shall annually, on or before June 1, calculate and bill each organization for the amount of its fee. Fees shall be due and payable no later than June 15 of each year: PROVIDED, That if the necessary financial records are not available or if the amount of the legislative appropriation is not determined in time to carry out such calculations and bill such fees within the time specified, the commissioner may use the fee factors for the prior year as the basis for the fees and, if necessary, the commissioner may impose supplemental fees to fully and properly charge the organizations. The penalties for failure to pay fees when due shall be the same as the penalties for failure to pay taxes pursuant to RCW 48.14.060. The fees required by this section are in addition to all other taxes and fees now imposed or that may be subsequently imposed.

(5) All moneys collected shall be deposited in the insurance commissioner's regulatory account in the state treasury which is hereby created.

(6) Unexpended funds in the insurance commissioner's regulatory account at the close of a fiscal year shall be carried forward in the insurance commissioner's regulatory account to the succeeding fiscal year and shall be used to reduce future fees. [1987 c 505 § 54; 1986 c 296 § 7.]

**Severability—Effective date—1986 c 296:** See notes following RCW 48.14.020.

## Chapter 48.03 EXAMINATIONS

### Sections

- 48.03.010 Examination of insurers, bureaus.
- 48.03.020 Examination of agents, managers, promoters.
- 48.03.025 Examiners—Scope of examination—Examiners' handbook.
- 48.03.030 Access to records on examination—Correction of accounts.
- 48.03.040 Examination reports—Consideration by commissioner—Orders—Confidentiality.
- 48.03.050 Reports withheld.
- 48.03.060 Examination expense.
- 48.03.065 Appointments by commissioner—Examiners—Exceptions.
- 48.03.070 Witnesses—Subpoenas—Depositions—Oaths.
- 48.03.075 Legal protection for commissioner, authorized representatives, and examiners—Good faith—Attorneys' fees—Payment by commissioner.

### 48.03.010 Examination of insurers, bureaus. (1)

The commissioner shall examine the affairs, transactions, accounts, records, documents, and assets of each authorized insurer as often as he or she deems advisable. The commissioner shall so examine each insurer holding a certificate of authority or certificate of registration not less frequently than every five years. Examination of an alien insurer may be limited to its insurance transactions in the United States. In scheduling and determining the nature, scope, and frequency of an examination, the commissioner shall consider such matters as the results of financial statement analyses and ratios, changes in management or ownership, actuarial opinions, reports of independent certified public accountants, and other criteria as set forth in the examiner's handbook adopted by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners and in effect when the commissioner exercises discretion under this section.

(2) As often as the commissioner deems advisable and at least once in five years, the commissioner shall fully examine each rating organization and examining bureau licensed in this state. As often as he or she deems it advisable the commissioner may examine each advisory organization and each joint underwriting or joint reinsurance group, association, or organization.

(3) The commissioner shall in like manner examine each insurer or rating organization applying for authority to do business in this state.

(4) In lieu of making an examination under this chapter, the commissioner may accept a full report of the last recent examination of a nondomestic rating or advisory organization, or joint underwriting or joint reinsurance group, association or organization, as prepared by the insurance supervisory official of the state of domicile or of entry. In lieu of an examination under this chapter of a foreign or alien insurer licensed in this state, the commissioner may accept an examination report on the company as prepared by the insurance department for the company's state of domicile or port-of-entry state until January 1, 1994. Thereafter, an examination report may be accepted only if: (a) That insurance department was at the time of the examination accredited under the National Association of Insurance Commissioners' financial regulation standards and accredita-

tion program; or (b) the examination was performed either under the supervision of an accredited insurance department or with the participation of one or more examiners employed by an accredited state insurance department who, after a review of the examination work papers and report, state under oath that the examination was performed in a manner consistent with the standards and procedures required by their insurance department.

(5) The commissioner may elect to accept and rely on an audit report made by an independent certified public accountant for the insurer in the course of that part of the commissioner's examination covering the same general subject matter as the audit. The commissioner may incorporate the audit report in his or her report of the examination.

(6) For the purposes of completing an examination of any company under this chapter, the commissioner may examine or investigate any managing general agent or any other person, or the business of any managing general agent or other person, insofar as that examination or investigation is, in the sole discretion of the commissioner, necessary or material to the examination of the company. [1993 c 462 § 43; 1982 c 181 § 1; 1979 c 139 § 1; 1947 c 79 § .03.01; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.03.01.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**Severability—1982 c 181:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1982 c 181 § 28.]

**48.03.020 Examination of agents, managers, promoters.** For the purpose of ascertaining its condition, or compliance with this code, the commissioner may as often as he deems advisable examine the accounts, records, documents, and transactions of:

- (1) Any insurance agent, solicitor, broker or adjuster.
- (2) Any person having a contract under which he enjoys in fact the exclusive or dominant right to manage or control a stock or mutual insurer.
- (3) Any person holding the shares of capital stock or policyholder proxies of a domestic insurer for the purpose of control of its management either as voting trustee or otherwise.

(4) Any person engaged in or proposing to be engaged in or assisting in the promotion or formation of a domestic insurer, or an insurance holding corporation, or a stock corporation to finance a domestic mutual insurer or the production of its business, or a corporation to be attorney in fact for a domestic reciprocal insurer. [1947 c 79 § .03.02; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.03.02.]

**48.03.025 Examiners—Scope of examination—Examiners' handbook.** Upon determining that an examination should be conducted, the commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall appoint one or more examiners to perform the examination and instruct them as to the scope of the examination. In conducting the examination, the examiner shall observe those guidelines and procedures set forth in the examiners' handbook adopted by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. The commissioner may also employ such other guidelines or procedures as the commissioner may deem appropriate. [1993 c 462 § 44.]



**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.03.030 Access to records on examination—Correction of accounts.** (1) Every person being examined, its officers, employees, and representatives shall produce and make freely accessible to the commissioner the accounts, records, documents, and files in his possession or control relating to the subject of the examination, and shall otherwise facilitate the examination.

(2) If the commissioner finds the accounts to be inadequate, or improperly kept or posted, he may employ experts to rewrite, post or balance them at the expense of the person being examined. [1947 c 79 § .03.03; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.03.03.]

**48.03.040 Examination reports—Consideration by commissioner—Orders—Confidentiality.** (1) No later than sixty days after completion of each examination, the commissioner shall make a full written report of each examination made by him or her containing only facts ascertained from the accounts, records, and documents examined and from the sworn testimony of individuals, and such conclusions and recommendations as may reasonably be warranted from such facts.

(2) The report shall be certified by the commissioner or by his or her examiner in charge of the examination, and shall be filed in the commissioner's office subject to subsection (3) of this section.

(3) The commissioner shall furnish a copy of the examination report to the person examined not less than ten days and, unless the time is extended by the commissioner, not more than thirty days prior to the filing of the report for public inspection in the commissioner's office. If such person so requests in writing within such period, the commissioner shall hold a hearing to consider objections of such person to the report as proposed, and shall not so file the report until after such hearing and until after any modifications in the report deemed necessary by the commissioner have been made.

(4) Within thirty days of the end of the period described in subsection (3) of this section, unless extended by order of the commissioner, the commissioner shall consider the report, together with any written submissions or rebuttals and any relevant portions of the examiner's workpapers and enter an order:

(a) Adopting the examination report as filed or with modification or corrections. If the examination report reveals that the company is operating in violation of any law, rule, or order of the commissioner, the commissioner may order the company to take any action the commissioner considers necessary and appropriate to cure that violation;

(b) Rejecting the examination report with directions to the examiners to reopen the examination for purposes of obtaining additional data, documentation, or information, and refile under this section; or

(c) Calling for an investigatory hearing with no less than twenty days' notice to the company for purposes of obtaining additional documentation, data, information, and testimony.

(5) All orders entered under subsection (4) of this section must be accompanied by findings and conclusions

resulting from the commissioner's consideration and review of the examination report, relevant examiner workpapers, and any written submissions or rebuttals. Such an order is considered a final administrative decision and may be appealed under the Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 34.05 RCW, and must be served upon the company by certified mail, together with a copy of the adopted examination report. A copy of the adopted examination report must be sent by certified mail to each director at the director's residence address.

(6)(a) Upon the adoption of the examination report under subsection (4) of this section, the commissioner shall continue to hold the content of the examination report as private and confidential information for a period of five days except that the order may be disclosed to the person examined. Thereafter, the commissioner may open the report for public inspection so long as no court of competent jurisdiction has stayed its publication.

(b) Nothing in this title prohibits the commissioner from disclosing the content of an examination report, preliminary examination report or results, or any matter relating thereto, to the insurance department of any other state or country, or to law enforcement officials of this or any other state or agency of the federal government at any time, so long as the agency or office receiving the report or matters relating thereto agrees in writing to hold it confidential and in a manner consistent with this chapter.

(c) If the commissioner determines that regulatory action is appropriate as a result of any examination, he or she may initiate any proceedings or actions as provided by law.

(d) Nothing contained in this section requires the commissioner to disclose any information or records that would indicate or show the existence or content of any investigation or activity of a criminal justice agency. [1993 c 462 § 45; 1965 ex.s. c 70 § 1; 1947 c 79 § .03.04; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.03.04.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.03.050 Reports withheld.** The commissioner may withhold from public inspection any examination or investigation report for so long as he or she deems it advisable, subject to RCW 48.32.080. [1993 c 462 § 46; 1947 c 79 § .03.05; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.03.05.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.03.060 Examination expense.** (1) Examinations within this state of any insurer domiciled or having its home offices in this state, other than a title insurer, made by the commissioner or the commissioner's examiners and employees shall, except as to fees, mileage, and expense incurred as to witnesses, be at the expense of the state.

(2) Every other examination, whatsoever, or any part of the examination of any person domiciled or having its home offices in this state requiring travel and services outside this state, shall be made by the commissioner or by examiners designated by the commissioner and shall be at the expense of the person examined; but a domestic insurer shall not be liable for the compensation of examiners employed by the commissioner for such services outside this state.

(3) When making an examination under this chapter, the commissioner may retain attorneys, appraisers, independent actuaries, independent certified public accountants, or other professionals and specialists as examiners, the cost of which shall be borne by the person who is the subject of the examination, except as provided in subsection (1) of this section.

(4) The person examined and liable therefor shall reimburse the state upon presentation of an itemized statement thereof, for the actual travel expenses of the commissioner's examiners, their reasonable living expense allowance, and their per diem compensation, including salary and the employer's cost of employee benefits, at a reasonable rate approved by the commissioner, incurred on account of the examination. Per diem salary and expenses for employees examining insurers domiciled outside the state of Washington shall be established by the commissioner on the basis of the National Association of Insurance Commissioner's recommended salary and expense schedule for zone examiners, or the salary schedule established by the Washington personnel resources board and the expense schedule established by the office of financial management, whichever is higher. Domestic title insurer shall pay the examination expense and costs to the commissioner as itemized and billed by the commissioner.

The commissioner or the commissioner's examiners shall not receive or accept any additional emolument on account of any examination.

(5) Nothing contained in this chapter limits the commissioner's authority to terminate or suspend any examination in order to pursue other legal or regulatory action under the insurance laws of this state. Findings of fact and conclusions made pursuant to any examination are prima facie evidence in any legal or regulatory action. [1995 c 152 § 2. Prior: 1993 c 462 § 47; 1993 c 281 § 55; 1981 c 339 § 2; 1979 ex.s. c 35 § 1; 1947 c 79 § .03.06; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.03.06.]

**Intent—1995 c 152:** "The only intent of the legislature in chapter 152, Laws of 1995 is to correct double amendments. It is not the intent of the legislature to change the substance or effect of any statute previously enacted." [1995 c 152 § 1.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**Effective date—1993 c 281:** See note following RCW 41.06.022.

**48.03.065 Appointments by commissioner—Examiners—Exceptions.** (1) No examiner may be appointed by the commissioner if the examiner, either directly or indirectly, has a conflict of interest or is affiliated with the management of or owns a pecuniary interest in a person subject to examination under this chapter. This section does not automatically preclude an examiner from being:

(a) A policyholder or claimant under an insurance policy;

(b) A grantor of a mortgage or similar instrument on the examiner's residence to a regulated entity if done under customary terms and in the ordinary course of business;

(c) An investment owner in shares of regulated diversified investment companies; or

(d) A settlor or beneficiary of a blind trust into which any otherwise impermissible holdings have been placed.

(2) Notwithstanding the requirements of subsection (1) of this section, the commissioner may retain from time to time, on an individual basis, qualified actuaries, certified public accountants, or other similar individuals who are independently practicing their professions, even though those persons may from time to time be similarly employed or retained by persons subject to examination under this chapter. [1993 c 462 § 48.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.03.070 Witnesses—Subpoenas—Depositions—Oaths.** (1) The commissioner may take depositions, may subpoena witnesses or documentary evidence, administer oaths, and examine under oath any individual relative to the affairs of any person being examined, or relative to the subject of any hearing or investigation: PROVIDED, That the provisions of RCW 34.05.446 shall apply in lieu of the provisions of this section as to subpoenas relative to hearings in rule-making and adjudicative proceedings.

(2) The subpoena shall be effective if served within the state of Washington and shall be served in the same manner as if issued from a court of record.

(3) Witness fees and mileage, if claimed, shall be allowed the same as for testimony in a court of record. Witness fees, mileage, and the actual expense necessarily incurred in securing attendance of witnesses and their testimony shall be itemized, and shall be paid by the person as to whom the examination is being made, or by the person if other than the commissioner, at whose request the hearing is held.

(4) Enforcement of subpoenas shall be in accord with RCW 34.05.588. [1989 c 175 § 112; 1967 c 237 § 15; 1963 c 195 § 1; 1949 c 190 § 2; 1947 c 79 § .03.07; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 45.03.07.]

**Effective date—1989 c 175:** See note following RCW 34.05.010.

**48.03.075 Legal protection for commissioner, authorized representatives, and examiners—Good faith—Attorneys' fees—Payment by commissioner.** (1) No cause of action may arise nor may any liability be imposed against the commissioner, the commissioner's authorized representatives, or an examiner appointed by the commissioner for statements made or conduct performed in good faith while carrying out this chapter.

(2) No cause of action may arise nor may any liability be imposed against any person for the act of communicating or delivering information or data to the commissioner or the commissioner's authorized representative or examiner pursuant to an examination made under this chapter, if that act of communication or delivery was performed in good faith and without fraudulent intent or the intent to deceive.

(3) This section does not modify a privilege or immunity previously enjoyed by a person identified in subsection (1) of this section.

(4) A person identified in subsection (1) of this section is entitled to an award of attorneys' fees and costs if he or she is the prevailing party in a civil cause of action for libel, slander, or any other tort arising out of activities in carrying out this chapter and the party bringing the action was not substantially justified in doing so. For purposes of this

section a proceeding is "substantially justified" if it had a reasonable basis in law or fact at the time that it was initiated.

(5) If a claim is made or threatened of the sort described in subsection (1) of this section, the commissioner shall provide or pay for the defense of himself or herself, the examiner or representative, and shall pay a judgment or settlement, until it is determined that the person did not act in good faith or did act with fraudulent intent or the intent to deceive.

(6) The immunity, indemnification, and other protections under this section are in addition to those now or hereafter existing under other law. [1993 c 462 § 49.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

## Chapter 48.04 HEARINGS AND APPEALS

### Sections

48.04.010	Hearings—Waiver.
48.04.020	Stay of action.
48.04.030	Place of hearing.
48.04.050	Show cause notice.
48.04.060	Adjourned hearings.
48.04.070	Nonattendance, effect of.
48.04.140	Stay of action on appeal.

**48.04.010 Hearings—Waiver.** (1) The commissioner may hold a hearing for any purpose within the scope of this code as he or she may deem necessary. The commissioner shall hold a hearing:

(a) If required by any provision of this code; or

(b) Upon written demand for a hearing made by any person aggrieved by any act, threatened act, or failure of the commissioner to act, if such failure is deemed an act under any provision of this code, or by any report, promulgation, or order of the commissioner other than an order on a hearing of which such person was given actual notice or at which such person appeared as a party, or order pursuant to the order on such hearing.

(2) Any such demand for a hearing shall specify in what respects such person is so aggrieved and the grounds to be relied upon as basis for the relief to be demanded at the hearing.

(3) Unless a person aggrieved by a written order of the commissioner demands a hearing thereon within ninety days after receiving notice of such order, or in the case of a licensee under Title 48 RCW within ninety days after the commissioner has mailed the order to the licensee at the most recent address shown in the commissioner's licensing records for the licensee, the right to such hearing shall conclusively be deemed to have been waived.

(4) If a hearing is demanded by a licensee whose license has been temporarily suspended pursuant to RCW 48.17.540, the commissioner shall hold such hearing demanded within thirty days after receipt of the demand or within thirty days of the effective date of a temporary license suspension issued after such demand, unless postponed by mutual consent. [1990 1st ex.s. c 3 § 1; 1988 c 248 § 2; 1967 c 237 § 16; 1963 c 195 § 2; 1947 c 79 § .04.01; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.04.01.]

**48.04.020 Stay of action.** (1) Such demand for a hearing received by the commissioner prior to the effective date of action taken or proposed to be taken by him shall stay such action pending the hearing, except as to action taken or proposed

(a) under an order on hearing, or

(b) under an order pursuant to an order on hearing, or

(c) under an order to make good an impairment of the assets of an insurer, or

(d) under an order of temporary suspension of license issued pursuant to RCW 48.17.540 as now or hereafter amended.

(2) In any case where an automatic stay is not provided for, and if the commissioner after written request therefor fails to grant a stay, the person aggrieved thereby may apply to the superior court for Thurston county for a stay of the commissioner's action. [1982 c 181 § 2; 1949 c 190 § 3; 1947 c 79 § .04.02; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 45.04.02.]

**Severability—1982 c 181:** See note following RCW 48.03.010.

**48.04.030 Place of hearing.** The hearing shall be held at the place designated by the commissioner, and at his discretion it may be open to the public. [1947 c 79 § .04.03; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.04.03.]

**48.04.050 Show cause notice.** If any person is entitled to a hearing by any provision of this code before any proposed action is taken, the notice of the proposed action may be in the form of a notice to show cause stating that the proposed action may be taken unless such person shows cause at a hearing to be held as specified in the notice, why the proposed action should not be taken, and stating the basis of the proposed action. [1947 c 79 § .04.05; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.04.05.]

**48.04.060 Adjourned hearings.** The commissioner may adjourn any hearing from time to time and from place to place without other notice of the adjourned hearing than announcement thereof at the hearing. [1947 c 79 § .04.06; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.04.06.]

**48.04.070 Nonattendance, effect of.** The validity of any hearing held in accordance with the notice thereof shall not be affected by failure of any person to attend or to remain in attendance. [1947 c 79 § .04.07; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.04.07.]

**48.04.140 Stay of action on appeal.** (1) The taking of an appeal shall not stay any action taken or proposed to be taken by the commissioner under the order appealed from unless a stay is granted by the court at a hearing held as part of the proceedings on appeal.

(2) A stay shall not be granted by the court in any case where the granting of a stay would tend to injure the public interest. In granting a stay, the court may require of the person taking the appeal such security or other conditions as it deems proper. [1988 c 248 § 3; 1947 c 79 § .04.14; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.04.14.]

## Chapter 48.05

## INSURERS—GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

## Sections

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 48.05.900 Severability—1995 c 83.

*Agents, brokers, solicitors, and adjusters: Chapter 48.17 RCW.*

*Deposit of insurers: Chapter 48.16 RCW.*

*Federal home loan bank as depository: RCW 30.32.040.*

*Fees and taxes: Chapter 48.14 RCW.*

*Health care services: Chapter 48.44 RCW.*

*Insuring powers and capital funds required: Chapter 48.11 RCW.*

*Interlocking ownership, management: RCW 48.30.250.*

*Policy forms, execution, filing, etc.: Chapter 48.18 RCW.*

*Rates and rating organizations: Chapter 48.19 RCW.*

*Stamping bureau: RCW 48.19.410.*

*Unauthorized insurers: Chapter 48.15 RCW.*

*Unfair practices: Chapter 48.30 RCW.*

**48.05.010 "Domestic," "foreign," "alien" insurers defined.** (1) A "domestic" insurer is one formed under the laws of this state.

(2) A "foreign" insurer is one formed under the laws of the United States, of a state or territory of the United States other than this state, or of the District of Columbia.

(3) An "alien" insurer is one formed under the laws of a nation other than the United States.

(4) For the purposes of this code, "United States," when used to signify place, means only the states of the United States, the government of Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. [1961 c 194 § 1; 1947 c 79 § .05.01; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.05.01.]

*"Insurer" defined: RCW 48.01.050.*

**48.05.030 Certificate of authority required.** (1) No person shall act as an insurer and no insurer shall transact insurance in this state other than as authorized by a certificate of authority issued to it by the commissioner and then in force; except, as to such transactions as are expressly otherwise provided for in this code.

(2) Every certificate of authority shall specify the name of the insurer, the location of its principal office, the name and location of the principal office of its attorney in fact if a reciprocal insurer, and the kind or kinds of insurance it is authorized to transact in this state.

(3) The investigation and adjustment of any claim in this state arising under an insurance contract issued by an unauthorized insurer, shall not be deemed to constitute the transacting of insurance in this state. [1947 c 79 § .05.03; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.05.03.]

**48.05.040 Certificate of authority—Qualifications.**

To qualify for and hold a certificate of authority an insurer must:

(1) Be a stock, mutual, or reciprocal insurer of the same general type as may be formed as a domestic insurer under the provisions of chapter 48.06 RCW of this code, but this requirement shall not apply as to domestic mutual property insurers which, as of January 1, 1957, were lawfully transacting insurance on the assessment plan; and

(2) Have capital funds as required by this code, based upon the type and domicile of the insurer and the kinds of insurance proposed to be transacted; and

(3) Transact or propose to transact in this state insurances authorized by its charter, and only such insurance as meets the standards and requirements of this code; and

(4) Fully comply with, and qualify according to, the other provisions of this code. [1957 c 193 § 1; 1947 c 79 § .05.04; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.05.04.]

**48.05.045 Certificate of authority not to be issued to governmentally owned insurer.** No certificate of authority shall be issued to or exist with respect to any insurer which is owned and controlled, in whole or in substantial part, by any government or governmental agency. [1957 c 193 § 2.]

**48.05.050 "Charter" defined.** "Charter" means articles of incorporation, articles of agreement, articles of association of a corporation, or other basic constituent document of a corporation, or subscribers' agreement and attorney in fact agreement of a reciprocal insurer. [1947 c 79 § .05.05; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.05.05.]

**48.05.060 "Capital funds" defined.** "Capital funds" means the excess of the assets of an insurer over its liabilities. Capital stock, if any, shall not be deemed to be a liability for the purposes of this section. [1947 c 79 § .05.06; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.05.06.]

**48.05.070 Application for certificate of authority.** To apply for an original certificate of authority an insurer shall:

(1) File with the commissioner its request therefor showing:

(a) Its name, home office location, type of insurer, organization date, and state or country of its domicile.

(b) The kinds of insurance it proposes to transact.

(c) Additional information as the commissioner may reasonably require.

(2) File with the commissioner:

(a) A copy of its charter as amended, certified, if a foreign or alien insurer, by the proper public officer of the state or country of domicile.

(b) A copy of its bylaws, certified by its proper officer.

(c) A statement of its financial condition, management, and affairs on a form satisfactory to or furnished by the commissioner.

(d) If a foreign or alien insurer, or a domestic reciprocal insurer, an appointment of the commissioner as its attorney to receive service of legal process.

(e) If an alien insurer, a copy of the appointment and authority of its United States manager, certified by its proper officer.

(f) If a foreign or alien insurer, a certificate from the proper public official of its state or country of domicile showing that it is duly organized and is authorized to transact the kinds of insurance proposed to be transacted.

(g) If a domestic reciprocal insurer, the declaration required by RCW 48.10.090 of this code.

(h) Other documents or stipulations as the commissioner may reasonably require to evidence compliance with the provisions of this code.

(3) Deposit with the commissioner the fees required by this code to be paid for filing the accompanying documents, and for the certificate of authority, if granted. [1947 c 79 § .05.07; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.05.07.]

**48.05.080 Foreign insurers—Deposit.** (1) Prior to the issuance of a certificate of authority to a foreign insurer, it shall make a deposit of assets with the commissioner for the protection of all its policyholders, or of all of its policyholders and obligees or its policyholders and obligees within the United States, in amount and kind, subject to RCW 48.14.040, the same as is required of a like domestic insurer transacting like kinds of insurance.

(2) In lieu of such deposit or part thereof the commissioner may accept the certificate of the public official having supervision over insurers in any other state to the effect that a like deposit by such insurer or like part thereof in equal or greater amount is held in public custody in such state. [1955 c 86 § 1; 1947 c 79 § .05.08; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.05.08.]

**Effective date—1955 c 86:** "This act shall become effective on January 1, 1956." [1955 c 86 § 18.]

**Supervision of transfers—1955 c 86:** "All transfers authorized under this act shall be made under the supervision of the state auditor." [1955 c 86 § 19.]

**48.05.090 Alien insurers—Assets required—Trust deposit.** (1) An alien insurer shall not be authorized to transact insurance in this state unless it maintains within the United States assets in amount not less than its outstanding liabilities arising out of its insurance transactions in the United States, nor unless it maintains a trust deposit in an amount not less than the required reserves under its policies resulting from such transactions (after deducting, in the case of a life insurer, the amount of outstanding policy loans on such policies) plus assets equal to the larger of the following sums:

(a) The largest amount of deposit required under this title to be made in this state by any type of domestic insurer transacting like kinds of insurance; or

(b) Two hundred thousand dollars.

(2) The trust deposit shall be for the security of all policyholders or policyholders and obligees of the insurer in the United States. It shall not be subject to diminution below the amount currently determined in accordance with subsection (1) of this section so long as the insurer has outstanding any liabilities arising out of its business transacted in the United States.

(3) The trust deposit shall be maintained with public depositaries or trust institutions within the United States

approved by the commissioner. [1949 c 190 § 4; 1947 c 79 § .05.09; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 45.05.09.]

**48.05.100 Alien insurers—Deposit resolution.** An alien insurer shall file with the commissioner a certified copy of the resolution of its governing board by which the trust deposit was established, together with a certified copy of any trust agreement under which the deposit is held. [1947 c 79 § .05.10; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.05.10.]

**48.05.105 Foreign or alien insurers—Three years active transacting required—Exception.** No certificate of authority shall be granted to a foreign or alien applicant that has not actively transacted for three years the classes of insurance for which it seeks to be admitted; except, the foregoing shall not apply to any subsidiary of a seasoned, reputable insurer that has held a certificate of authority in this state for at least three years. [1967 c 150 § 2.]

**48.05.110 Issuance of certificate of authority.** If the commissioner finds that an insurer has met the requirements for and is fully entitled thereto under this code, he shall issue to it a proper certificate of authority. If the commissioner does not so find, the authority shall be refused within a reasonable length of time following completion by the insurer of the application therefor. [1947 c 79 § .05.11; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.05.11.]

**48.05.120 Certificate of authority—Duration, renewal, amendment.** (1) All certificates of authority shall continue in force until suspended, revoked, or not renewed. A certificate shall be subject to renewal annually on the first day of July upon application of the insurer and payment of the fee therefor. If not so renewed, the certificate shall expire as of the thirtieth day of June next preceding.

(2) The commissioner may amend a certificate of authority at any time in accordance with changes in the insurer's charter or insuring powers. [1957 c 193 § 3; 1955 c 31 § 1; 1947 c 79 § .05.12; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.05.12.]

**48.05.130 Certificate of authority—Mandatory refusal, revocation, suspension.** The commissioner shall refuse to renew or shall revoke or suspend an insurer's certificate of authority, in addition to other grounds therefor in this code, if the insurer:

(1) Is a foreign or alien insurer and no longer qualifies or meets the requirements for the authority; or, is a domestic mutual or domestic reciprocal insurer, and fails to make good a deficiency of assets as required by the commissioner.

(2) Is a domestic stock insurer and has assets less in amount than its liabilities, including its capital stock as a liability, and has failed to make good such deficiency as required by the commissioner.

(3) Knowingly exceeds its charter powers or its certificate of authority. [1947 c 79 § .05.13; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.05.13.]

**48.05.140 Certificate of authority—Discretionary refusal, revocation, suspension.** The commissioner may refuse, suspend, or revoke an insurer's certificate of authori-

ty, in addition to other grounds therefor in this code, if the insurer:

(1) Fails to comply with any provision of this code other than those for violation of which refusal, suspension, or revocation is mandatory, or fails to comply with any proper order or regulation of the commissioner.

(2) Is found by the commissioner to be in such condition that its further transaction of insurance in this state would be hazardous to policyholders and the people in this state.

(3) Refuses to remove or discharge a director or officer who has been convicted of any crime involving fraud, dishonesty, or like moral turpitude.

(4) Usually compels claimants under policies either to accept less than the amount due them or to bring suit against it to secure full payment of the amount due.

(5) Is affiliated with and under the same general management, or interlocking directorate, or ownership as another insurer which transacts insurance in this state without having a certificate of authority therefor, except as is permitted by this code.

(6) Refuses to be examined, or if its directors, officers, employees or representatives refuse to submit to examination or to produce its accounts, records, and files for examination by the commissioner when required, or refuse to perform any legal obligation relative to the examination.

(7) Fails to pay any final judgment rendered against it in this state upon any policy, bond, recognizance, or undertaking issued or guaranteed by it, within thirty days after the judgment became final or within thirty days after time for taking an appeal has expired, or within thirty days after dismissal of an appeal before final determination, whichever date is the later.

(8) Is found by the commissioner, after investigation or upon receipt of reliable information, to be managed by persons, whether by its directors, officers, or by any other means, who are incompetent or untrustworthy or so lacking in insurance company managerial experience as to make a proposed operation hazardous to the insurance-buying public; or that there is good reason to believe it is affiliated directly or indirectly through ownership, control, reinsurance or other insurance or business relations, with any person or persons whose business operations are or have been marked, to the detriment of policyholders or stockholders or investors or creditors or of the public, by bad faith or by manipulation of assets, or of accounts, or of reinsurance.

(9) Does business through agents or brokers in this state or in any other state who are not properly licensed under applicable laws and duly enacted regulations adopted pursuant thereto. [1973 1st ex.s. c 152 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 241 § 3; 1967 c 150 § 4; 1947 c 79 § .05.14; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.04.14.]

**Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 152:** "If any provision of this 1973 amendatory act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1973 1st ex.s. c 152 § 7.]

**48.05.150 Notice of intention to refuse, revoke, or suspend.** The commissioner shall give an insurer notice of his intention to suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew its certificate of authority not less than ten days before the order of suspension, revocation or refusal is to become effective;

except that no advance notice of intention is required where the order results from a domestic insurer's failure to make good a deficiency of assets as required by the commissioner. [1947 c 79 § .05.15; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.05.15.]

**48.05.160 Period of suspension.** The commissioner shall not suspend an insurer's certificate of authority for a period in excess of one year, and he shall state in his order of suspension the period during which it shall be effective. [1947 c 79 § .05.16; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.05.16.]

**48.05.170 Reauthorization, limitation upon.** No insurer whose certificate of authority has been suspended, revoked, or refused shall subsequently be authorized unless the grounds for such suspension, revocation, or refusal no longer exist and the insurer is otherwise fully qualified. [1947 c 79 § .05.17; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.05.17.]

**48.05.180 Notice of refusal, revocation, suspension—Effect upon agents' authority.** Upon the suspension, revocation or refusal of an insurer's certificate of authority, the commissioner shall give notice thereof to the insurer and shall likewise suspend, revoke or refuse the authority of its agents to represent it in this state and give notice thereof to the agents. [1947 c 79 § .05.18; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.05.18.]

**48.05.185 Fine in addition or in lieu of suspension, revocation, or refusal.** After hearing or with the consent of the insurer and in addition to or in lieu of the suspension, revocation, or refusal to renew any certificate of authority the commissioner may levy a fine upon the insurer in an amount not less than two hundred fifty dollars and not more than ten thousand dollars. The order levying such fine shall specify the period within which the fine shall be fully paid and which period shall not be less than fifteen nor more than thirty days from the date of such order. Upon failure to pay any such fine when due the commissioner shall revoke the certificate of authority of the insurer if not already revoked, and the fine shall be recovered in a civil action brought in behalf of the commissioner by the attorney general. Any fine so collected shall be paid by the commissioner to the state treasurer for the account of the general fund. [1980 c 102 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 266 § 3; 1965 ex.s. c 70 § 3.]

**Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 266:** See note following RCW 48.01.010.

**48.05.190 Name of insurer.** (1) Every insurer shall conduct its business in its own legal name.

(2) No insurer shall assume or use a name deceptively similar to that of any other authorized insurer. [1947 c 79 § .05.19; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.05.19.]

**48.05.200 Commissioner as attorney for service of process—Exception.** (1) Each authorized foreign or alien insurer shall appoint the commissioner as its attorney to receive service of, and upon whom shall be served, all legal process issued against it in this state upon causes of action arising within this state. Service upon the commissioner as attorney shall constitute service upon the insurer. Service of

legal process against such insurer can be had only by service upon the commissioner, except actions upon contractor bonds pursuant to RCW 18.27.040, where service may be upon the department of labor and industries.

(2) With the appointment the insurer shall designate by name and address the person to whom the commissioner shall forward legal process so served upon him or her. The insurer may change such person by filing a new designation.

(3) The appointment of the commissioner as attorney shall be irrevocable, shall bind any successor in interest or to the assets or liabilities of the insurer, and shall remain in effect as long as there is in force in this state any contract made by the insurer or liabilities or duties arising therefrom. [1985 c 264 § 3; 1947 c 79 § .05.20; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.05.20.]

**48.05.210 Service of process—Procedure.** (1) Duplicate copies of legal process against an insurer for whom the commissioner is attorney shall be served upon him either by a person competent to serve a summons, or by registered mail. At the time of service the plaintiff shall pay to the commissioner ten dollars, taxable as costs in the action.

(2) The commissioner shall forthwith send one of the copies of the process, by registered mail with return receipt requested, to the person designated for the purpose by the insurer in its most recent such designation filed with the commissioner.

(3) The commissioner shall keep a record of the day and hour of service upon him of all legal process. No proceedings shall be had against the insurer, and the insurer shall not be required to appear, plead, or answer until the expiration of forty days after the date of service upon the commissioner. [1981 c 339 § 3; 1947 c 79 § .05.21; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.05.21.]

**48.05.215 Unauthorized foreign or alien insurers—Jurisdiction of state courts—Service of process—Procedure.** (1) Any foreign or alien insurer not thereunto authorized by the commissioner, whether it be a surplus lines insurer operating under chapter 48.15 RCW or not, who, by mail or otherwise, solicits insurance business in this state or transacts insurance business in this state as defined by RCW 48.01.060, thereby submits itself to the jurisdiction of the courts of this state in any action, suit or proceeding instituted by or on behalf of an insured, beneficiary or the commissioner arising out of such unauthorized solicitation of insurance business, including, but not limited to, an action for injunctive relief by the commissioner.

(2) In any such action, suit or proceeding instituted by or on behalf of an insured or beneficiary, service of legal process against such unauthorized foreign or alien insurer may be made by service of duplicate copies of legal process on the commissioner by a person competent to serve a summons or by registered mail. At the time of service the plaintiff shall pay to the commissioner ten dollars, taxable as costs in the action. The commissioner shall forthwith mail one of the copies of the process, by registered mail with return receipt requested, to the defendant at its last known principal place of business. The defendant insurer shall have forty days from the date of the service on the commissioner

within which to plead, answer or otherwise defend the action.

(3) In any such action, suit or proceeding by the commissioner, service of legal process against such unauthorized foreign or alien insurer may be made by personal service of legal process upon any officer of such insurer at its last known principal place of business outside the state of Washington. The summons upon such unauthorized foreign or alien insurer shall contain the same requisites and be served in like manner as personal summons within the state of Washington; except, the insurer shall have forty days from the date of such personal service within which to plead, answer or otherwise defend the action. [1981 c 339 § 4; 1967 c 150 § 3.]

**48.05.220 Venue of actions against insurer.** Suit upon causes of action arising within this state against an insurer upon an insurance contract shall be brought in the county where the cause of action arose. [1947 c 79 § .05.22; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.05.22.]

**48.05.250 Annual statement.** (1) Each authorized insurer shall annually, before the first day of March, file with the commissioner a true statement of its financial condition, transactions, and affairs as of the thirty-first day of December preceding. The statement forms shall be in general form and context as approved by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners for the kinds of insurance to be reported upon, and as supplemented for additional information required by this code and by the commissioner. The statement shall be verified by the oaths of at least two of the insurer's officers.

(2) The annual statement of an alien insurer shall relate only to its transactions and affairs in the United States unless the commissioner requires otherwise. The statement shall be verified by the insurer's United States manager or by its officers duly authorized.

(3) The commissioner shall suspend or revoke the certificate of authority of any insurer failing to file its annual statement when due or during any extension of time therefor which the commissioner, for good cause, may grant. [1983 c 85 § 1; 1947 c 79 § .05.25; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.05.25.]

*Advertising of financial condition: RCW 48.30.070.*

*Assets and liabilities: Chapter 48.12 RCW.*

*False financial statements: RCW 48.30.030.*

**48.05.270 Alien insurer—Capital funds, determination.** (1) The capital funds of an alien insurer shall be deemed to be the amount by which its assets, deposited and otherwise held as provided in RCW 48.05.090 exceed its liabilities with respect to its business transacted in the United States.

(2) Assets of such insurer held in any state for the special protection of policyholders and obligees in such state shall not constitute assets of the insurer for the purposes of this code. Liabilities of the insurer so secured by such assets, but not exceeding the amount of such assets, may be deducted in computing the insurer's liabilities for the purpose of this section. [1947 c 79 § .05.27; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.05.27.]

**48.05.280 Records and accounts of insurers.** Every insurer shall keep full and adequate accounts and records of its assets, obligations, transactions, and affairs. [1947 c 79 § .05.28; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.05.28.]

**48.05.290 Withdrawal of insurer—Reinsurance.** (1) No insurer shall withdraw from this state until its direct liability to its policyholders and obligees under all its insurance contracts then in force in this state has been assumed by another authorized insurer under an agreement approved by the commissioner. In the case of a life insurer, its liability pursuant to contracts issued in this state in settlement of proceeds under its policies shall likewise be so assumed.

(2) The commissioner may waive this requirement if he finds upon examination that a withdrawing insurer is then fully solvent and that the protection to be given its policyholders in this state will not be impaired by the waiver.

(3) The assuming insurer shall within a reasonable time replace the assumed insurance contracts with its own, or by endorsement thereon acknowledge its liability thereunder. [1947 c 79 § .05.29; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.05.29.]

**48.05.300 Credit disallowed for reinsurance ceded to an insurer—Exceptions.** No credit shall be allowed to any domestic insurer, as an asset or as a deduction from liability for reinsurance ceded to an insurer, except as provided in RCW 48.12.160. [1993 c 91 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 180 § 1; 1947 c 79 § .05.30; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.05.30.]

**48.05.310 General agents, managers—Appointment—Powers—Licensing.** (1) An insurer appointing any person as its general agent or manager to represent it as such in this state shall file notice of the appointment with the commissioner on forms prescribed and furnished by the commissioner.

(2) Any such general agent or manager shall have such authority, consistent with this code, as may be conferred by the insurer. A general agent resident in this state and licensed, as in this section provided, may exercise the powers conferred by this code upon agents licensed for the kinds of insurance which the general agent is authorized to transact for the insurer so appointing him.

(3) Any such general agent may accept applications for insurance from licensed agents who are not appointed by the insurer of such general agent where the risk involved is placed in a nonstandard or specialty market of an authorized insurer as defined by regulation of the commissioner. Such nonstandard or specialty business shall not be bound by any agent not appointed by the insurer. A general agent may supply such licensed, nonappointed agent with material to write nonstandard or specialty insurance business including, but not limited to, applications for insurance, underwriting criteria, and rates. A general agent shall not provide any licensed, nonappointed agent with indicia of authority to bind an insurance risk and the general agent and nonappointed agent shall provide written disclaimers of binding authority to an applicant or prospective insured in such form as prescribed by the commissioner.

(4) The appointment of a resident general agent shall not be effective unless the person so appointed is licensed as



the general agent of such insurer by the commissioner upon application and payment of the fee therefor as provided in RCW 48.14.010.

(5) A general agent's license and its renewal shall be in accordance with chapter 48.17 RCW as applicable to agents and brokers.

(6) The commissioner may deny, suspend, or revoke any such license for any cause specified in RCW 48.17.530 and in the manner provided in RCW 48.17.540. [1995 c 338 § 1; 1982 c 181 § 17; 1947 c 79 § .05.31; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.05.31.]

**Severability—1982 c 181:** See note following RCW 48.03.010.

**48.05.320 Reports of fire losses.** (1) Each authorized insurer shall promptly report to the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, upon forms as prescribed and furnished by him or her, each fire loss of property in this state reported to it and whether the loss is due to criminal activity or to undetermined causes.

(2) Each such insurer shall likewise report to the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, upon claims paid by it for loss or damage by fire in this state. Copies of all reports required by this section shall be promptly transmitted to the state insurance commissioner. [1995 c 369 § 24; 1986 c 266 § 66; 1985 c 470 § 16; 1947 c 79 § .05.32; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.05.32.]

**Effective date—1995 c 369:** See note following RCW 43.43.930.

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**Severability—Effective date—1985 c 470:** See notes following RCW 48.48.030.

**48.05.330 Insurers—Combination of kinds of insurance authorized—Exceptions.** An insurer which otherwise qualifies therefor may be authorized to transact any one kind or combinations of kinds of insurance as defined in chapter 48.11 RCW, except:

(1) A life insurer may grant annuities and may be authorized to transact in addition only disability insurance; except, that the commissioner may, if the insurer otherwise qualifies therefor, continue so to authorize any life insurer which immediately prior to June 13, 1963 was lawfully authorized to transact in this state a kind or kinds of insurance in addition to life and disability insurances and annuity business.

(2) A reciprocal insurer shall not transact life insurance.

(3) A title insurer shall be a stock insurer and shall not transact any other kind of insurance. This provision shall not prohibit the ceding of reinsurance by a title insurer to insurers other than mutual or reciprocal insurers. [1963 c 195 § 6.]

**48.05.340 Capital and surplus requirements.** (1) Subject to RCW 48.05.350 and 48.05.360 to qualify for authority to transact any one kind of insurance as defined in chapter 48.11 RCW or combination of kinds of insurance as shown below, a foreign or alien insurer, whether stock or mutual, or a domestic insurer hereafter formed shall possess unimpaired paid-in capital stock, if a stock insurer, or unimpaired surplus if a mutual insurer, and additional funds in surplus, as follows, and shall thereafter maintain unimpaired a combined total of: (a) The paid-in capital stock if

a stock insurer or surplus if a mutual insurer, plus (b) such additional funds in surplus equal to the total of the following initial requirements:

Kind or kinds of insurance	Paid-in capital stock or basic surplus	Additional surplus
Life .....	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
Disability .....	2,000,000	2,000,000
Life and disability .....	2,400,000	2,400,000
Property .....	2,000,000	2,000,000
Marine & transportation .....	2,000,000	2,000,000
General casualty .....	2,400,000	2,400,000
Vehicle .....	2,000,000	2,000,000
Surety .....	2,000,000	2,000,000
Any two of the following kinds of insurance:		
Property, marine & transportation, general casualty, vehicle, surety, disability .....	3,000,000	3,000,000
Multiple lines (all insurances except life and title insurance) .....		
	3,000,000	3,000,000
Title (in accordance with the provisions of chapter 48.29 RCW)		

(2) Capital and surplus requirements are based upon all the kinds of insurance transacted by the insurer wherever it may operate or propose to operate, whether or not only a portion of such kinds are to be transacted in this state.

(3) Until December 31, 1996, a foreign or alien insurer holding a certificate of authority to transact insurance in this state immediately prior to June 9, 1994, may continue to be authorized to transact the same kinds of insurance as long as it is otherwise qualified for such authority. A domestic insurer holding a certificate of authority to transact insurance in this state immediately prior to June 9, 1994, may continue to be authorized to transact the same kinds of insurance as long as it is otherwise qualified for such an authority and thereafter maintains unimpaired the amount of paid-in capital stock, if a stock insurer, or basic surplus, if a mutual or reciprocal insurer, and special or additional surplus as required of it under laws in force immediately prior to June 9, 1994. [1995 c 83 § 14; 1994 c 171 § 1; 1993 c 462 § 50; 1991 sp.s. c 5 § 1; 1982 c 181 § 3; 1980 c 135 § 1; 1967 c 150 § 5; 1963 c 195 § 7.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**Effective date—1991 sp.s. c 5:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect July 1, 1991." [1991 sp.s. c 5 § 3.]

**Severability—1982 c 181:** See note following RCW 48.03.010.

**48.05.350 General casualty insurer combining disability, fidelity, insurance.** An insurer authorized to transact general casualty insurance shall be authorized to transact disability insurance and fidelity insurance without requiring additional financial qualifications. [1963 c 195 § 8.]

**48.05.360 Special surplus requirements for certain combinations.** An insurer shall not be authorized to transact any one of the following insurances,—vehicle, or general casualty, or marine and transportation, or surety,—with any additional kind of insurance unless it maintains at all times special surplus of not less than one hundred thousand dollars in addition to the paid-in capital stock if a stock insurer or basic surplus if a mutual or reciprocal insurer otherwise required. This section does not apply to combinations transacted by a general casualty insurer pursuant to RCW 48.05.350. [1963 c 195 § 9.]

**48.05.370 Fiduciary relationship to insurer of officers, directors or corporation holding controlling interest.** Officers and directors of an insurer or a corporation holding a controlling interest in an insurer shall be deemed to stand in a fiduciary relation to the insurer, and shall discharge the duties of their respective positions in good faith, and with that diligence, care and skill which ordinary prudent men would exercise under similar circumstances in like positions. [1969 ex.s. c 241 § 1.]

**48.05.380 Reports by property and casualty insurers—Rules.** The insurance commissioner shall promulgate rules requiring insurers who are authorized to write property and casualty insurance in the state of Washington to record and report their Washington state loss and expense experiences and other data, as required by RCW 48.05.390. [1986 c 148 § 1; 1985 c 238 § 1.]

**Effective date—1985 c 238:** "The requirements of RCW 48.05.380 and 48.05.390 shall commence with the year-end report for the reporting period ending December 31, 1986. In addition, the data required under RCW 48.05.390 shall be provided for the years 1975 through 1985 and shall be filed with the commissioner on or before March 1, 1986." [1985 c 238 § 3.]

**Severability—1985 c 238:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1985 c 238 § 4.]

**48.05.390 Reports by various insurers—Contents.** (1) The report required by RCW 48.05.380 shall include the types of insurance written by the insurer for policies pertaining to:

(a) Medical malpractice for physicians and surgeons, hospitals, other health care professions, and other health care facilities individually;

(b) Products liability. However, if comparable information is included in the annual statement required by RCW 48.05.250, products liability data must not be reported under RCW 48.05.380;

(c) Attorneys' malpractice;

(d) Architects' and engineers' malpractice;

(e) Municipal liability; and

(f) Day care center liability.

(2) The report shall include the following data by the type of insurance for the previous year ending on the thirty-first day of December:

(a) Direct premiums written;

(b) Direct premiums earned;

(c) Net investment income, including net realized capital gain and losses, using appropriate estimates where necessary;

(d) Incurred claims, development as the sum of the following:

(i) Dollar amount of claims closed with payments; plus

(ii) Reserves for reported claims at the end of the current year; minus

(iii) Reserves for reported claims at the end of the previous year; plus

(iv) Reserves for incurred but not reported claims at the end of the current year; minus

(v) Reserves for incurred but not reported claims at the end of the previous year; plus

(vi) Reserves for loss adjustment expense at the end of the current year; minus

(vii) Reserves for loss adjustment expense at the end of the previous year.

(e) Actual incurred expenses allocated separately to loss adjustment, commissions, other acquisition costs, advertising, general office expenses, taxes, licenses and fees, and all other expenses;

(f) Net underwriting gain or loss;

(g) Net operation gain or loss, including net investment income; and

(h) Other information requested by the insurance commissioner.

(3) The report shall be filed annually with the commissioner, no later than the first day of May. [1994 c 131 § 7; 1988 c 248 § 6; 1986 c 148 § 2; 1985 c 238 § 2.]

**Effective date—Severability—1985 c 238:** See notes following RCW 48.05.380.

**48.05.400 Annual filing and fee to National Association of Insurance Commissioners—Penalty.** (1) Each domestic, foreign, and alien insurer that is authorized to transact insurance in this state shall annually, on or before March 1 of each year, file with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners a copy of its annual statement convention blank, along with such additional filings as prescribed by the commissioner for the preceding year. The information filed with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners shall be in the same format and scope as that required by the commissioner and shall include the signed jurate page and the actuarial certification. Any amendments and addendums to the annual statement filing subsequently filed with the commissioner shall also be filed with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

(2) Coincident with the filing of its annual statement convention blank and other filings, each such insurer shall pay a reasonable fee directly to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners in an amount approved by the commissioner to cover the costs associated with the analysis of the annual statement convention blank.

(3) Foreign insurers that are domiciled in a state which has a law substantially similar to subsection (1) of this section shall be considered to be in compliance with this section.

(4) In the absence of actual malice, members of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, their duly authorized committees, subcommittees, and task forces, their delegates, National Association of Insurance Commissioners employees, and all other persons charged with the responsibility of collecting, reviewing, analyzing, and disseminating the information developed from the filing of the annual

statement convention blanks shall be acting as agents of the commissioner under the authority of this section and shall not be subject to civil liability for libel, slander, or any other cause of action by virtue of their collection, review, and analysis or dissimulation of the data and information collected for the filings required under this section.

(5) The commissioner may suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew the certificate of authority of any insurer failing to file its annual statement or pay the fees when due or within any extension of time which the commissioner, for good cause, may have granted. [1987 c 132 § 1.]

**48.05.410 Health care practitioner risk management training.** Effective July 1, 1994, each health care provider, facility, or health maintenance organization that self-insures for liability risks related to medical malpractice and employs physicians or other independent health care practitioners in Washington state shall condition each physician's and practitioner's liability coverage by that entity upon that physician's or practitioner's participation in risk management training offered by the provider, facility, or health maintenance organization to its employees. The risk management training shall provide information related to avoiding adverse health outcomes resulting from substandard practice and minimizing damages associated with those adverse health outcomes that do occur. For purposes of this section, "independent health care practitioner" means those health care practitioner licensing classifications designated by the department of health in rule pursuant to \*RCW 18.130.330. [1993 c 492 § 414.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 18.130.330 was repealed by 1995 c 265 § 27, effective July 1, 1995.

Findings—Intent—1993 c 492: See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

Short title—Severability—Savings—Captions not law—Reservation of legislative power—Effective dates—1993 c 492: See RCW 43.72.910 through 43.72.915.

**48.05.430 Definitions.** As used in RCW 48.05.430 through 48.05.490, these terms have the following meanings:

- (1) "RBC" means risk-based capital.
- (2) "NAIC" means the national association of insurance commissioners.
- (3) "Domestic insurer" means any insurance company domiciled in this state.
- (4) "Foreign or alien insurer" means any insurance company that is licensed to do business in this state under this chapter but is not domiciled in this state.
- (5) "Life and disability insurer" means any insurance company authorized to write only life insurance, disability insurance, or both, as defined in chapter 48.11 RCW.
- (6) "Property and casualty insurer" means any insurance company authorized to write only property insurance, marine and transportation insurance, general casualty insurance, vehicle insurance, or any combination thereof, including disability insurance, as defined in chapter 48.11 RCW.
- (7) "Corrective order" means an order issued by the commissioner specifying corrective actions that the commissioner has determined are required.
- (8) "Negative trend" means, with respect to a life insurer, a disability insurer, or a life and disability insurer, the negative trend over a period of time, as determined in

accordance with the trend test calculation included in the RBC instructions.

(9) "Adjusted RBC report" means an RBC report that has been adjusted by the commissioner in accordance with RCW 48.05.435(5).

(10) "RBC instructions" means the RBC report including risk-based capital instructions adopted by the NAIC.

(11) "RBC level" means an insurer's company action level RBC, regulatory action level RBC, authorized control level RBC, or mandatory control level RBC where:

(a) "Company action level RBC" means, with respect to any insurer, the product of 2.0 and its authorized control level RBC;

(b) "Regulatory action level RBC" means the product [of] 1.5 and its authorized control level RBC;

(c) "Authorized control level RBC" means the number determined under the risk-based capital formula in accordance with the RBC instructions; and

(d) "Mandatory control level RBC" means the product of .70 and the authorized control level RBC.

(12) "RBC plan" means a comprehensive financial plan containing the elements specified in RCW 48.05.440(2). If the commissioner rejects the RBC plan, and it is revised by the insurer, with or without the commissioner's recommendation, the plan shall be called the "revised RBC plan."

(13) "RBC report" means the report required in RCW 48.05.435.

(14) "Total adjusted capital" means the sum of:

(a) An insurer's statutory capital and surplus as determined in accordance with statutory accounting applicable to the annual financial statements required to be filed under RCW 48.05.250; and

(b) Other items, if any, as the RBC instructions may provide. [1995 c 83 § 1.]

**48.05.435 Report of RBC levels—Formula for determining levels—Inaccurate reports adjusted by commissioner.** (1) Every domestic insurer shall, on or prior to the filing date, which is hereby established as March 1, prepare and submit to the commissioner a report of its RBC levels as of the end of the calendar year just ended, in a form and containing that information required by the RBC instructions. In addition, every domestic insurer shall file its RBC report:

(a) With the NAIC in accordance with the RBC instructions; and

(b) With the insurance commissioner in any state in which the insurer is authorized to do business, if the insurance commissioner has notified the insurer of its request in writing, in which case the insurer shall file its RBC report not later than the later of:

(i) Fifteen days from the receipt of notice to file its RBC report with that state; or

(ii) The filing date.

(2) A life and disability insurer's RBC shall be determined in accordance with the formula set forth in the RBC instructions. The formula shall take into account and may adjust for the covariance between:

(a) The risk with respect to the insurer's assets;

(b) The risk of adverse insurance experience with respect to the insurer's liabilities and obligations;

(c) The interest rate risk with respect to the insurer's business; and

(d) All other business risks and other relevant risks are set forth in the RBC instructions; determined in each case by applying the factors in the manner set forth in the RBC instructions.

(3) A property and casualty insurer's RBC shall be determined in accordance with the formula set forth in the RBC instructions. The formula shall take into account and may adjust for the covariance between:

- (a) Asset risk;
- (b) Credit risk;
- (c) Underwriting risk; and

(d) All other business risks and other relevant risks are set forth in the RBC instructions; determined in each case by applying the factors in the manner set forth in the RBC instructions.

(4) An excess of capital over the amount produced by the RBC requirements and the formulas, schedules, and instructions under RCW 48.05.430 through 48.05.490 is desirable in the business of insurance. Accordingly, insurers should seek to maintain capital above the RBC levels required. Additional capital is used and useful in the insurance business and helps to secure an insurer against various risks inherent in, or affecting, the business of insurance and not accounted for or only partially measured by the RBC requirements.

(5) If a domestic insurer files an RBC report that in the judgment of the commissioner is inaccurate, then the commissioner shall adjust the RBC report to correct the inaccuracy and shall notify the insurer of the adjustment. The notice shall contain a statement of the reason for the adjustment. [1995 c 83 § 2.]

**48.05.440 Company action level event—Definition—RBC plan—Commissioner's review.** (1) "Company action level event" means any of the following events:

(a) The filing of an RBC report by an insurer indicating that:

(i) The insurer's total adjusted capital is greater than or equal to its regulatory action level RBC, but less than its company action level RBC; or

(ii) If a life and disability insurer, the insurer has total adjusted capital that is greater than or equal to its company action level RBC, but less than the product of its authorized control level RBC and 2.5 and has a negative trend;

(b) The notification by the commissioner to the insurer of an adjusted RBC report that indicates an event in (a) of this subsection, provided the insurer does not challenge the adjusted RBC report under RCW 48.05.460; or

(c) If, under RCW 48.05.460, an insurer challenges an adjusted RBC report that indicates an event in (a) of this subsection, the notification by the commissioner to the insurer that the commissioner has, after a hearing, rejected the insurer's challenge.

(2) In the event of a company action level event, the insurer shall prepare and submit to the commissioner an RBC plan that:

(a) Identifies the conditions that contribute to the company action level event;

(b) Contains proposals of corrective actions that the insurer intends to take and would be expected to result in the elimination of the company action level event;

(c) Provides projections of the insurer's financial results in the current year and at least the four succeeding years, both in the absence of proposed corrective actions and giving effect to the proposed corrective actions, including projections of statutory operating income, net income, capital, and surplus. The projections for both new and renewal business might include separate projections for each major line of business and separately identify each significant income, expense, and benefit component;

(d) Identifies the key assumptions impacting the insurer's projections and the sensitivity of the projections to the assumptions; and

(e) Identifies the quality of, and problems associated with, the insurer's business, including but not limited to its assets, anticipated business growth and associated surplus strain, extraordinary exposure to risk, mix of business, and use of reinsurance, if any, in each case.

(3) The RBC plan shall be submitted:

(a) Within forty-five days of the company action level event; or

(b) If the insurer challenges an adjusted RBC report under RCW 48.05.460, within forty-five days after notification to the insurer that the commissioner has, after a hearing, rejected the insurer's challenge.

(4) Within sixty days after the submission by an insurer of an RBC plan to the commissioner, the commissioner shall notify the insurer whether the RBC plan may be implemented or is, in the judgment of the commissioner, unsatisfactory. If the commissioner determines the RBC plan is unsatisfactory, the notification to the insurer shall set forth the reasons for the determination, and may set forth proposed revisions that will render the RBC plan satisfactory. Upon notification from the commissioner, the insurer shall prepare a revised RBC plan, that may incorporate by reference any revisions proposed by the commissioner, and shall submit the revised RBC plan to the commissioner:

(a) Within forty-five days after the notification from the commissioner; or

(b) If the insurer challenges the notification from the commissioner under RCW 48.05.460, within forty-five days after a notification to the insurer that the commissioner has, after a hearing, rejected the insurer's challenge.

(5) In the event of a notification by the commissioner to an insurer that the insurer's RBC plan or revised RBC plan is unsatisfactory, the commissioner may, subject to the insurer's rights to a hearing under RCW 48.05.460, specify in the notification that the notification constitutes a regulatory action level event.

(6) Every domestic insurer that files an RBC plan or revised RBC plan with the commissioner shall file a copy of the RBC plan or revised RBC plan with the insurance commissioner in any state in which the insurer is authorized to do business if:

(a) The state has an RBC provision substantially similar to RCW 48.05.465(1); and

(b) The insurance commissioner of that state has notified the insurer of its request for the filing in writing, in which case the insurer shall file a copy of the RBC plan or revised RBC plan in that state no later than the later of:

- (i) Fifteen days after the receipt of notice to file a copy of its RBC plan or revised plan with the state; or
- (ii) The date on which the RBC plan or revised RBC plan is filed under subsections (3) and (4) of this section. [1995 c 83 § 3.]

#### 48.05.445 Regulatory action level event—

##### Definition—Commissioner's duties—Corrective actions.

(1) "Regulatory action level event" means, with respect to any insurer, any of the following events:

(a) The filing of an RBC report by the insurer indicating that the insurer's total adjusted capital is greater than or equal to its authorized control level RBC but less than its regulatory action level RBC;

(b) The notification by the commissioner to an insurer of an adjusted RBC report that indicates the event in (a) of this subsection, provided the insurer does not challenge the adjusted RBC report under RCW 48.05.460;

(c) If, under RCW 48.05.460, the insurer challenges an adjusted RBC report that indicates the event in (a) of this subsection, the notification by the commissioner to the insurer that the commissioner has, after a hearing, rejected the insurer's challenge;

(d) The failure of the insurer to file an RBC report by the filing date, unless the insurer has provided an explanation for such failure that is satisfactory to the commissioner and has cured the failure within ten days after the filing date;

(e) The failure of the insurer to submit an RBC plan to the commissioner within the time period set forth in RCW 48.05.440(3);

(f) Notification by the commissioner to the insurer that:

(i) The RBC plan or revised RBC plan submitted by the insurer is, in the judgment of the commissioner, unsatisfactory; and

(ii) The notification constitutes a regulatory action level event with respect to the insurer, provided the insurer has not challenged the determination under RCW 48.05.460;

(g) If, under RCW 48.05.460, the insurer challenges a determination by the commissioner under (f) of this subsection, the notification by the commissioner to the insurer that the commissioner has, after a hearing, rejected the challenge;

(h) Notification by the commissioner to the insurer that the insurer has failed to adhere to its RBC plan or revised RBC plan, but only if the failure has a substantial adverse effect on the ability of the insurer to eliminate the company action level event in accordance with its RBC plan or revised RBC plan and the commissioner has so stated in the notification, provided the insurer has not challenged the determination under RCW 48.05.460; or

(i) If, under RCW 48.05.460, the insurer challenges a determination by the commissioner under (h) of this subsection, the notification by the commissioner to the insurer that the commissioner has, after a hearing, rejected the challenge.

(2) In the event of a regulatory action level event the commissioner shall:

(a) Require the insurer to prepare and submit an RBC plan or, if applicable, a revised RBC plan;

(b) Perform the examination or analysis the commissioner deems necessary of the assets, liabilities, and operations of the insurer including a review of its RBC plan or revised RBC plan; and

(c) Subsequent to the examination or analysis, issue an order specifying those corrective actions the commissioner determines are required.

(3) In determining corrective actions, the commissioner may take into account those factors deemed relevant with respect to the insurer based upon the commissioner's examination or analysis of the assets, liabilities, and operations of the insurer, including, but not limited to, the results of any sensitivity tests undertaken under the RBC instructions. The RBC plan or revised RBC plan shall be submitted:

(a) Within forty-five days after the occurrence of the regulatory action level event;

(b) If the insurer challenges an adjusted RBC report under RCW 48.05.460, and the challenge is not frivolous in the judgment of the commissioner, within forty-five days after the notification to the insurer that the commissioner has, after a hearing, rejected the insurer's challenge; or

(c) If the insurer challenges a revised RBC plan under RCW 48.05.460, and the challenge is not frivolous in the judgment of the commissioner, within forty-five days after the notification to the insurer that the commissioner has, after a hearing, rejected the insurer's challenge.

(4) The commissioner may retain actuaries and investment experts and other consultants as may be necessary in the judgment of the commissioner to review the insurer's RBC plan or revised RBC plan, examine or analyze the assets, liabilities, and operations of the insurer and formulate the corrective order with respect to the insurer. The fees, costs, and expenses relating to consultants shall be borne by the affected insurer or other party as directed by the commissioner. [1995 c 83 § 4.]

#### 48.05.450 Authorized control level event—

##### Definition—Commissioner's duties. (1) "Authorized control level event" means any of the following events:

(a) The filing of an RBC report by the insurer indicating that the insurer's total adjusted capital is greater than or equal to its mandatory control level RBC but less than its authorized control level RBC;

(b) The notification by the commissioner to the insurer of an adjusted RBC report that indicates the event in (a) of this subsection, provided the insurer does not challenge the adjusted RBC report under RCW 48.05.460;

(c) If, under RCW 48.05.460, the insurer challenges an adjusted RBC report that indicates the event in (a) of this subsection, notification by the commissioner to the insurer that the commissioner has, after a hearing, rejected the insurer's challenge;

(d) The failure of the insurer to respond, in a manner satisfactory to the commissioner, to a corrective order, provided the insurer has not challenged the corrective order under RCW 48.05.460; or

(e) If the insurer has challenged a corrective order under RCW 48.05.460 and the commissioner has, after a hearing, rejected the challenge or modified the corrective order, the failure of the insurer to respond, in a manner satisfactory to the commissioner, to the corrective order subsequent to rejection or modification by the commissioner.

(2) In the event of an authorized control level event with respect to an insurer, the commissioner shall:

(a) Take those actions required under RCW 48.05.445 regarding an insurer with respect to which a regulatory action level event has occurred; or

(b) If the commissioner deems it to be in the best interests of the policyholders and creditors of the insurer and of the public, take those actions necessary to cause the insurer to be placed under regulatory control under chapter 48.31 RCW. In the event the commissioner takes these actions, the authorized control level event is sufficient grounds for the commissioner to take action under chapter 48.31 RCW, and the commissioner has the rights, powers, and duties with respect to the insurer as are set forth in chapter 48.31 RCW. In the event the commissioner takes actions under this subsection pursuant to an adjusted RBC report, the insurer is entitled to those protections afforded to insurers under RCW 48.31.121 pertaining to summary proceedings. [1995 c 83 § 5.]

**48.05.455 Mandatory control level event—Definition—Commissioner's duties.** (1) "Mandatory control level event" means any of the following events:

(a) The filing of an RBC report indicating that the insurer's total adjusted capital is less than its mandatory control level RBC;

(b) Notification by the commissioner to the insurer of an adjusted RBC report that indicates the event in (a) of this subsection, provided the insurer does not challenge the adjusted RBC report under RCW 48.05.460; or

(c) If, under RCW 48.05.460, the insurer challenges an adjusted RBC report that indicates the event in (a) of this subsection, notification by the commissioner to the insurer that the commissioner has, after a hearing, rejected the insurer's challenge.

(2) In the event of a mandatory control level event:

(a) With respect to a life and disability insurer, the commissioner shall take those actions necessary to place the insurer under regulatory control under chapter 48.31 RCW. In that event, the mandatory control level event is sufficient grounds for the commissioner to take action under chapter 48.31 RCW, and the commissioner has the rights, powers, and duties with respect to the insurer as are set forth in chapter 48.31 RCW. If the commissioner takes actions pursuant to an adjusted RBC report, the insurer is entitled to the protections of RCW 48.31.121 pertaining to summary proceedings. However, the commissioner may forego action for up to ninety days after the mandatory control level event if the commissioner finds there is a reasonable expectation that the mandatory control level event may be eliminated within the ninety-day period.

(b) With respect to a property and casualty insurer, the commissioner shall take those actions necessary to place the insurer under regulatory control under chapter 48.31 RCW, or, in the case of an insurer that is writing no business and that is running-off its existing business, may allow the insurer to continue its run-off under the supervision of the commissioner. In either event, the mandatory control level event is sufficient grounds for the commissioner to take action under chapter 48.31 RCW and the commissioner has the rights, powers, and duties with respect to the insurer as are set forth in chapter 48.31 RCW. If the commissioner takes actions pursuant to an adjusted RBC report, the insurer

is entitled to the protections of RCW 48.31.121 pertaining to summary proceedings. However, the commissioner may forego action for up to ninety days after the mandatory control level event if the commissioner finds there is a reasonable expectation that the mandatory control level event may be eliminated within the ninety-day period. [1995 c 83 § 6.]

**48.05.460 Insurer's right to a hearing—Request—Commissioner sets date.** (1) Upon notification to an insurer by the commissioner of any of the following, the insurer shall have the right to a hearing, in accordance with chapters 48.04 and 34.05 RCW, at which the insurer may challenge any determination or action by the commissioner:

(a) Of an adjusted RBC report; or

(b)(i) That the insurer's RBC plan or revised RBC plan is unsatisfactory; and

(ii) The notification constitutes a regulatory action level event with respect to such insurer; or

(c) That the insurer has failed to adhere to its RBC plan or revised RBC plan and that such failure has a substantial adverse effect on the ability of the insurer to eliminate the company action level event with respect to the insurer in accordance with its RBC plan or revised RBC plan; or

(d) Of a corrective order with respect to the insurer.

(2) The insurer shall notify the commissioner of its request for a hearing within five days after the notification by the commissioner under this section. Upon receipt of the insurer's request for a hearing, the commissioner shall set a date for the hearing. The date shall be no less than ten nor more than thirty days after the date of the insurer's request. [1995 c 83 § 7.]

**48.05.465 Confidentiality of RBC reports and plans—Use of information for comparative purposes—Use of information to monitor solvency.** (1) All RBC reports, to the extent the information is not required to be set forth in a publicly available annual statement schedule, and RBC plans, including the results or report of any examination or analysis of an insurer and any corrective order issued by the commissioner, with respect to any domestic insurer or foreign insurer that are filed with the commissioner constitute information that might be damaging to the insurer if made available to its competitors, and therefore shall be kept confidential by the commissioner. This information shall not be made public or be subject to subpoena, other than by the commissioner and then only for the purpose of enforcement actions taken by the commissioner.

(2) The comparison of an insurer's total adjusted capital to any of its RBC levels is a regulatory tool that may indicate the need for possible corrective action with respect to the insurer, and is not a means to rank insurers generally. Therefore, except as otherwise required under the provisions of RCW 48.05.430 through 48.05.490, the making, publishing, disseminating, circulating, or placing before the public, or causing, directly or indirectly to be made, published, disseminated, circulated, or placed before the public, in a newspaper, magazine, or other publication, or in the form of a notice, circular, pamphlet, letter, or poster, or over any radio or television station, or in any other way, an advertisement, announcement, or statement containing an assertion,

representation, or statement with regard to the RBC levels of any insurer, or of any component derived in the calculation, by any insurer, agent, broker, or other person engaged in any manner in the insurance business would be misleading and is therefore prohibited. However, if any materially false statement with respect to the comparison regarding an insurer's total adjusted capital to its RBC levels, or any of them, or an inappropriate comparison of any other amount to the insurer's RBC levels is published in any written publication and the insurer is able to demonstrate to the commissioner with substantial proof the falsity of such statement, or the inappropriateness, as the case may be, then the insurer may publish an announcement in a written publication if the sole purpose of the announcement is to rebut the materially false statement.

(3) The RBC instructions, RBC reports, adjusted RBC reports, RBC plans, and revised RBC plans are solely for use by the commissioner in monitoring the solvency of insurers and the need for possible corrective action with respect to insurers and shall not be used by the commissioner for ratemaking nor considered or introduced as evidence in any rate proceeding nor used by the commissioner to calculate or derive any elements of an appropriate premium level or rate of return for any line of insurance that an insurer or any affiliate is authorized to write. [1995 c 83 § 8.]

**48.05.470 Regulation of capital and surplus requirements is supplemental—Commissioner may grant exemptions.** (1) The provisions of RCW 48.05.430 through 48.05.490 are supplemental to any other provisions of the laws of this state, and shall not preclude or limit any other powers or duties of the commissioner under those laws, including, but not limited to, chapter 48.31 RCW.

(2) The commissioner may exempt any domestic property and casualty insurer from RCW 48.05.430 through 48.05.490, if the insurer:

- (a) Writes direct business only in this state;
- (b) Writes direct annual premiums of two million dollars or less; and
- (c) Assumes no reinsurance in excess of five percent of direct premiums written. [1995 c 83 § 9.]

**48.05.475 RBC report from foreign or alien insurers—Request of commissioner—Commissioner's options.** (1) Any foreign or alien insurer shall, upon the written request of the commissioner, submit to the commissioner an RBC report as of the end of the calendar year just ended by the later of:

- (a) The date an RBC report would be required to be filed by a domestic insurer under RCW 48.05.435; or
- (b) Fifteen days after the request is received by the foreign or alien insurer. Any foreign or alien insurer shall, at the written request of the commissioner, promptly submit to the commissioner a copy of any RBC plan that is filed with the insurance commissioner of any other state.

(2) In the event of a company action level event, regulatory action level event, or authorized control level event with respect to any foreign or alien insurer as determined under the RBC statute applicable in the state of domicile of the insurer or, if no RBC statute is in force in that state, under the provisions of RCW 48.05.430 through

48.05.490, if the insurance commissioner of the state of domicile of the foreign or alien insurer fails to require the foreign or alien insurer to file an RBC plan in the manner specified under that state's RBC statute, the commissioner may require the foreign or alien insurer to file an RBC plan. In this event, the failure of the foreign or alien insurer to file an RBC plan is grounds to order the insurer to cease and desist from writing new insurance business in this state.

(3) In the event of a mandatory control level event with respect to any foreign or alien insurer, if no domiciliary receiver has been appointed with respect to the foreign or alien insurer under the rehabilitation and liquidation statute applicable in the state of domicile of the foreign or alien insurer, the commissioner may apply for an order under RCW 48.31.080 or 48.31.090 to conserve the assets within this state of foreign or alien insurers, and the occurrence of the mandatory control level event is considered adequate grounds for the application. [1995 c 83 § 10.]

**48.05.480 No liability for regulation of capital and surplus requirements.** There is no liability on the part of, and no cause of action may arise against, the commissioner or insurance department or its employees or agents for any action taken by them in the performance of their powers and duties under RCW 48.05.430 through 48.05.490. [1995 c 83 § 11.]

**48.05.485 Notices by commissioner—When effective.** All notices by the commissioner to an insurer that may result in regulatory action are effective upon dispatch if transmitted by registered or certified mail, or in the case of any other transmission are effective upon the insurer's receipt of the notice. [1995 c 83 § 12.]

**48.05.490 RBC reports for 1995—Requirements.** For RBC reports required by property and casualty insurers for 1995, the following requirements apply in lieu of RCW 48.05.440 through 48.05.455:

(1) In the event of a company action level event with respect to a domestic insurer, the commissioner shall take no regulatory action.

(2) In the event of a regulatory action level event under RCW 48.05.445(1) (a), (b), or (c) the commissioner shall take the actions required under RCW 48.05.440.

(3) In the event of a regulatory action level event under RCW 48.05.445(1) (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), or (i) or an authorized control level event, the commissioner shall take the actions required under RCW 48.05.445.

(4) In the event of a mandatory control level event with respect to an insurer, the commissioner shall take the actions required under RCW 48.05.450. [1995 c 83 § 13.]

**48.05.510 Disclosure of certain material transactions—Insurer's report—Information is confidential.** (1) Every insurer domiciled in this state shall file a report with the commissioner disclosing material acquisitions and dispositions of assets or material nonrenewals, cancellations, or revisions of ceded reinsurance agreements unless these acquisitions and dispositions of assets or material nonrenewals, cancellations, or revisions of ceded reinsurance agreements have been submitted to the commissioner for

review, approval, or information purposes under other provisions of this title or other requirements.

(2) The report required in subsection (1) of this section is due within fifteen days after the end of the calendar month in which any of the transactions occur.

(3) One complete copy of the report, including any exhibits or other attachments filed as part of the report, shall be filed with the:

- (a) Commissioner; and
- (b) National association of insurance commissioners.

(4) All reports obtained by or disclosed to the commissioner under this section and RCW 48.05.515 through 48.05.535 are exempt from public inspection and copying and are not subject to subpoena. These reports shall not be made public by the commissioner, the national association of insurance commissioners, or any other person, except to insurance departments of other states, without the prior written consent of the insurer to which it pertains unless the commissioner, after giving the insurer that would be affected by disclosure notice and a hearing under chapter 48.04 RCW, determines that the interest of policyholders, shareholders, or the public will be served by the publication, in which event the commissioner may publish all or any part of the report in the manner he or she deems appropriate. [1995 c 86 § 1.]

**48.05.515 Material acquisitions or dispositions.** No acquisitions or dispositions of assets need be reported under RCW 48.05.510 if the acquisitions or dispositions are not material. For purposes of RCW 48.05.510 through 48.05.535, a material acquisition, or the aggregate of any series of related acquisitions during any thirty-day period; or disposition, or the aggregate of any series of related dispositions during any thirty-day period is an acquisition or disposition that is nonrecurring and not in the ordinary course of business and involves more than five percent of the reporting insurer's total assets as reported in its most recent statutory statement filed with the commissioner. [1995 c 86 § 2.]

**48.05.520 Asset acquisitions—Asset dispositions.** (1) Asset acquisitions subject to RCW 48.05.510 through 48.05.535 include every purchase, lease, exchange, merger, consolidation, succession, or other acquisition other than the construction or development of real property by or for the reporting insurer or the acquisition of materials for such a purpose.

(2) Asset dispositions subject to RCW 48.05.510 through 48.05.535 include every sale, lease, exchange, merger, consolidation, mortgage, hypothecation, abandonment, destruction, other disposition, or assignment, whether the assignment is for the benefit of creditors or otherwise. [1995 c 86 § 3.]

**48.05.525 Report of a material acquisition or disposition of assets—Information required.** (1) The following information is required to be disclosed in any report of a material acquisition or disposition of assets:

- (a) Date of the transaction;
- (b) Manner of acquisition or disposition;
- (c) Description of the assets involved;

(d) Nature and amount of the consideration given or received;

(e) Purpose of or reason for the transaction;

(f) Manner by which the amount of consideration was determined;

(g) Gain or loss recognized or realized as a result of the transaction; and

(h) Names of the persons from whom the assets were acquired or to whom they were disposed.

(2) Insurers are required to report material acquisitions and dispositions on a nonconsolidated basis unless the insurer is part of a consolidated group of insurers that utilizes a pooling arrangement or one hundred percent reinsurance agreement that affects the solvency and integrity of the insurer's reserves and such an insurer ceded substantially all of its direct and assumed business to the pool. An insurer has ceded substantially all of its direct and assumed business to a pool if the insurer has less than one million dollars total direct plus assumed written premiums during a calendar year that are not subject to a pooling arrangement and the net income of the business not subject to the pooling arrangement represents less than five percent of the insurer's capital and surplus. [1995 c 86 § 4.]

**48.05.530 Material nonrenewals, cancellations, or revisions of ceded reinsurance agreements.** (1) No nonrenewals, cancellations, or revisions of ceded reinsurance agreements need be reported under RCW 48.05.510 if the nonrenewals, cancellations, or revisions are not material. For purposes of RCW 48.05.510 through 48.05.535, a material nonrenewal, cancellation, or revision is one that affects:

(a) More than fifty percent of a property and casualty insurer's total ceded written premium;

(b) More than fifty percent of the property and casualty insurer's total ceded indemnity and loss adjustment reserves;

(c) More than fifty percent of a nonproperty and casualty insurer's total reserve credit taken for business ceded, on an annualized basis, as indicated in the insurer's most recent annual statement;

(d) More than ten percent of an insurer's total cession when it is replaced by one or more unauthorized reinsurers; or

(e) Previously established collateral requirements, when they have been reduced or waived as respects one or more unauthorized reinsurers representing collectively more than ten percent of a total cession.

(2) However, a filing is not required if:

(a) A property and casualty insurer's total ceded written premium represents, on an annualized basis, less than ten percent of its total written premium for direct and assumed business; or

(b) A nonproperty and casualty insurer's total reserve credit taken for business ceded represents, on an annualized basis, less than ten percent of the statutory reserve requirement prior to any cession. [1995 c 86 § 5.]

**48.05.535 Report of a material nonrenewal, cancellation, or revision of ceded reinsurance agreements—Information required.** (1) The following is required to be disclosed in any report of a material



nonrenewal, cancellation, or revision of ceded reinsurance agreements:

- (a) The effective date of the nonrenewal, cancellation, or revision;
- (b) The description of the transaction with an identification of the initiator;
- (c) The purpose of or reason for the transaction; and
- (d) If applicable, the identity of the replacement reinsurers.

(2) Insurers are required to report all material nonrenewals, cancellations, or revisions of ceded reinsurance agreements on a nonconsolidated basis unless the insurer is part of a consolidated group of insurers that utilizes a pooling arrangement or one hundred percent reinsurance agreement that affects the solvency and integrity of the insurer's reserves and the insurer ceded substantially all of its direct and assumed business to the pool. An insurer has ceded substantially all of its direct and assumed business to a pool if the insurer has less than one million dollars total direct plus assumed written premiums during a calendar year that are not subject to a pooling arrangement and the net income of the business not subject to the pooling arrangement represents less than five percent of the insurer's capital and surplus. [1995 c 86 § 6.]

**48.05.900 Severability—1995 c 83.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1995 c 83 § 15.]

**Chapter 48.06**

**ORGANIZATION OF DOMESTIC INSURERS**

Sections

- 48.06.010 Types of domestic insurers permitted.
- 48.06.020 Assessment mutuals prohibited—Exceptions.
- 48.06.030 Solicitation permit.
- 48.06.040 Application for solicitation permit.
- 48.06.050 Procedure upon application.
- 48.06.060 Issuance of permit—Bond.
- 48.06.070 Duration of permit—Contents.
- 48.06.080 Permit as inducement.
- 48.06.090 Solicitors' licenses.
- 48.06.100 Modification, revocation of permit.
- 48.06.110 Bond—Cash deposit.
- 48.06.120 Escrow of funds.
- 48.06.130 Liability of organizers—Organization expense.
- 48.06.150 Payment for subscriptions—Forfeiture.
- 48.06.160 Insurance applications—Mutual and reciprocal insurers.
- 48.06.170 Procedure on failure to complete organization or to qualify.
- 48.06.180 Subsequent financing.
- 48.06.190 Penalty for exhibiting false accounts, etc.
- 48.06.200 Incorporation, articles of—Contents.

**48.06.010 Types of domestic insurers permitted.** An insurer formed in this state shall be either

- (1) An incorporated stock insurer, or
- (2) An incorporated mutual insurer, or
- (3) An incorporated specific risks mutual property insurer, or
- (4) An incorporated mutual assessment property insurer only, or

(5) An incorporated farm mutual assessment property insurer only, or

(6) A reciprocal insurer, with respective powers, duties, and restrictions as provided in this code. [1947 c 79 § .06.01; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.06.01.]

**48.06.020 Assessment mutuals prohibited—Exceptions.** No insurer shall be formed or be authorized in this state to issue contracts of insurance the performance of which is contingent upon the payment of assessments, assessment premiums, or calls made upon its members. Mutual assessment property insurers and farm mutual assessment property insurers shall be the only exception to this provision. [1947 c 79 § .06.02; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.06.02.]

**48.06.030 Solicitation permit.** (1) No person forming or proposing to form in this state an insurer, or insurance holding corporation, or stock corporation to finance an insurer or insurance production therefor, or corporation to manage an insurer, or corporation to be attorney in fact for a reciprocal insurer, or a syndicate for any of such purposes, shall advertise, or solicit or receive any funds, agreement, stock subscription, or membership on account thereof unless he has applied for and has received from the commissioner a solicitation permit.

(2) Any person violating this section shall be subject to a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars or imprisonment for not more than ten years, or by both fine and imprisonment. [1947 c 79 § .06.03; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.06.03.]

**48.06.040 Application for solicitation permit.** To apply for a solicitation permit the person shall:

(1) File with the commissioner a request therefor showing,

(a) name, type, and purpose of insurer, corporation or syndicate proposed to be formed;

(b) names, addresses, fingerprints, and business records of each person associated or to be associated in the formation of the proposed insurer, corporation, or syndicate;

(c) full disclosure of the terms of all understandings and agreements existing or proposed among persons so associated relative to the proposed insurer, corporation, or syndicate, or the formation thereof;

(d) the plan according to which solicitations are to be made;

(e) such additional information as the commissioner may reasonably require.

(2) File with the commissioner,

(a) original and copies in triplicate of proposed articles of incorporation, or syndicate agreement; or, if the proposed insurer is a reciprocal, original and duplicate of the proposed subscribers' agreement and attorney in fact agreement;

(b) original and duplicate copy of any proposed bylaws;

(c) copy of any security proposed to be issued and copy of application or subscription agreement therefor;

(d) copy of any insurance contract proposed to be offered and copy of application therefor;

(e) copy of any prospectus, advertising, or literature proposed to be used;

(f) copy of proposed form of any escrow agreement required.

(3) Deposit with the commissioner the fees required by law to be paid for the application, for filing of the articles of incorporation of an insurer, for filing the subscribers' agreement and attorney in fact agreement if the proposed insurer is a reciprocal, for the solicitation permit, if granted, and for filing articles of incorporation with the secretary of state. [1967 c 150 § 6; 1947 c 79 § .06.04; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.06.04.]

**48.06.050 Procedure upon application.** The commissioner shall expeditiously examine the application for a solicitation permit and make any investigation relative thereto deemed necessary. If the commissioner finds that

(1) the application is complete; and

(2) the documents therewith filed are equitable in terms and proper in form; and

(3) the management of the company, whether by its directors, officers, or by any other means is competent and trustworthy and not so lacking in managerial experience as to make a proposed operation hazardous to the insurance-buying public; and that there is no reason to believe the company is affiliated, directly or indirectly, through ownership, control, reinsurance, or other insurance or business relations, with any other person or persons whose business operations are or have been marked, to the detriment of the policyholders or stockholders or investors or creditors or of the public, by bad faith or by manipulation of assets, or of accounts, or of reinsurance; and

(4) the agreements made or proposed are equitable to present and future shareholders, subscribers, members or policyholders, he shall give notice to the applicant that he will issue a solicitation permit, stating the terms to be contained therein, upon the filing of the bond required by RCW 48.06.110 of this code.

If the commissioner does not so find, he shall give notice to the applicant that the permit will not be granted, stating the grounds therefor, and shall refund to the applicant all sums so deposited except the application fee. [1967 c 150 § 7; 1947 c 79 § .06.05; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.06.05.]

**48.06.060 Issuance of permit—Bond.** Upon the filing of the bond required by RCW 48.06.110 after notice by the commissioner, the commissioner shall

(1) file the articles of incorporation of the proposed incorporated insurer or other corporation with the secretary of state, and

(2) issue to the applicant a solicitation permit. [1947 c 79 § .06.06; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.06.06.]

**48.06.070 Duration of permit—Contents.** Every solicitation permit issued by the commissioner shall:

(1) Be for a period of not over two years, subject to the right of the commissioner to grant a reasonable extension for good cause.

(2) State the securities for which subscriptions are to be solicited, the number, classes, par value, and selling price thereof, or identify the insurance contract for which applications and advance premiums or deposits are to be solicited.

(3) Limit the portion of funds received on account of stock or syndicate subscriptions, if any are proposed to be taken, which may be used for promotion and organization expenses to such amount as he deems adequate, but in no event to exceed fifteen percent of such funds as and when actually received.

(4) If to be a mutual or reciprocal insurer, limit the portion of funds received on account of applications for insurance which may be used for promotion or organization expenses to a reasonable commission upon such funds, giving consideration to the kind of insurance and policy involved and to the costs incurred by insurers generally in the production of similar business, and provide that no such commission shall be deemed to be earned nor be paid until the insurer has received its certificate of authority and the policies applied for and upon which such commission is to be based, have been actually issued and delivered.

(5) Contain such other information required by this chapter or reasonable conditions relative to accounting and reports or otherwise as the commissioner deems necessary. [1953 c 197 § 1; 1947 c 79 § .06.07; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.06.07.]

**48.06.080 Permit as inducement.** The granting of a solicitation permit is permissive only and shall not constitute an endorsement by the commissioner of any person or thing related to the proposed insurer, corporation, or syndicate and the existence of the permit shall not be advertised or used as an inducement in any solicitation. The substance of this section in bold faced type not less than ten point shall be printed at the top of each solicitation permit. [1947 c 79 § .06.08; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.06.08.]

**48.06.090 Solicitors' licenses.** Solicitation for sale of securities to members of the public under a solicitation permit shall be made only by individuals licensed therefor pursuant to the provisions of the securities act. [1949 c 190 § 5; 1947 c 79 § .06.09; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 45.06.09.]

**48.06.100 Modification, revocation of permit.** (1) The commissioner may, for cause, modify a solicitation permit, or may, after a hearing, revoke any solicitation permit for violation of any provision of this code, or of the terms of the permit, or of any proper order of the commissioner, or for misrepresentation.

(2) The commissioner shall revoke a solicitation permit if requested in writing by a majority of the syndicate members, or by a majority of the incorporators and two-thirds of the subscribers to stock or applicants for insurance in the proposed incorporated insurer or corporation, or if he is so requested by a majority of the subscribers of a proposed reciprocal insurer. [1947 c 79 § .06.10; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.06.10.]

**48.06.110 Bond—Cash deposit.** (1) The commissioner shall not issue a solicitation permit until the person applying therefor files with him a corporate surety bond in the penalty of fifty thousand dollars, in favor of the state and for the use and benefit of the state and of subscribers and creditors of the proposed organization.

The bond shall be conditioned upon the payment of costs incurred by the state in event of any legal proceedings for liquidation or dissolution of the proposed organization before completion of organization or in event a certificate of authority is not granted; and upon a full accounting for funds received until the proposed insurer has been granted its certificate of authority, or until the proposed corporation or syndicate has completed its organization as defined in the solicitation permit.

(2) In lieu of filing such bond, the person may deposit with the commissioner fifty thousand dollars in cash or in United States government bonds at par value, to be held in trust upon the same conditions as required for the bond.

(3) The commissioner may waive the requirement for a bond or deposit in lieu thereof if the permit provides that:

(a) The proposed securities are to be distributed solely and finally to those few persons who are the active promoters intimate to the formation of the insurer, or other corporation or syndicate, or

(b) The securities are to be issued in connection with subsequent financing as provided in RCW 48.06.180.

(4) Any bond filed or deposit or remaining portion thereof held under this section shall be released and discharged upon settlement or termination of all liabilities against it. [1969 ex.s. c 241 § 2; 1955 c 86 § 2; 1953 c 197 § 2; 1947 c 79 § .06.11; Rem. Supp 1947 § 45.06.11.]

**Effective date—Supervision of transfers—1955 c 86:** See notes following RCW 48.05.080.

**48.06.120 Escrow of funds.** (1) All funds received pursuant to a solicitation permit shall be deposited and held in escrow in a bank or trust company under an agreement approved by the commissioner. No part of any such deposit shall be withdrawn, except:

(a) For the payment of promotion and organization expenses as authorized by the solicitation permit; or

(b) for the purpose of making any deposit with the commissioner required for the issuance of a certificate of authority to an insurer; or

(c) if the proposed organization is not to be an insurer, upon completion of payments on stock or syndicate subscriptions made under the solicitation permit and deposit or appropriation of such funds to the purposes specified in the solicitation permit; or

(d) for making of refunds as provided in RCW 48.06.170.

(2) When the commissioner has issued a certificate of authority to an insurer any such funds remaining in escrow for its account shall be released to the insurer. [1947 c 79 § .06.12; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.06.12.]

**48.06.130 Liability of organizers—Organization expense.** (1) The incorporators of any insurer or other corporation, or the persons proposing to form a reciprocal insurer, or a syndicate, shall be jointly and severally liable for its debts or liabilities until it has secured a certificate of authority, if an insurer, or has completed its organization if a corporation other than an insurer or a syndicate.

(2) Any portion of funds received on account of stock or syndicate subscriptions which is allowed therefor under the solicitation permit, may be applied concurrently toward

the payment of promotion and organization expense theretofore incurred. [1947 c 79 § .06.13; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.06.13.]

**48.06.150 Payment for subscriptions—Forfeiture.**

(1) No such proposed stock insurer, corporation, or syndicate shall issue any share of stock or participation agreement except for payment in cash or in securities eligible for investment of funds of insurers. No such shares or agreement shall be issued until all subscriptions received under the solicitation permit have been so fully paid, nor, if an insurer, until a certificate of authority has been issued to it.

(2) Every subscription contract to shares of a stock insurer or other corporation calling for payment in installments, together with all amounts paid thereon may be forfeited at the option of the corporation, upon failure to make good a delinquency in any installment upon not less than forty-five days' notice in writing, and every such contract shall so provide. [1947 c 79 § .06.15; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.06.15.]

**48.06.160 Insurance applications—Mutual and reciprocal insurers.** All applications for insurance obtained in forming a mutual or reciprocal insurer shall provide that:

(1) Issuance of the policy is contingent upon completion of organization of the insurer and issuance to it of a certificate of authority; and

(2) the prepaid premium or deposit will be refunded in full to the applicant if the organization is not completed and certificate of authority issued prior to the solicitation permit's date of expiration; and

(3) the agreement for insurance is not effective until a policy has been issued under it. [1947 c 79 § .06.16; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.06.16.]

**48.06.170 Procedure on failure to complete organization or to qualify.** The commissioner shall withdraw all funds held in escrow and refund to subscribers or applicants all sums paid in on stock or syndicate subscriptions, less that part of such sums paid in on subscriptions as has been allowed and used for promotion and organization expenses, and all sums paid in on insurance applications, and shall dissolve the proposed insurer, corporation or syndicate if

(1) the proposed insurer, corporation or syndicate fails to complete its organization and obtain full payment for subscriptions and applications, and, if an insurer, it fails to secure its certificate of authority, all before expiration of the solicitation permit; or

(2) the commissioner revokes the solicitation permit. [1947 c 79 § .06.17; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.06.17.]

**48.06.180 Subsequent financing.** (1) No domestic insurer, or insurance holding corporation, or stock corporation for financing operations of a mutual insurer, or attorney in fact corporation of a reciprocal insurer, after

(a) it has received a certificate of authority, if an insurer, or

(b) it has completed its initial organization and financing if a corporation other than an insurer, shall solicit or receive funds in exchange for any new issue of its corporate securities, other than through a stock dividend, until it has applied

to the commissioner for, and has been granted, a solicitation permit.

(2) The commissioner shall issue such a permit unless he finds that:

(a) The funds proposed to be secured are excessive in amount for the purpose intended, or

(b) the proposed securities or the manner of their distribution are inequitable, or

(c) the issuance of the securities would jeopardize the interests of policyholders or the holders of other securities of the insurer or corporation.

(3) Any such solicitation permit granted by the commissioner shall be for such duration, and shall contain such terms and be issued upon such conditions as the commissioner may reasonably specify or require. [1949 c 190 § 6; 1947 c 79 § .06.18; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 45.06.18.]

**48.06.190 Penalty for exhibiting false accounts, etc.** Every person who, with intent to deceive, knowingly exhibits any false account, or document, or advertisement, relative to the affairs of any insurer, or of any corporation or syndicate of the kind enumerated in RCW 48.06.030, formed or proposed to be formed, shall be guilty of a felony. [1947 c 79 § .06.19; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.06.19.]

**48.06.200 Incorporation, articles of—Contents.** (1) This section applies to insurers incorporated in this state, but no insurer heretofore lawfully incorporated in this state is required to reincorporate or change its articles of incorporation by reason of any provisions of this section.

(2) The incorporators shall be individuals who are United States citizens, of whom two-thirds shall be residents of this state. The number of incorporators shall be not less than five if a stock insurer, nor less than ten if a mutual insurer.

(3) The incorporators shall execute articles of incorporation in triplicate and acknowledge their signatures thereunto before an officer authorized to take acknowledgments of deeds.

(4) After approval of the articles by the commissioner, one copy shall be filed in the office of the secretary of state, another in the office of the commissioner, and the third copy shall be retained by the insurer.

(5) The articles of incorporation shall state:

First: The names and addresses of the incorporators.

Second: The name of the insurer. If a mutual insurer the name shall include the word "mutual."

Third: (a) The objects for which the insurer is formed;

(b) whether it is a stock or mutual insurer, and if a mutual property insurer only, whether it will insure on the cash premium or assessment plan;

(c) the kinds of insurance it will issue, according to the designations made in this code.

Fourth: If a stock insurer, the amount of its capital, the aggregate number of shares, and the par value of each share, which par value shall be not less than ten dollars, except that after the corporation has transacted business as an authorized insurer in the state for five years or more, its articles of incorporation may be amended, at the option of its stockholders, to provide for a par value of not less than one dollar per share. If a mutual insurer, the maximum contingent

liability of its policyholders for the payment of its expenses and losses occurring under its policies.

Fifth: The duration of its existence, which may be perpetual.

Sixth: The names and addresses of the directors, not less than five in number, who shall constitute the board of directors of the insurer for the initial term, not less than two nor more than six months, as designated in the articles of incorporation.

Seventh: The name of the city or town of this state in which the insurer's principal place of business is to be located.

Eighth: Other provisions not inconsistent with law as may be deemed proper by the incorporators. [1981 c 302 § 37; 1963 c 60 § 1; 1949 c 190 § 7; 1947 c 79 § .06.20; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 45.06.20.]

**Severability—1981 c 302:** See note following RCW 19.76.100.

## Chapter 48.07

### DOMESTIC INSURERS—POWERS

#### Sections

48.07.010	Application of code to existing insurers.
48.07.020	Principal office.
48.07.030	Application of general corporation laws.
48.07.040	Annual, special meetings.
48.07.050	Directors—Qualifications—Removal.
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48.07.080	Guarantee of officers' obligations prohibited.
48.07.100	Vouchers for expenditures.
48.07.110	Depositaries.
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48.07.170	Continuing operation in event of national emergency— Emergency bylaws.
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48.07.190	Continuing operation in event of national emergency— Officers.
48.07.200	Continuing operation in event of national emergency— Principal office and place of business.
48.07.210	Conversion to domestic insurer.

*Business corporations: Title 23B RCW.*

*Dissolution and winding up business corporation: Chapter 23B.14 RCW.*

*Interlocking ownership, management: RCW 48.30.250.*

*Merger or consolidation: RCW 48.31.010.*

*Organization of domestic insurers: Chapter 48.06 RCW.*

**48.07.010 Application of code to existing insurers.** Existing authorized domestic insurers shall continue to insure only in accordance with the provisions of this code. [1947 c 79 § .07.01; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.07.01.]

**48.07.020 Principal office.** Every domestic insurer shall establish and maintain in this state its principal office and place of business. [1947 c 79 § .07.02; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.07.02.]

**48.07.030 Application of general corporation laws.** The laws of this state relating to private corporations, except

where inconsistent with the express provisions of this code, shall govern the corporate powers, duties, and relationships of incorporated domestic insurers and insurance holding corporations formed under the laws of the state of Washington. [1985 c 364 § 1; 1947 c 79 § .07.03; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.07.03.]

**Severability—1985 c 364:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1985 c 364 § 5.]

*Provisions as to general business corporations: Title 23B RCW.*

**48.07.040 Annual, special meetings.** Each incorporated domestic insurer shall, in the month of January, February, March, or April, hold the annual meeting of its shareholders or members for the purpose of receiving reports of its affairs and to elect directors. Each domestic insurance holding corporation shall hold an annual meeting of its shareholders at such time and place as may be stated in or fixed in accordance with its bylaws. Special meetings of the shareholders of an incorporated domestic insurer or domestic insurance holding corporation shall be called and held by such persons and in such a manner as stated in the articles of incorporation or bylaws. [1985 c 364 § 2; 1965 ex.s. c 70 § 4; 1947 c 79 § .07.04; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.07.04.]

**Severability—1985 c 364:** See note following RCW 48.07.030.

**48.07.050 Directors—Qualifications—Removal.** Not less than three-fourths of the directors of an incorporated domestic insurer shall be United States or Canadian citizens, and a majority of the board of directors of a mutual life insurer shall be residents of this state. The directors of a domestic insurer or domestic insurance holding corporation may be removed with cause by a vote of a majority of its voting capital stock or members (if a mutual insurer) at a valid meeting and said directors may be removed without cause by a vote of sixty-seven percent of its voting capital stock or members (if a mutual insurer) at a valid meeting. [1989 c 24 § 1; 1985 c 364 § 3; 1957 c 193 § 21; 1947 c 79 § .07.05; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.07.05.]

**Severability—1985 c 364:** See note following RCW 48.07.030.

**48.07.060 Corrupt practices—Penalty.** No person shall buy or sell or barter a vote or proxy, relative to any meeting of shareholders or members of an incorporated domestic insurer, or engage in any corrupt or dishonest practice in or relative to the conduct of any such meeting. Violation of this section shall constitute a gross misdemeanor. [1947 c 79 § .07.06; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.07.06.]

**48.07.070 Amendment of articles of incorporation.** (1) Unless a vote of a greater proportion of directors or shares is required by its articles of incorporation, amendments to the articles of incorporation of a domestic insurer or a domestic insurance holding corporation shall be made by a majority vote of its board of directors and the vote or written assent of a majority of its voting capital stock, or two-thirds of the members (if a mutual insurer) voting at a valid meeting of members.

(2) The president and secretary of the insurer shall, under the corporate seal, certify the amendment in triplicate,

and file it in the offices of the secretary of state, the commissioner, and the insurer, as required under this code for original articles of incorporation. Thereupon, subject to the requirements of RCW 48.08.010 relative to increase of capital stock of a stock insurer, the amendment shall become effective. [1985 c 364 § 4; 1981 c 302 § 38; 1947 c 79 § .07.07; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.07.07.]

**Severability—1985 c 364:** See note following RCW 48.07.030.

**Severability—1981 c 302:** See note following RCW 19.76.100.

**48.07.080 Guarantee of officers' obligations prohibited.** No domestic insurer or its affiliates or subsidiaries shall guarantee the financial obligation of any director or officer of such insurer or affiliate or subsidiary in his personal capacity, and any such guaranty attempted shall be void.

This prohibition shall not apply to obligations of the insurer under surety bonds or insurance contracts issued in the regular course of business. [1947 c 79 § .07.08; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.07.08.]

**48.07.100 Vouchers for expenditures.** (1) No domestic insurer shall make any disbursement of twenty-five dollars or more, unless evidenced by a voucher correctly describing the consideration for the payment and supported by a check or receipt endorsed or signed by or on behalf of the person receiving the money.

(2) If the disbursement is for services and reimbursement, the voucher shall describe the services and itemize the expenditures.

(3) If the disbursement is in connection with any matter pending before any legislature or public body or before any public official, the voucher shall also correctly describe the nature of the matter and of the insurer's interest therein. [1947 c 79 § .07.10; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.07.10.]

**48.07.110 Depositaries.** The funds of a domestic insurer shall not be deposited in any bank or banking institution which has not first been approved as a depository by the insurer's board of directors or by a committee thereof designated for the purpose. [1947 c 79 § .07.11; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.07.11.]

**48.07.130 Pecuniary interest of officer or director, restrictions upon.** (1) No person having any authority in the investment or disposition of the funds of a domestic insurer and no officer or director of an insurer shall accept, except for the insurer, or be the beneficiary of any fee, brokerage, gift, commission, or other emolument because of any sale of insurance or of any investment, loan, deposit, purchase, sale, payment, or exchange made by or for the insurer, or be pecuniarily interested therein in any capacity; except, that such a person may procure a loan from the insurer direct upon approval by two-thirds of its directors and upon the pledge of securities eligible for the investment of the insurer's funds under this code.

(2) This section does not prohibit a life insurer from making a policy loan to such person on a life insurance contract issued by it and in accordance with the terms thereof.

(3) The commissioner may permit additional exceptions to the prohibition contained in subsection (1) of this section to enable payment of reasonable compensation to a director who is not otherwise an officer or employee of the insurer, or to a corporation or firm in which the director is interested, for necessary services performed or sales or purchases made to or for the insurer in the ordinary course of the insurer's business and in the usual private professional or business capacity of such director or such corporation or firm.

In addition, the commissioner may permit exceptions to the prohibitions contained in subsection (1) of this section where the payment of a fee, brokerage, gift, commission, or other emolument is fully disclosed to the insurer's officers and directors and is reasonable in relation to the service performed. [1989 c 228 § 1; 1981 c 339 § 5; 1947 c 79 § .07.13; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.07.13.]

**48.07.140 Compliance with foreign laws.** Any domestic insurer doing business in another state, territory or sovereignty may design and issue insurance contracts and transact insurance in such state, territory or sovereignty as required or permitted by the laws thereof, any provision of the insurer's articles of incorporation or bylaws notwithstanding. [1947 c 79 § .07.14; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.07.14.]

**48.07.150 Solicitations in other states.** (1) No domestic insurer shall knowingly solicit insurance business in any reciprocating state in which it is not then licensed as an authorized insurer.

(2) This section shall not prohibit advertising through publications and radio broadcasts originating outside such reciprocating state, if the insurer is licensed in a majority of the states in which such advertising is disseminated, and if such advertising is not specifically directed to residents of such reciprocating state.

(3) This section shall not prohibit insurance, covering persons or risks located in a reciprocating state, under contracts solicited and issued in states in which the insurer is then licensed. Nor shall it prohibit insurance effectuated by the insurer as an unauthorized insurer in accordance with the laws of the reciprocating state. Nor shall it prohibit renewal or continuance in force, with or without modification, of contracts otherwise lawful and which were not originally executed in violation of this section.

(4) A "reciprocating" state, as used herein, is one under the laws of which a similar prohibition is imposed upon and is enforced against insurers domiciled in that state.

(5) The commissioner shall suspend or revoke the certificate of authority of a domestic insurer found by him, after a hearing, to have violated this section. [1988 c 248 § 4; 1947 c 79 § .07.15; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.07.15.]

**48.07.160 Continuing operation in event of national emergency—Declaration of purpose—"Insurer" defined.** It is desirable for the general welfare and in particular for the welfare of insurance beneficiaries, policyholders, claimants and others that the business of domestic insurers be continued notwithstanding the event of a national emergency. The purpose of this section and RCW 48.07.170 through 48.07.200 is to facilitate the continued operation of domestic

insurers in the event that a national emergency is caused by an attack on the United States which is so disruptive of normal business and commerce in this state as to make it impossible or impracticable for a domestic insurer to conduct its business in accord with applicable provisions of law, its bylaws, or its charter. When used in this section and RCW 48.07.170 through 48.07.200 the word "insurer" includes a fraternal benefit society. [1963 c 195 § 25.]

**48.07.170 Continuing operation in event of national emergency—Emergency bylaws.** The board of directors of any domestic insurer may at any time adopt emergency bylaws, subject to repeal or change by action of those having power to adopt regular bylaws for such insurer, which shall be operative during such a national emergency and which may, notwithstanding any different provisions of the regular bylaws, or of the applicable statutes, or of such insurer's charter, make any provision that may be reasonably necessary for the operation of such insurer during the period of such emergency. [1963 c 195 § 26.]

**48.07.180 Continuing operation in event of national emergency—Directors.** In the event that the board of directors of a domestic insurer has not adopted emergency bylaws, the following provisions shall become effective upon the occurrence of such a national emergency as above described:

(1) Three directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at all meetings of the board.

(2) Any vacancy in the board may be filled by a majority of the remaining directors, though less than a quorum, or by a sole remaining director.

(3) If there are no surviving directors, but at least three vice presidents of such insurer survive, the three vice presidents with the longest term of service shall be the directors and shall possess all of the powers of the previous board of directors and such powers as are granted herein or by subsequently enacted legislation. By majority vote, such emergency board of directors may elect other directors. If there are not at least three surviving vice presidents, the commissioner or duly designated person exercising the powers of the commissioner shall appoint three persons as directors who shall include any surviving vice presidents and who shall possess all of the powers of the previous board of directors and such powers as are granted herein or by subsequently enacted legislation, and these persons by majority vote may elect other directors. [1963 c 195 § 27.]

**48.07.190 Continuing operation in event of national emergency—Officers.** At any time the board of directors of a domestic insurer may, by resolution, provide that in the event of such a national emergency and in the event of the death or incapacity of the president, the secretary, or the treasurer of such insurer, such officers, or any of them, shall be succeeded in the office by the person named or described in a succession list adopted by the board of directors. Such list may be on the basis of named persons or position titles, shall establish the order of priority and may prescribe the conditions under which the powers of the office shall be exercised. [1963 c 195 § 28.]

**48.07.200 Continuing operation in event of national emergency—Principal office and place of business.** At any time the board of directors of a domestic insurer may, by resolution, provide that in the event of such a national emergency the principal office and place of business of such insurer shall be at such location as is named or described in the resolution. Such resolution may provide for alternate locations and establish an order of preference. [1963 c 195 § 29.]

**48.07.210 Conversion to domestic insurer.** (1)(a) Any insurer duly organized under the laws of any other state and admitted to transact insurance business in this state may become a domestic insurer upon complying with all requirements of law for the organization of a domestic insurer in this state and by designating its principal place of business at a location in this state. Such domestic insurer is entitled to a certificate of authority to transact insurance in this state, subject to the conditions set forth in (b) of this subsection, and is subject to the authority and the jurisdiction of this state.

(b) Before being eligible to become a domestic insurer under this section, an admitted insurer shall advise the commissioner, in writing, thirty days in advance of the proposed date of its plan to become a domestic insurer. The commissioner must approve the plan in advance of the proposed date. The commissioner shall not approve any such plan unless, after a hearing, pursuant to such notice as the commissioner may require, the commissioner finds that the plan is consistent with law, and that no reasonable objection to the plan exists. If the commissioner fails to approve the plan, the commissioner shall state his or her reasons for failure to approve the plan in an order issued at the hearing.

(2) After providing thirty days' advance written notice of its plan to the commissioner and upon the written approval of the commissioner in advance of the proposed transfer date, any domestic insurer of this state may transfer its domicile to any other state in which it is admitted to transact the business of insurance. Upon transfer of domicile, the insurer ceases to be a domestic insurer of this state. If otherwise qualified under the laws of this state, the commissioner shall admit the insurer to do business in this state as a foreign insurer. The commissioner shall approve any proposed transfer of domicile unless the commissioner determines after a hearing, pursuant to such notice as the commissioner may require, that the transfer is not in the best interests of the public or the insurer's policyholders in this state. If the commissioner fails to approve a proposed transfer of domicile, the commissioner shall state his or her reasons for failure to approve the transfer in an order issued at the hearing.

(3) When a foreign insurer, admitted to transact business in this state, transfers its corporate domicile to this state or to any other state, the certificate of authority, appointment of statutory agent, and all approved licenses, policy forms, rates, filings, and other authorizations and approvals in existence at the time the foreign insurer transfers its corporate domicile shall continue in effect.

(4) Any insurer transferring its corporate domicile under this section shall file any amendments to articles of incorpo-

ration, bylaws, or other corporate documents that are required to be filed in this state before the insurer may receive approval of its proposed plan by the commissioner. [1988 c 248 § 5.]

## Chapter 48.08

### DOMESTIC STOCK INSURERS

#### Sections

48.08.010	Increase of capital stock.
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48.08.040	Illegal dividends, reductions—Penalty against directors.
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48.08.160	Equity security—Exemptions—Securities registered or required to be, or no class held by one hundred or more persons.
48.08.170	Equity security—Rules and regulations.
48.08.190	Failure to file required information, documents, or reports—Forfeiture.

*Merger or consolidation: RCW 48.31.010.*

*Organization of domestic insurers: Chapter 48.06 RCW.*

*Superadded liability of shareholders of domestic stock insurance companies: State Constitution Art. 12 § 11.*

**48.08.010 Increase of capital stock.** (1) Increase of the capital stock of a domestic stock insurer shall be by amendment to its articles of incorporation.

(2) If the increased capital stock is to be distributed as a stock dividend, such increased capital stock may be fully paid in out of any available surplus funds as is provided in RCW 48.08.030, and such payment shall be effected by a transfer on the insurer's books from its surplus account to its capital account.

(3) When the increased capital has been fully paid in, a certificate to such effect shall be made in quadruplicate under oath and the corporate seal by the insurer's president and secretary and filed in the public offices named in RCW 48.07.070. [1953 c 197 § 4; 1947 c 79 § .08.01; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.08.01.]

**48.08.020 Reduction of capital stock.** (1) Reduction of the capital stock of a domestic stock insurer shall be by amendment of its articles of incorporation. No such reduction shall be made which results in capital stock less in amount than the minimum required by this code for the kinds of insurance thereafter to be transacted by the insurer.

(2) No surplus funds of the insurer resulting from a reduction of its capital stock shall be distributed to stockholders, except as a stock dividend on a subsequent increase of capital stock, or upon dissolution of the insurer, or upon approval of the commissioner of a distribution upon proof

satisfactory to him that the distribution will not impair the interests of policyholders or the insurer's solvency.

(3) Upon such reduction of capital stock, the insurer's directors shall call in any outstanding stock certificates required to be changed pursuant thereto, and issue proper certificates in their stead. [1947 c 79 § .08.02; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.08.02.]

**48.08.030 Dividends to stockholders.** (1) No domestic stock insurer shall pay any cash dividend to stockholders except out of earned surplus. For the purpose of this section, "earned surplus" means that part of its available surplus funds which is derived from any realized net profits on its business, and does not include unrealized capital gains or reevaluation of assets.

(2) Such an insurer may pay a stock dividend out of any available surplus funds.

(3) Payment of any dividend to stockholders of a domestic stock insurer shall also be subject to all the limitations and requirements governing the payment of dividends by other private corporations.

(4) No dividend shall be declared or paid which would reduce the insurer's surplus to an amount less than the minimum required for the kinds of insurance thereafter to be transacted.

(5) For the purposes of this chapter "surplus funds" means the excess of the insurer's assets over its liabilities, including its capital stock as a liability.

(6) Available surplus means the excess over the minimum amount of surplus required for the kinds of insurance the insurer is authorized to transact. [1993 c 462 § 52; 1947 c 79 § .08.03; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.08.03.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.08.040 Illegal dividends, reductions—Penalty against directors.** Any director of a domestic stock insurer who votes for or concurs in the declaration or payment of any dividend to stockholders or a reduction of capital stock not authorized by law shall, in addition to any other liability imposed by law, be guilty of a gross misdemeanor. [1947 c 79 § .08.04; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.08.04.]

**48.08.050 Impairment of capital.** (1) If the capital stock of a domestic stock insurer becomes impaired, the commissioner shall at once determine the amount of the deficiency and serve notice upon the insurer to require its stockholders to make good the deficiency within ninety days after service of such notice.

(2) The deficiency shall be made good in cash, or in assets eligible under this code for the investment of the insurer's funds, or by reduction of the insurer's capital stock to an amount not below the minimum required for the kinds of insurance to be thereafter transacted.

(3) If the deficiency is not made good and proof thereof filed with the commissioner within such ninety-day period, the insurer shall be deemed insolvent and shall be proceeded against as authorized by this code.

(4) If the deficiency is not made good the insurer shall not issue or deliver any policy after the expiration of such ninety-day period. Any officer or director who violates or

knowingly permits the violation of this provision shall be subject to a fine of from fifty dollars to one thousand dollars for each violation. [1947 c 79 § .08.05; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.08.05.]

**48.08.060 Repayment of contributions to surplus.** Contributions to the surplus of a domestic stock insurer other than resulting from sale of its capital stock, shall not be subject to repayment except out of surplus in excess of the minimum surplus initially required of such an insurer transacting like kinds of insurance. [1947 c 79 § .08.06; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.08.06.]

**48.08.070 Participating policies.** (1) Any domestic stock insurer may, if its charter so provides, issue policies entitled to participate from time to time in the earnings of the insurer through dividends.

(2) Any classification of its participating policies and of risks assumed thereunder which the insurer may make shall be reasonable. No dividend shall be paid which is inequitable or which unfairly discriminates as between such classifications or as between policies within the same classification.

(3) No such insurer shall issue in this state both participating and nonparticipating policies for the same class of risks; except, that both participating and nonparticipating life insurance policies may be issued if the right or absence of the right to participate is reasonably related to the premium charged.

(4) Dividends to participating life insurance policies issued by such insurer shall be paid only out of its surplus funds as defined in subsection (5) of RCW 48.08.030. Dividends to participating policies for other kinds of insurance shall be paid only out of that part of such surplus funds which is derived from any realized net profits from the insurer's business.

(5) No dividend, otherwise earned, shall be made contingent upon the payment of renewal premium on any policy. [1947 c 79 § .08.07; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.08.07.]

**48.08.080 Mutualization of stock insurers.** (1) Any domestic stock insurer may become a domestic mutual insurer pursuant to such plan and procedure as are approved by the commissioner in advance of such mutualization.

(2) The commissioner shall not approve any such plan, procedure, or mutualization unless:

(a) It is equitable to both shareholders and policyholders.

(b) It is approved by vote of the holders of not less than three-fourths of the insurer's capital stock having voting rights, and by vote of not less than two-thirds of the insurer's policyholders who vote on such plan, pursuant to such notice and procedure as may be approved by the commissioner. Such vote may be registered in person, by proxy, or by mail.

(c) If a life insurer, the right to vote thereon is limited to those policyholders whose policies have face amounts of not less than one thousand dollars and have been in force one year or more.

(d) Mutualization will result in retirement of shares of the insurer's capital stock at a price not in excess of the fair



value thereof as determined by competent disinterested appraisers.

(e) The plan provides for appraisal and purchase of the shares of any nonconsenting stockholder in accordance with the laws of this state relating to the sale or exchange of all the assets of a private corporation.

(f) The plan provides for definite conditions to be fulfilled by a designated early date upon which such mutualization will be deemed effective.

(g) The mutualization leaves the insurer with surplus funds reasonably adequate to preserve the security of its policyholders and its ability to continue successfully in business in the states in which it is then authorized, and in the kinds of insurance it is then authorized to transact. [1947 c 79 § .08.08; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.08.08.]

**48.08.090 Stockholder meetings—Duty to inform stockholders of matters to be presented—Proxies.** (1) This section shall apply to all domestic stock insurers except:

(a) A domestic stock insurer having less than one hundred stockholders; except, that if ninety-five percent or more of the insurer's stock is owned or controlled by a parent or affiliated insurer, this section shall not apply to such insurer unless its remaining shares are held by five hundred or more stockholders.

(b) Domestic stock insurers which file with the Securities and Exchange Commission forms of proxies, consents and authorizations pursuant to the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

(2) Every such insurer shall seasonably furnish its stockholders in advance of stockholder meetings, information in writing reasonably adequate to inform them relative to all matters to be presented by the insurer's management for consideration of stockholders at such meeting.

(3) No person shall solicit a proxy, consent, or authorization in respect of any stock of such an insurer unless he furnishes the person so solicited with written information reasonably adequate as to

(a) the material matters in regard to which the powers so solicited are proposed to be used, and

(b) the person or persons on whose behalf the solicitation is made, and the interest of such person or persons in relation to such matters.

(4) No person shall so furnish to another, information which the informer knows or has reason to believe, is false or misleading as to any material fact, or which fails to state any material fact reasonably necessary to prevent any other statement made from being misleading.

(5) The form of all such proxies shall:

(a) Conspicuously state on whose behalf the proxy is solicited;

(b) Provide for dating the proxy;

(c) Impartially identify each matter or group of related matters intended to be acted upon;

(d) Provide means for the principal to instruct the vote of his shares as to approval or disapproval of each matter or group, other than election to office; and

(e) Be legibly printed, with context suitably organized.

Except, that a proxy may confer discretionary authority as to matters as to which choice is not specified pursuant to item (d), above, if the form conspicuously states how it is

intended to vote the proxy or authorization in each such case; and may confer discretionary authority as to other matters which may come before the meeting but unknown for a reasonable time prior to the solicitation by the persons on whose behalf the solicitation is made.

(6) No proxy shall confer authority (a) to vote for election of any person to any office for which a bona fide nominee is not named in the proxy statement, or (b) to vote at any annual meeting (or adjournment thereof) other than the annual meeting next following the date on which the proxy statement and form were furnished stockholders.

(7) The commissioner shall have authority to make and promulgate reasonable rules and regulations for the effectuation of this section, and in so doing shall give due consideration to rules and regulations promulgated for similar purposes by the insurance supervisory officials of other states. [1965 ex.s. c 70 § 5.]

*Exemption from federal registration: 15 U.S.C. § 78 l(g)(2)(G).*

**48.08.100 Equity security—Defined.** The term "equity security" when used in RCW 48.08.100 through 48.08.160 means any stock or similar security; or any security convertible, with or without consideration, into such a security, or carrying any warrant or right to subscribe to or purchase such a security; or any such warrant or right; or any other security which the commissioner shall deem to be of similar nature and consider necessary or appropriate, by such rules and regulations as he may prescribe in the public interest or for the protection of investors, to treat as an equity security. [1965 ex.s. c 70 § 11.]

**48.08.110 Equity security—Duty to file statement of ownership.** Every person who is directly or indirectly the beneficial owner of more than ten percent of any class of any equity security of a domestic stock insurer, or who is a director or an officer of such insurer, shall file with the commissioner on or before the 30th day of September, 1965, or within ten days after he becomes such beneficial owner, director or officer, a statement, in such form as the commissioner may prescribe, of the amount of all equity securities of such insurer of which he is the beneficial owner, and within ten days after the close of each calendar month thereafter, if there has been a change in such ownership during such month, shall file with the commissioner a statement, in such form as the commissioner may prescribe, indicating his ownership at the close of the calendar month and such changes in his ownership as have occurred during such calendar month. [1965 ex.s. c 70 § 6.]

**48.08.120 Equity security—Profits from short term transactions—Remedies—Limitation of actions.** For the purpose of preventing the unfair use of information which may have been obtained by such beneficial owner, director or officer by reason of his relationship to such insurer, any profit realized by him from any purchase and sale, or any sale and purchase, of any equity security of such insurer within any period of less than six months, unless such security was acquired in good faith in connection with a debt previously contracted, shall inure to and be recoverable by the insurer, irrespective of any intention on the part of such beneficial owner, director or officer in entering into such

transaction of holding the security purchased or of not repurchasing the security sold for a period exceeding six months. Suit to recover such profit may be instituted at law or in equity in any court of competent jurisdiction by the insurer, or by the owner of any security of the insurer in the name and in behalf of the insurer if the insurer shall fail or refuse to bring such suit within sixty days after request or shall fail diligently to prosecute the same thereafter: PROVIDED, That no such suit shall be brought more than two years after the date such profit was realized. This section shall not be construed to cover any transaction where such beneficial owner was not such both at the time of the purchase and sale, or the sale and purchase, of the security involved, or any transaction or transactions which the commissioner by rules and regulations may exempt as not comprehended within the purpose of this section. [1965 ex.s. c 70 § 7.]

*Exemption from federal registration: 15 U.S.C. § 78 l(g)(2)(G).*

**48.08.130 Equity security—Sales, unlawful practices.** It shall be unlawful for any such beneficial owner, director or officer, directly or indirectly, to sell any equity security of such insurer if the person selling the security or his principal (1) does not own the security sold, or (2) if owning the security, does not deliver it against such sale within twenty days thereafter, or does not within five days after such sale deposit it in the mails or other usual channels of transportation: PROVIDED, That no person shall be deemed to have violated this section if he proves that notwithstanding the exercise of good faith he was unable to make such delivery or deposit within such time, or that to do so would cause undue inconvenience or expense. [1965 ex.s. c 70 § 8.]

**48.08.140 Equity security—Exemptions—Sales by dealer.** The provisions of RCW 48.08.120 shall not apply to any purchase and sale, or sale and purchase, and the provisions of RCW 48.08.130 shall not apply to any sale of an equity security of a domestic stock insurer not then or theretofore held by him in an investment account, by a dealer in the ordinary course of his business and incident to the establishment or maintenance by him of a primary or secondary market (otherwise than on an exchange as defined in the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) for such security. The commissioner may, by such rules and regulations as he deems necessary or appropriate in the public interest, define and prescribe terms and conditions with respect to securities held in an investment account and transactions made in the ordinary course of business and incident to the establishment or maintenance of a primary or secondary market. [1965 ex.s. c 70 § 9.]

**48.08.150 Equity security—Exemptions—Foreign or domestic arbitrage transactions.** The provisions of RCW 48.08.110, 48.08.120 and 48.08.130 shall not apply to foreign or domestic arbitrage transactions unless made in contravention of such rules and regulations as the commissioner may adopt in order to carry out the purposes of RCW 48.08.100 through 48.08.160. [1965 ex.s. c 70 § 10.]

**48.08.160 Equity security—Exemptions—Securities registered or required to be, or no class held by one hundred or more persons.** The provisions of RCW 48.08.110, 48.08.120, and 48.08.130 shall not apply to equity securities of a domestic stock insurer if (1) such securities shall be registered, or shall be required to be registered, pursuant to section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or if (2) such domestic stock insurer shall not have any class of its equity securities held of record by one hundred or more persons on the last business day of the year next preceding the year in which equity securities of the insurer would be subject to the provisions of RCW 48.08.110, 48.08.120, and 48.08.130 except for the provisions of this subsection (2). [1965 ex.s. c 70 § 12.]

**48.08.170 Equity security—Rules and regulations.** The commissioner shall have the power to make such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the execution of the functions vested in him by RCW 48.08.100 through 48.08.160, and may for such purpose classify domestic stock insurers, securities, and other persons or matters within his jurisdiction. No provision of RCW 48.08.110, 48.08.120, and 48.08.130 imposing any liability shall apply to any act done or omitted in good faith in conformity with any rule or regulation of the commissioner, notwithstanding that such rule or regulation may, after such act or omission, be amended or rescinded or determined by judicial or other authority to be invalid for any reason. [1965 ex.s. c 70 § 13.]

**48.08.190 Failure to file required information, documents, or reports—Forfeiture.** Any person who fails to file information, documents, or reports required to be filed under \*this 1969 amendatory act or any rule or regulation thereunder shall forfeit to the state of Washington the sum of one hundred dollars for each and every day such failure to file shall continue. Such forfeiture, which shall be in lieu of any criminal penalty for such failure to file which might be deemed to arise under this title, shall be payable to the treasurer of the state of Washington and shall be recoverable in a civil suit in the name of the state of Washington. [1969 ex.s. c 241 § 18.]

**\*Reviser's note:** This 1969 amendatory act [1969 ex.s. c 241] is codified as RCW 48.05.140, 48.05.370, 48.06.110, 48.08.190, 48.13.110, 48.13.120, 48.13.125, 48.13.160, 48.14.010, 48.14.020, 48.15.090, 48.17.530, 48.20.052, 48.31.190, 48.34.020, 48.34.100, 48.36.150, 48.48.020, and 48.18.291 through 48.18.297.

## Chapter 48.09 MUTUAL INSURERS

### Sections

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*Dividends not to be guaranteed: RCW 48.30.100.*

*Merger or consolidation: RCW 48.31.010.*

*Organization of domestic insurers: Chapter 48.06 RCW.*

*Policy dividends are payable to real party in interest: RCW 48.18.340.*

**48.09.010 Initial qualifications.** (1) The commissioner shall not issue a certificate of authority to a domestic mutual insurer unless it has fully qualified therefor under this code, and unless it has met the minimum requirements for the kind of insurance it proposes to transact as provided in this chapter.

(2) All applications for insurance submitted by such an insurer as fulfilling qualification requirements shall be bona fide applications from persons resident in this state covering lives, property, or risks resident or located in this state.

(3) All qualifying premiums collected and initial surplus funds of such an insurer shall be in cash. Any deposit made by such an insurer in lieu of applications, premiums, and initial surplus funds, shall be in cash or in securities eligible for the investment of the capital of a domestic stock insurer transacting the same kind of insurance. [1947 c 79 § .09.01; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.09.01.]

**48.09.090 Additional kinds of insurance.** A domestic mutual insurer may be authorized to transact kinds of insurance in addition to that for which it was originally authorized, if it has otherwise complied with the provisions of this code therefor, and while it possesses and maintains surplus funds in aggregate amount not less than the minimum amount of capital and surplus required under this code of a domestic stock insurer authorized to transact like kinds of insurance pursuant to RCW 48.05.340. [1980 c 135 § 2; 1957 c 193 § 5; 1947 c 79 § .09.09; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.09.09.]

**48.09.100 Minimum surplus.** A domestic mutual insurer on the cash premium plan shall at all times have and maintain surplus funds, representing the excess of its assets over its liabilities, in amount not less than the aggregate of

(1) the amount of any surplus funds deposited by it with the commissioner to qualify for its original certificate of authority, and

(2) the amount of any additional surplus required of it pursuant to RCW 48.09.090 for authority to transact addi-

tional kinds of insurance. [1963 c 195 § 3; 1947 c 79 § .09.10; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.09.10.]

**48.09.110 Membership.** (1) Each holder of one or more insurance contracts issued by a domestic mutual insurer, other than a contract of reinsurance, is a member of the insurer, with the rights and obligations of such membership, and each insurance contract so issued shall effectively so stipulate.

(2) Any person, government or governmental agency, state or political subdivision thereof, public or private corporation, board, association, estate, trustee or fiduciary, may be a member of a mutual insurer. [1947 c 79 § .09.11; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.09.11.]

**48.09.120 Rights of members.** (1) A domestic mutual insurer is owned by and shall be operated in the interest of its members.

(2) Each member is entitled to one vote in the election of directors and on matters coming before corporate meetings of members, subject to such reasonable minimum requirements as to duration of membership and amount of insurance held as may be made in the insurer's bylaws. The person named as the policyholder in any group insurance policy issued by such insurer shall be deemed the member, and shall have but one such vote regardless of the number of individuals insured by such policy.

(3) With respect to the management, records, and affairs of the insurer, a member shall have the same character of rights and relationship as a stockholder has toward a domestic stock insurer. [1947 c 79 § .09.12; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.09.12.]

**48.09.130 Bylaws.** A domestic mutual insurer shall adopt bylaws for the conduct of its affairs. Such bylaws, or any modification thereof, shall forthwith be filed with the commissioner. The commissioner shall disapprove any such bylaws, or as so modified, if he finds after a hearing thereon, that it is not in compliance with the laws of this state, and he shall forthwith communicate such disapproval to the insurer. No such bylaw, or modification, so disapproved shall be effective during the existence of such disapproval. [1947 c 79 § .09.13; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.09.13.]

**48.09.140 Notice of annual meeting.** (1) Notice of the time and place of the annual meeting of members of a domestic mutual insurer shall be given by imprinting such notice plainly on the policies issued by the insurer.

(2) Any change of the date or place of the annual meeting shall be made only by an annual meeting of members. Notice of such change may be given:

(a) By imprinting such new date or place on all policies which will be in effect as of the date of such changed meeting; or

(b) Unless the commissioner otherwise orders, notice of the new date or place need be given only through policies issued after the date of the annual meeting at which such change was made and in premium notices and renewal certificates issued during the twenty-four months immediately following such meeting. [1947 c 79 § .09.14; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.09.14.]

**48.09.150 Voting—Proxies.** (1) A member of a domestic mutual insurer may vote in person or by proxy given another member on any matter coming before a corporate meeting of members.

(2) An officer of the insurer shall not hold or vote the proxy of any member.

(3) No such proxy shall be valid beyond the earlier of the following dates:

(a) The date of expiration set forth in the proxy; or

(b) the date of termination of membership; or

(c) five years from the date of execution of the proxy.

(4) No member's vote upon any proposal to divest the insurer of its business and assets, or the major part thereof, shall be registered or taken except in person or by a proxy newly executed and specific as to the matter to be voted upon. [1947 c 79 § .09.15; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.09.15.]

**48.09.160 Directors—Disqualification.** No individual shall be a director of a domestic mutual insurer by reason of his holding public office. Adjudication as a bankrupt or taking the benefit of any insolvency law or making a general assignment for the benefit of creditors disqualifies an individual from being or acting as a director. [1947 c 79 § .09.16; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.09.16.]

**48.09.180 Limitation of expenses as to property and casualty insurance.** (1) For any calendar year after its first two full calendar years of operation, no domestic mutual insurer on the cash premium plan, other than one issuing nonassessable policies, shall incur any costs or expense in the writing or administration of property, disability, and casualty insurances (other than boiler and machinery or elevator) transacted by it which, exclusive of losses paid, loss adjustment expenses, investment expenses, dividends, and taxes exceeds the sum of

(a) forty percent of the net premium income during that year after deducting therefrom net earned reinsurance premiums for such year, plus

(b) all of the reinsurance commissions received on reinsurance ceded by it.

(2) The bylaws of every domestic mutual property insurer on the assessment premium plan shall impose a reasonable limitation upon its expenses. [1949 c 190 § 8; 1947 c 79 § .09.18; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 45.09.18.]

**48.09.190 Procedure upon violation of limitation.** The officers and directors of an insurer violating RCW 48.09.180 shall be jointly and severally liable to the insurer for any excess of expenses incurred. If the insurer fails to exercise reasonable diligence or refuses to enforce such liability, the commissioner may prosecute action thereon for the benefit of the insurer. Such failure or refusal constitutes grounds for revocation of the insurer's certificate of authority. [1947 c 79 § .09.19; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.09.19.]

**48.09.210 Limitation of action on officer's salary.** No action to recover, or on account of, any salary or other compensation due or claimed to be due any officer or director of a domestic mutual insurer, or on any note or agreement relative thereto, shall be brought against such insurer after twelve months after the date on which such

salary or compensation, or any installment thereof, first accrued. [1947 c 79 § .09.21; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.09.21.]

**48.09.220 Contingent liability of members.** (1) Each member of a domestic mutual insurer, except as otherwise provided in this chapter, shall have a contingent liability, pro rata and not one for another, for the discharge of its obligations. The contingent liability shall be in such maximum amount as is stated in the insurer's articles of incorporation, but shall be not less than one, nor more than five, additional premiums for the member's policy at the annual premium rate and for a term of one year.

(2) Every policy issued by the insurer shall contain a statement of the contingent liability.

(3) Termination of the policy of any such member shall not relieve the member of contingent liability for his proportion of the obligations of the insurer which accrued while the policy was in force. [1949 c 190 § 9; 1947 c 79 § .09.22; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 45.09.22.]

**48.09.230 Assessment of members.** (1) If at any time the assets of a domestic mutual insurer doing business on the cash premium plan are less than its liabilities and the minimum surplus, if any, required of it by this code as prerequisite for continuance of its certificate of authority, and the deficiency is not cured from other sources, its directors may, if approved by the commissioner, make an assessment only on its members who at any time within the twelve months immediately preceding the date such assessment was authorized by its directors held policies providing for contingent liability.

(2) Such an assessment shall be for such an amount of money as is required, in the opinion of the commissioner, to render the insurer fully solvent, but not to result in surplus in excess of five percent of the insurer's liabilities as of the date of the assessment.

(3) A member's proportionate part of any such assessment shall be computed by applying to the premium earned, during the period since the deficiency first appeared, on his contingently liable policy or policies the ratio of the total assessment to the total premium earned during such period on all contingently liable policies which are subject to the assessment.

(4) No member shall have an offset against any assessment for which he is liable on account of any claim for unearned premium or losses payable. [1949 c 190 § 10; 1947 c 79 § .09.23; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 45.09.23.]

**48.09.240 Contingent liability of members of assessment insurer.** The contingent liability of members of a domestic mutual insurer doing business on the assessment premium plan shall be called upon and enforced by its directors as provided in its bylaws. [1947 c 79 § .09.24; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.09.24.]

**48.09.250 Contingent liability as asset.** Any contingent liability of members of a domestic mutual insurer to assessment does not constitute an asset of the insurer in any determination of its financial condition. [1949 c 190 § 11; 1947 c 79 § .09.25; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 45.09.25.]

**48.09.260 Liability as lien on policy reserves.** As to life insurance, any portion of an assessment of contingent liability upon a policyholder which remains unpaid following notice of such assessment, demand for payment, and lapse of a reasonable waiting period as specified in such notice, may, if approved by the commissioner, be secured by placing a lien on the reserves held by the insurer to the credit of such policyholder. [1949 c 190 § 12; 1947 c 79 § .09.26; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 45.09.26.]

**48.09.270 Nonassessable policies.** (1) A domestic mutual insurer on the cash premium plan, after it has established a surplus not less in amount than the minimum capital funds required of a domestic stock insurer to transact like kinds of insurance, and for so long as it maintains such surplus, may extinguish the contingent liability of its members to assessment and omit provisions imposing contingent liability in all policies currently issued.

(2) Any deposit made with the commissioner as a prerequisite to the insurer's certificate of authority may be included as part of the surplus required in this section.

(3) When the surplus has been so established and the commissioner has so ascertained, he shall issue to the insurer, at its request, his certificate authorizing the extinguishment of the contingent liability of its members and the issuance of policies free therefrom.

(4) While it maintains surplus funds in amount not less than the minimum capital required of a domestic stock insurer authorized to transact like kinds of insurance, and subject to the requirements of RCW 48.05.360 as to special surplus, a foreign or alien mutual insurer on the cash premium plan may, if consistent with its charter and the laws of its domicile, issue nonassessable policies covering subjects located, resident, or to be performed in this state. [1963 c 195 § 4; 1947 c 79 § .09.27; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.09.27.]

**48.09.280 Qualification on issuance of nonassessable policies.** The commissioner shall not authorize a domestic mutual insurer so to extinguish the contingent liability of any of its members or in any of its policies to be issued, unless it qualifies to and does extinguish such liability of all its members and in all such policies for all kinds of insurance transacted by it. Except, that if required by the laws of another state in which such an insurer is transacting insurance as an authorized insurer, the insurer may issue policies providing for the contingent liability of such of its members as may acquire such policies in such state, and need not extinguish the contingent liability applicable to policies theretofore in force in such state. [1947 c 79 § .09.28; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.09.28.]

**48.09.290 Revocation of right to issue nonassessable policies.** (1) The commissioner shall revoke the authority of a domestic mutual insurer so to extinguish the contingent liability of its members if

(a) at any time the insurer's assets are less than the sum of its liabilities and the surplus required for such authority, or

(b) the insurer, by resolution of its directors approved by its members, requests that the authority be revoked.

(2) Upon revocation of such authority for any cause, the insurer shall not thereafter issue any policies without contingent liability, nor renew any policies then in force without written endorsement thereon providing for contingent liability. [1947 c 79 § .09.29; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.09.29.]

**48.09.300 Dividends.** (1) The directors of a domestic mutual insurer on the cash premium plan may from time to time apportion and pay to its members as entitled thereto, dividends only out of that part of its surplus funds which are in excess of its required minimum surplus and which represent net realized savings and net realized earnings from its business.

(2) Any classification of its participating policies and of risks assumed thereunder which the insurer may make shall be reasonable. No dividend shall be paid which is inequitable, or which unfairly discriminates as between such classifications or as between policies within the same classification.

(3) No dividend, otherwise earned, shall be made contingent upon the payment of renewal premium on any policy. [1947 c 79 § .09.30; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.09.30.]

**48.09.310 Nonparticipating policies.** (1) If its articles of incorporation so provide, a domestic mutual insurer on the cash premium plan may, while it is authorized to issue policies without contingent liability to assessment, issue policies not entitled to participate in the insurer's savings and earnings.

(2) Such insurer shall not issue in this state both participating and nonparticipating policies for the same class of risks; except, that both participating and nonparticipating life insurance policies may be issued if the right or absence of the right to participate is reasonably related to the premium charged. [1947 c 79 § .09.31; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.09.31.]

**48.09.320 Borrowed capital.** (1) A domestic mutual insurer on the cash premium plan may, with the commissioner's advance approval and without the pledge of any of its assets, borrow money to defray the expenses of its organization or for any purpose required by its business, upon an agreement that such money and such interest thereon as may be agreed upon, but not exceeding six percent per annum, shall be repaid only out of the insurer's earned surplus in excess of its required minimum surplus.

(2) Any money so borrowed shall not form a part of the insurer's legal liabilities or be the basis of any setoff; but until repaid, financial statements filed or published by the insurer shall show as a footnote thereto the amount thereof then unpaid together with interest thereon accrued but unpaid.

(3) The commissioner's approval of such loan, if granted, shall specify the amount to be borrowed, the purpose for which the money is to be used, the terms and form of the loan agreement, the date by which the loan must be completed, and such other related matters as the commissioner shall deem proper. If the money is to be borrowed upon multiple agreements, the agreements shall be serially numbered. No loan agreement or series thereof shall have or be given any preferential rights over any other such loan agreement or series. No commission or promotional expense

shall be incurred or be paid on account of any such loan. [1947 c 79 § .09.32; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.09.32.]

**48.09.330 Repayment of borrowed capital.** (1) The insurer may repay any loan received pursuant to RCW 48.09.320, or any part thereof as approved by the commissioner, only out of its funds which represent such loan or realized net earned surplus. No repayment shall be made which reduces the insurer's surplus below the minimum surplus required for the kinds of insurance transacted.

(2) The insurer shall repay any such loan or the largest possible part thereof when the purposes for which such funds were borrowed have been fulfilled and when the insurer's surplus is adequate to so repay without unreasonable impairment of the insurer's operations.

(3) No repayment of such loan shall be made unless approved by the commissioner. The insurer shall notify the commissioner in writing not less than sixty days in advance of its intention to repay such loan or any part thereof, and the commissioner shall forthwith ascertain whether the insurer's financial condition is such that the repayment can properly be made.

(4) Upon dissolution and liquidation of the insurer, after the retirement of all its other outstanding obligations the holders of any such loan agreements then remaining unpaid shall be entitled to payment before any distribution of surplus is made to the insurer's members. [1949 c 190 § 13; 1947 c 79 § .09.33; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 45.09.33.]

**48.09.340 Impairment of surplus.** (1) If the assets of a domestic mutual insurer on the cash premium plan fall below the amount of its liabilities, plus the amount of any surplus required by this code for the kinds of insurance authorized to be transacted, the commissioner shall at once ascertain the amount of the deficiency and serve notice upon the insurer to cure the deficiency within ninety days after such service of notice.

(2) If the deficiency is not made good in cash or in assets eligible under this code for the investment of the insurer's funds, and proof thereof filed with the commissioner within such ninety-day period, the insurer shall be deemed insolvent and shall be proceeded against as authorized by this code.

(3) If the deficiency is not made good the insurer shall not issue or deliver any policy after the expiration of such ninety-day period. Any officer or director who violates or knowingly permits the violating of this provision shall be subject to a fine of from fifty dollars to one thousand dollars for each violation. [1949 c 190 § 14; 1947 c 79 § 09.34; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 45.09.34.]

**48.09.350 Reorganization of mutual as stock insurer—Reinsurance—Approval.** (1) Upon satisfaction of the requirements applicable to the formation of a domestic stock insurer, a domestic mutual insurer may be reorganized as a stock corporation, pursuant to a plan of reorganization as approved by the commissioner.

(2) A domestic mutual insurer may be wholly reinsured in and its assets transferred to and its liabilities assumed by another mutual or stock insurer under such terms and

conditions as are approved by the commissioner in advance of such reinsurance.

(3) The commissioner shall not approve any such reorganization plan or reinsurance agreement which does not determine the amount of and make adequate provision for paying to members of such mutual insurer, reasonable compensation for their equities as owners of such insurer, such compensation to be apportioned to members as identified and in the manner prescribed in RCW 48.09.360. The procedure for approval by the commissioner of any such reorganization plan or reinsurance agreement shall be the same as the procedure for approval by the commissioner of a plan of merger or consolidation under RCW 48.31.010.

Approval at a corporate meeting of members by two-thirds of the then members of a domestic mutual insurer who vote on the plan or agreement pursuant to such notice and procedure as was approved by the commissioner shall constitute approval of any such reorganization plan or reinsurance agreement by the insurer's members. [1984 c 23 § 1; 1983 1st ex.s. c 32 § 1; 1947 c 79 § .09.35; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.09.35.]

**48.09.360 Distribution of assets and ownership equities upon liquidation.** (1) Upon the liquidation of a domestic mutual insurer, its assets remaining after discharge of its indebtedness and policy obligations shall be distributed to its members who were such within the thirty-six months prior to the last termination of its certificate of authority.

(2) Upon the reorganization of a domestic mutual insurer as a domestic stock insurer under RCW 48.09.350(1) or upon reinsurance of the whole of the liabilities and transfer of all the assets of a domestic mutual insurer under RCW 48.09.350(2), the ownership equities of members of the domestic mutual insurer shall be distributed to its members who were such on an eligibility date stated in the reorganization plan or reinsurance agreement, or who were such within the thirty-six months prior to such eligibility date. Such eligibility date shall be either the date on which the reorganization plan or reinsurance agreement is adopted by resolution of the board of directors of the domestic mutual insurer, or the date on which the reorganization plan or reinsurance agreement is approved by a vote of the members, or the date which ends a calendar quarter during which either of such actions is taken.

(3) Upon the liquidation of a domestic mutual insurer, the distributive share of each such member shall be in the proportion that the aggregate premiums earned by the insurer on the policies of the member during the thirty-six months before the last termination of the insurer's certificate of authority, bear to the aggregate of all premiums so earned on the policies of all such members during the same thirty-six months.

(4) Upon the reorganization of a domestic mutual insurer as a domestic stock insurer under RCW 48.09.350(1) or upon reinsurance of the whole of the liabilities and transfer of all the assets of a domestic mutual insurer under RCW 48.09.350(2), the distributive share of each member entitled thereto shall be in the proportion that the aggregate premiums earned by the insurer on the policies in force of that member during the thirty-six months before the eligibility date established under RCW 48.09.360(2) bear to the

aggregate of all premiums so earned during the same thirty-six months on all the policies in force of all such members who are entitled to a distributive share.

(5) If a life insurer, the insurer shall make a reasonable classification of its life insurance policies so held by such members entitled to a distributive share and a formula based upon such classification for determining the equitable distributive share of each such member. Such classification and formula shall be subject to the commissioner's approval. [1984 c 23 § 2; 1947 c 79 § .09.36; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.09.36.]

## Chapter 48.10

### RECIPROCAL INSURERS

#### Sections

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*Dividends not to be guaranteed: RCW 48.30.100.*

*Merger or consolidation: RCW 48.31.010.*

*Organization of domestic insurers: Chapter 48.06 RCW.*

*Policy dividends are payable to real party in interest: RCW 48.18.340.*

**48.10.010 "Reciprocal insurance" defined.** "Reciprocal insurance" is that resulting from an interexchange among persons, known as "subscribers," of reciprocal agreements of indemnity, the interexchange being effectuated through an "attorney in fact" common to all such persons. [1947 c 79 § .10.01; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.10.01.]

**48.10.020 "Reciprocal insurer" defined.** A "reciprocal insurer" means an unincorporated aggregation of subscribers operating individually and collectively through an attorney in fact to provide reciprocal insurance among themselves. [1947 c 79 § .10.02; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.10.02.]

**48.10.030 Scope of chapter.** All authorized reciprocal insurers shall be governed by those sections of this chapter not expressly made applicable to domestic reciprocal insurers. [1947 c 79 § .10.03; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.10.03.]

**48.10.050 Insuring powers of reciprocals.** (1) A reciprocal insurer may, upon qualifying therefor as provided by this code, transact any kind or kinds of insurance defined by this code, other than life or title insurances.

(2) A reciprocal insurer may purchase reinsurance upon the risk of any subscriber, and may grant reinsurance as to any kind of insurance which it is authorized to transact direct. [1947 c 79 § .10.05; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.10.05.]

**48.10.055 Real property—Attorney's duty.** A reciprocal insurer may purchase, sell, mortgage, encumber, lease, or otherwise affect the title to real property for the purposes and objects of the reciprocal insurer. All deeds, notes, mortgages, or other documents relating to the real property may be executed in the name of the reciprocal insurer by its attorney. [1991 c 266 § 1.]

**48.10.060 Name—Suits.** A reciprocal insurer shall:

(1) Have and use a business name. The name shall include the word "reciprocal," or "interinsurer," or "interinsurance," or "exchange," or "underwriters," or "underwriting."

(2) Sue and be sued in its own name. [1947 c 79 § .10.06; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.10.06.]

**48.10.070 Surplus funds required.** (1) A domestic reciprocal insurer hereafter formed, if it has otherwise complied with the provisions of this code, may be authorized to transact insurance if it initially possesses surplus in an amount equal to or exceeding the capital and surplus requirements required under RCW 48.05.340(1) plus special surplus, if any, required under RCW 48.05.360 and thereafter possesses, and maintains surplus funds equal to the paid-in capital stock required under RCW 48.05.340 of a stock insurer transacting like kinds of insurance, and the special surplus, if any, required under RCW 48.05.360.

(2) A domestic reciprocal insurer which under prior laws held authority to transact insurance in this state may continue to be so authorized so long as it otherwise qualifies therefor and maintains surplus funds in amount not less than as required under laws of this state in force at the time such authority to transact insurance in this state was granted.

(3) A domestic reciprocal insurer heretofore formed shall maintain on deposit with the commissioner surplus funds of not less than the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, and to transact kinds of insurance transacted by it in addition to that authorized by its original certificate of authority, shall have and maintain surplus (including the amount of such deposit) in amount not less than the paid-in capital stock required under RCW 48.05.340(1) plus special surplus, if any, required under RCW 48.05.360, of a domestic stock insurer formed after 1967 and transacting the same kinds of insurance. Such additional surplus funds need not be deposited with the commissioner. [1985 c 264 § 4; 1975 1st ex.s. c 266 § 5; 1963 c 195 § 5; 1947 c 79 § .10.07; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.10.07.]

**Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 266:** See note following RCW 48.01.010.

**48.10.080 Attorney.** (1) "Attorney" as used in this chapter refers to the attorney in fact of a reciprocal insurer. The attorney may be an individual, firm, or corporation.

(2) The attorney of a foreign or alien reciprocal insurer, which insurer is duly authorized to transact insurance in this state, shall not, by virtue of discharge of its duties as such attorney with respect to the insurer's transactions in this state, be thereby deemed to be doing business in this state within the meaning of any laws of this state applying to foreign persons, firms, or corporations.

(3) The subscribers and the attorney in fact comprise a reciprocal insurer and a single entity for the purposes of chapter 48.14 RCW as to all operations under the insurer's certificate of authority. [1965 ex.s. c 70 § 35; 1947 c 79 § .10.08; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.10.08.]

**48.10.090 Organization of reciprocal.** (1) Twenty-five or more persons domiciled in this state may organize a domestic reciprocal insurer and in compliance with this code make application to the commissioner for a certificate of authority to transact insurance.

(2) When applying for a certificate of authority, the original subscribers and the proposed attorney shall fulfill the requirements of and shall execute and file with the commissioner a declaration setting forth:

- (a) the name of the insurer;
- (b) the location of the insurer's principal office, which shall be the same as that of the attorney and shall be maintained within this state;
- (c) the kinds of insurance proposed to be transacted;
- (d) the names and addresses of the original subscribers;
- (e) the designation and appointment of the proposed attorney and a copy of the power of attorney;
- (f) the names and addresses of the officers and directors of the attorney, if a corporation, or of its members, if a firm;
- (g) the powers of the subscribers' advisory committee and the names and terms of office of the members thereof;
- (h) that all moneys paid to the reciprocal, after deducting therefrom any sum payable to the attorney, shall be held in the name of the insurer and for the purposes specified in the subscriber's agreement;
  - (i) a copy of the subscriber's agreement;
  - (j) a statement that each of the original subscribers has in good faith applied for insurance of the kind proposed to be transacted, and that the insurer has received from each such subscriber the full premium or premium deposit required for the policy applied for, for a term of not less than six months at the rate theretofore filed with and approved by the commissioner;
  - (k) a statement of the financial condition of the insurer, a schedule of its assets, and a statement that the surplus as required by RCW 48.10.070 is on hand;
- (l) a copy of each policy, endorsement, and application form it then proposes to issue or use.

Such declaration shall be acknowledged by each such subscriber and by the attorney in the manner required for the acknowledgment of deeds to real estate. [1947 c 79 § .10.09; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.10.09.]

**48.10.100 Policies of original subscribers, effective when.** Any policy applied for by an original subscriber shall become effective coincidentally with the issuance of a certificate of authority to the reciprocal insurer. [1947 c 79 § .10.10; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.10.10.]

**48.10.110 Certificate of authority.** (1) The certificate of authority of a reciprocal insurer shall be issued to its attorney in the name of the insurer.

(2) The commissioner may refuse, suspend, or revoke the certificate of authority, in addition to other grounds therefor, for failure of its attorney to comply with any provision of this code. [1947 c 79 § .10.11; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.10.11.]

**48.10.120 Power of attorney.** (1) The rights and powers of the attorney of a reciprocal insurer shall be as provided in the power of attorney given it by the subscribers.

- (2) The power of attorney must set forth:
  - (a) The powers of the attorney;
  - (b) that the attorney is empowered to accept service of process on behalf of the insurer and to authorize the commissioner to receive service of process in actions against the insurer upon contracts exchanged;
  - (c) the services to be performed by the attorney in general;
  - (d) the maximum amount to be deducted from advance premiums or deposits to be paid to the attorney;
  - (e) except as to nonassessable policies, a provision for a contingent several liability of each subscriber in a specified amount which amount shall be not less than one nor more than ten times the premium or premium deposit stated in the policy.

(3) The power of attorney may:

- (a) Provide for the right of substitution of the attorney and revocation of the power of attorney and rights thereunder;
- (b) impose such restrictions upon the exercise of the power as are agreed upon by the subscribers;
- (c) provide for the exercise of any right reserved to the subscribers directly or through their advisory committee;
- (d) contain other lawful provisions deemed advisable.

(4) The terms of any power of attorney or agreement collateral thereto shall be reasonable and equitable, and no such power or agreement or any amendment thereof, shall be used or be effective in this state until approved by the commissioner. [1949 c 190 § 15; 1947 c 79 § .10.12; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 45.10.12.]

**48.10.130 Modification of subscriber's agreement or power of attorney.** Modification of the terms of the subscriber's agreement or of the power of attorney of a domestic reciprocal insurer shall be made jointly by the attorney and the subscribers' advisory committee. No such modification shall be effective retroactively, nor as to any insurance contract issued prior thereto. [1947 c 79 § .10.13; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.10.13.]

**48.10.140 Attorney's bond.** (1) Concurrently with the filing of the declaration provided for in RCW 48.10.090, (or, if an existing domestic reciprocal insurer, within ninety



days after the effective date of this code) the attorney of a domestic reciprocal shall file with the commissioner a bond running to the state of Washington. The bond shall be executed by the attorney and by an authorized corporate surety, and shall be subject to the commissioner's approval.

(2) The bond shall be in the penal sum of twenty-five thousand dollars, conditioned that the attorney will faithfully account for all moneys and other property of the insurer coming into his hands, and that he will not withdraw or appropriate for his own use from the funds of the insurer any moneys or property to which he is not entitled under the power of attorney.

(3) The bond shall provide that it is not subject to cancellation unless thirty days advance notice in writing of intent to cancel is given to both the attorney and the commissioner. [1947 c 79 § .10.14; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.10.14.]

**48.10.150 Deposit in lieu of bond.** In lieu of such bond, the attorney may maintain on deposit with the commissioner a like amount in cash or in value of securities qualified under this code as insurers' investments, and subject to the same conditions as the bond. [1947 c 79 § .10.15; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.10.15.]

**48.10.160 Actions on bond.** Action on the attorney's bond or to recover against any such deposit made in lieu thereof may be brought at any one time by one or more subscribers suffering loss through a violation of the conditions thereof or by a receiver or liquidator of the insurer. Amounts so recovered shall be deposited in and become part of the insurer's funds. [1947 c 79 § .10.16; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.10.16.]

**48.10.170 Service of legal process.** (1) A certificate of authority shall not be issued to a domestic reciprocal insurer unless prior thereto the attorney has executed and filed with the commissioner the insurer's irrevocable authorization of the commissioner to receive legal process issued in this state against the insurer upon any cause of action arising within this state.

(2) The provisions of RCW 48.05.210 shall apply to service of such process upon the commissioner.

(3) In lieu of service on the commissioner, legal process may be served upon a domestic reciprocal insurer by serving the insurer's attorney at his principal offices.

(4) Any judgment against the insurer based upon legal process so served shall be binding upon each of the insurer's subscribers as their respective interests may appear and in an amount not exceeding their respective contingent liabilities. [1947 c 79 § .10.17; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.10.17.]

**48.10.180 Annual statement.** The annual statement of a reciprocal insurer shall be made and filed by the attorney. [1947 c 79 § .10.18; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.10.18.]

**48.10.190 Attorney's contribution—Repayment.** No contribution to a domestic reciprocal insurer's surplus by the attorney shall be retrievable by the attorney except under such terms and in such circumstances as the commissioner

approves. [1947 c 79 § .10.19; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.10.19.]

**48.10.200 Determination of financial condition.** In determining the financial condition of a reciprocal insurer the commissioner shall apply the following rules:

(1) He shall charge as liabilities the same reserves as are required of incorporated insurers issuing nonassessable policies on a reserve basis.

(2) The surplus deposits of subscribers shall be allowed as assets, except that any premium deposit delinquent for ninety days shall first be charged against such surplus deposit.

(3) The surplus deposits of subscribers shall not be charged as a liability.

(4) All premium deposits delinquent less than ninety days shall be allowed as assets.

(5) An assessment levied upon subscribers, and not collected, shall not be allowed as an asset.

(6) The contingent liability of subscribers shall not be allowed as an asset.

(7) The computation of reserves shall be based upon premium deposits other than membership fees and without any deduction for the compensation of the attorney. [1947 c 79 § .10.20; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.10.20.]

**48.10.220 Who may become subscriber.** Any person, government or governmental agency, state or political subdivision thereof, public or private corporation, board, association, estate, trustee, or fiduciary may be a subscriber of a reciprocal insurer. [1947 c 79 § .10.22; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.10.22.]

**48.10.230 Subscribers' advisory committee.** (1) The advisory committee of a domestic reciprocal insurer exercising the subscribers' rights shall be selected under such rules as the subscribers adopt.

(2) Not less than three-fourths of such committee shall be composed of subscribers other than the attorney, or any person employed by, representing, or having a financial interest in the attorney.

(3) The committee shall:

(a) Supervise the finances of the insurer;

(b) supervise the insurer's operations to such extent as to assure their conformity with the subscribers' agreement and power of attorney;

(c) procure the audit of the accounts and records of the insurer and of the attorney at the expense of the insurer;

(d) have such additional powers and functions as may be conferred by the subscribers' agreement. [1947 c 79 § .10.23; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.10.23.]

**48.10.250 Assessment liability of subscriber.** (1) The liability of each subscriber subject to assessment for the obligations of the reciprocal insurer shall not be joint, but shall be individual and several.

(2) Each subscriber who is subject to assessment shall have a contingent assessment liability, in the amount provided for in the power of attorney or in the subscribers' agreement, for payment of actual losses and expenses incurred while his policy was in force. Such contingent

liability may be at the rate of not less than one nor more than ten times the premium or premium deposit stated in the policy, and the maximum aggregate thereof shall be computed in the manner set forth in RCW 48.10.290.

(3) Each assessable policy issued by the insurer shall plainly set forth a statement of the contingent liability. [1947 c 79 § .10.25; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.10.25.]

**48.10.260 Action against subscriber requires judgment against insurer.** (1) No action shall lie against any subscriber upon any obligation claimed against the insurer until a final judgment has been obtained against the insurer and remains unsatisfied for thirty days.

(2) Any such judgment shall be binding upon each subscriber only in such proportion as his interests may appear and in an amount not exceeding his contingent liability, if any. [1947 c 79 § .10.26; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.10.26.]

**48.10.270 Assessments.** (1) Assessments may be levied from time to time upon the subscribers of a domestic reciprocal insurer, other than as to nonassessable policies, by the attorney upon approval in advance by the subscribers' advisory committee and the commissioner; or by the commissioner in liquidation of the insurer.

(2) Each such subscriber's share of a deficiency for which an assessment is made, not exceeding in any event his aggregate contingent liability as computed in accordance with RCW 48.10.290, shall be computed by applying to the premium earned on the subscriber's policy or policies during the period to be covered by the assessment, the ratio of the total deficiency to the total premiums earned during such period upon all policies subject to the assessment.

(3) In computing the earned premiums for the purposes of this section, the gross premium received by the insurer for the policy shall be used as a base, deducting therefrom solely charges not recurring upon the renewal or extension of the policy.

(4) No subscriber shall have an offset against any assessment for which he is liable, on account of any claim for unearned premium or losses payable. [1947 c 79 § .10.27; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.10.27.]

**48.10.280 Time limit for assessment.** Every subscriber of a domestic reciprocal insurer having contingent liability shall be liable for, and shall pay his share of any assessment, as computed and limited in accordance with this chapter, if:

(1) While his policy is in force or within one year after its termination, he is notified by either the attorney or the commissioner of his intention to levy such assessment; or

(2) If an order to show cause why a receiver, conservator, rehabilitator, or liquidator of the insurer should not be appointed is issued pursuant to RCW 48.31.190 while his policy is in force or within one year after its termination. [1947 c 79 § .10.28; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.10.28.]

**48.10.290 Aggregate liability.** No one policy or subscriber as to such policy, shall be assessed or be charged with an aggregate of contingent liability as to obligations incurred by a domestic reciprocal insurer in any one calendar

year, in excess of the number of times the premium as stated in the policy as computed solely upon premium earned on such policy during that year. [1947 c 79 § .10.29; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.10.29.]

**48.10.300 Nonassessable policies.** (1) Subject to the special surplus requirements of RCW 48.05.360, if a reciprocal insurer has a surplus of assets over all liabilities at least equal to the minimum capital stock required of a domestic stock insurer authorized to transact like kinds of insurance, upon application of the attorney and as approved by the subscribers' advisory committee the commissioner shall issue his certificate authorizing the insurer to extinguish the contingent liability of subscribers under its policies then in force in this state, and to omit provisions imposing contingent liability in all policies delivered or issued for delivery in this state for so long as all such surplus remains unimpaired.

(2) Upon impairment of such surplus, the commissioner shall forthwith revoke the certificate. No policy shall thereafter be issued or renewed without providing for the contingent assessment liability of subscribers.

(3) The commissioner shall not authorize a domestic reciprocal insurer so to extinguish the contingent liability of any of its subscribers or in any of its policies to be issued, unless it qualifies to and does extinguish such liability of all its subscribers and in all such policies for all kinds of insurance transacted by it. Except, that if required by the laws of another state in which the insurer is transacting insurance as an authorized insurer, the insurer may issue policies providing for the contingent liability of such of its subscribers as may acquire such policies in such state, and need not extinguish the contingent liability applicable to policies theretofore in force in such state. [1983 c 3 § 148; 1947 c 79 § .10.30; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.10.30.]

**48.10.310 Return of savings to subscribers.** A reciprocal insurer may from time to time return to its subscribers any savings or credits accruing to their accounts. Any such distribution shall not unfairly discriminate between classes of risks, or policies, or between subscribers. [1947 c 79 § .10.31; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.10.31.]

**48.10.320 Distribution of assets upon liquidation.** Upon the liquidation of a domestic reciprocal insurer, its assets remaining after discharge of its indebtedness and policy obligations, the return of any contribution of the attorney to its surplus made as provided in RCW 48.10.190, and the return of any unused deposits, savings, or credits, shall be distributed to its subscribers who were such within the twelve months prior to the last termination of its certificate of authority according to such formula as may have been approved by the commissioner. [1947 c 79 § .10.32; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.10.32.]

**48.10.330 Merger—Conversion to stock or mutual insurer.** (1) A domestic reciprocal insurer, upon affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of the subscribers who vote upon such merger pursuant to such notice as may be approved by the commissioner and with the approval of the commissioner of the terms therefor, may merge with another

reciprocal insurer or be converted to a stock or mutual insurer.

(2) Such a stock or mutual insurer shall be subject to the same capital requirements and shall have the same rights as a like domestic insurer transacting like kinds of insurance.

(3) The commissioner shall not approve any plan for such merger or conversion which is inequitable to subscribers, or which, if for conversion to a stock insurer, does not give each subscriber preferential right to acquire stock of the proposed insurer proportionate to his interest in the reciprocal insurer as determined in accordance with RCW 48.10.320 and a reasonable length of time within which to exercise such right. [1947 c 79 § .10.33; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.10.33.]

**48.10.340 Impairment of assets—Procedure.** (1) If the assets of a domestic reciprocal insurer are at any time insufficient to discharge its liabilities other than any liability on account of funds contributed by the attorney, and to maintain the surplus required for the kinds of insurance it is authorized to transact, its attorney shall forthwith levy an assessment upon subscribers made subject to assessment by the terms of their policies for the amount needed to make up the deficiency.

(2) If the attorney fails to make the assessment within thirty days after the commissioner orders him to do so, or if the deficiency is not fully made up within sixty days after the date the assessment was made, the insurer shall be deemed insolvent and shall be proceeded against as authorized by this code.

(3) If liquidation of such an insurer is ordered, an assessment shall be levied upon the subscribers for such an amount, subject to limits as provided by this chapter, as the commissioner determines to be necessary to discharge all liabilities of the insurer, exclusive of any funds contributed by the attorney, but including the reasonable cost of the liquidation. [1947 c 79 § .10.34; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.10.34.]

**Chapter 48.11  
INSURING POWERS**

Sections

- 48.11.020 "Life insurance" defined.
- 48.11.030 "Disability insurance" defined—"Stop loss insurance" defined.
- 48.11.040 "Property insurance" defined.
- 48.11.050 "Marine and transportation insurance" defined.
- 48.11.060 "Vehicle insurance" defined.
- 48.11.070 "General casualty insurance" defined.
- 48.11.080 "Surety insurance" defined.
- 48.11.100 "Title insurance" defined.
- 48.11.130 Reinsurance powers.
- 48.11.140 Limitation of single risk.

*Workers' compensation: Title 51 RCW.*

**48.11.020 "Life insurance" defined.** "Life insurance" is insurance on human lives and insurances appertaining thereto or connected therewith. For the purposes of this code the transacting of life insurance includes the granting of annuities and endowment benefits; additional benefits in event of death by accident; additional benefits in event of the total and permanent disability of the insured; and optional

modes of settlement of proceeds. [1947 c 79 § .11.02; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.11.02.]

**48.11.030 "Disability insurance" defined—"Stop loss insurance" defined.** "Disability insurance" is insurance against bodily injury, disablement or death by accident, against disablement resulting from sickness, and every insurance appertaining thereto including stop loss insurance. "Stop loss insurance" is insurance against the risk of economic loss assumed under a self-funded employee disability benefit plan. [1992 c 226 § 1; 1947 c 79 § .11.03; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.11.03.]

**Application—1992 c 226:** "This act applies to policies issued or renewed on or after July 1, 1992." [1992 c 226 § 4.]

**48.11.040 "Property insurance" defined.** "Property insurance" is insurance against loss of or damage to real or personal property of every kind and any interest therein, from any or all hazard or cause, and against loss consequential upon such loss or damage. [1947 c 79 § .11.04; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.11.04.]

**48.11.050 "Marine and transportation insurance" defined.** "Marine and transportation insurance" is:

(1) Insurance against loss of or damage to:

(a) Vessels, craft, aircraft, vehicles, goods, freights, cargoes, merchandise, effects, disbursements, profits, moneys, securities, choses in action, evidences of debt, valuable papers, bottomry, and respondentia interests and all other kinds of property and interests therein, in respect to, appertaining to or in connection with any and all risks or perils of navigation, transit or transportation, or while being assembled, packed, crated, baled, compressed or similarly prepared for shipment or while awaiting shipment, or during any delays, storage, transshipment, or reshipment incident thereto, including war risks, marine builder's risks, and all personal property floater risks.

(b) Person or property in connection with or appertaining to a marine, transit or transportation insurance, including liability for loss of or damage to either incident to the construction, repair, operation, maintenance or use of the subject matter of such insurance (but not including life insurance or surety bonds nor insurance against loss by reason of bodily injury to any person arising out of the ownership, maintenance, or use of automobiles).

(c) Precious stones, jewels, jewelry, precious metals, whether in course of transportation or otherwise.

(d) Bridges, tunnels and other instrumentalities of transportation and communication (excluding buildings, their furniture and furnishings, fixed contents and supplies held in storage); piers, wharves, docks and slips, and other aids to navigation and transportation, including dry docks and marine railways, dams and appurtenant facilities for the control of waterways.

(2) "Marine protection and indemnity insurance," meaning insurance against, or against legal liability of the insured for, loss, damage, or expense incident to ownership, operation, chartering, maintenance, use, repair or construction of any vessel, craft or instrumentality in use in ocean or inland waterways, including liability of the insured for personal injury, illness or death or for loss of or damage to

the property of another person. [1947 c 79 § .11.05; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.11.05.]

**48.11.060 "Vehicle insurance" defined.** (1) "Vehicle insurance" is insurance against loss or damage to any land vehicle or aircraft or any draft or riding animal or to property while contained therein or thereon or being loaded or unloaded therein or therefrom, and against any loss or liability resulting from or incident to ownership, maintenance, or use of any such vehicle or aircraft or animal.

(2) Insurance against accidental death or accidental injury to individuals while in, entering, alighting from, adjusting, repairing, cranking, or caused by being struck by a vehicle, aircraft, or draft or riding animal, if such insurance is issued as part of insurance on the vehicle, aircraft, or draft or riding animal, shall be deemed to be vehicle insurance. [1947 c 79 § .11.06; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.11.06.]

**48.11.070 "General casualty insurance" defined.** "General casualty insurance" includes vehicle insurance as defined in RCW 48.11.060, and in addition is insurance:

(1) Against legal liability for the death, injury, or disability of any human being, or for damage to property.

(2) Of medical, hospital, surgical and funeral benefits to persons injured, irrespective of legal liability of the insured, when issued with or supplemental to insurance against legal liability for the death, injury or disability of human beings.

(3) Of the obligations accepted by, imposed upon, or assumed by employers under law for workers' compensation.

(4) Against loss or damage by burglary, theft, larceny, robbery, forgery, fraud, vandalism, malicious mischief, confiscation or wrongful conversion, disposal or concealment, or from any attempt of any of the foregoing; also insurance against loss of or damage to moneys, coins, bullion, securities, notes, drafts, acceptances or any other valuable papers or documents, resulting from any cause, except while in the custody or possession of and being transported by any carrier for hire or in the mail.

(5) Upon personal effects against loss or damage from any cause.

(6) Against loss or damage to glass, including its lettering, ornamentation and fittings.

(7) Against any liability and loss or damage to property resulting from accidents to or explosions of boilers, pipes, pressure containers, machinery, or apparatus and to make inspection of and issue certificates of inspection upon elevators, boilers, machinery, and apparatus of any kind.

(8) Against loss or damage to any property caused by the breakage or leakage of sprinklers, water pipes and containers, or by water entering through leaks or openings in buildings.

(9) Against loss or damage resulting from failure of debtors to pay their obligations to the insured (credit insurance).

(10) Against any other kind of loss, damage, or liability properly the subject of insurance and not within any other kind or kinds of insurance as defined in this chapter, if such insurance is not contrary to law or public policy. [1987 c 185 § 18; 1953 c 197 § 5; 1947 c 79 § .11.07; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.11.07.]

**Intent—Severability—1987 c 185:** See notes following RCW 51.12.130.

**48.11.080 "Surety insurance" defined.** "Surety insurance" includes:

(1) Credit insurance as defined in subdivision (9) of RCW 48.11.070.

(2) Bail bond insurance.

(3) Fidelity insurance, which is insurance guaranteeing the fidelity of persons holding positions of public or private trust.

(4) Guaranteeing the performance of contracts, other than insurance policies, and guaranteeing and executing bonds, undertakings, and contracts of suretyship.

(5) Indemnifying banks, bankers, brokers, financial or moneyed corporations or associations against loss resulting from any cause of bills of exchange, notes, bonds, securities, evidence of debts, deeds, mortgages, warehouse receipts, or other valuable papers, documents, money, precious metals and articles made therefrom, jewelry, watches, necklaces, bracelets, gems, precious and semi-precious stones, including any loss while the same are being transported in armored motor vehicles, or by messenger, but not including any other risks of transportation or navigation; also against loss or damage to such an insured's premises, or to his furnishings, fixtures, equipment, safes and vaults therein, caused by burglary, robbery, theft, vandalism or malicious mischief, or any attempt thereat. [1967 c 150 § 8; 1947 c 79 § .11.08; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.11.08.]

**48.11.100 "Title insurance" defined.** "Title insurance" is insurance of owners of property or others having an interest therein, against loss by encumbrance, or defective titles, or adverse claim to title, and services connected therewith. [1947 c 79 § .11.10; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.11.10.]

**48.11.130 Reinsurance powers.** A domestic mutual assessment insurer shall not have authority to accept reinsurance. Any other domestic insurer may accept reinsurance only of such kinds of insurance as it is authorized to transact direct. [1947 c 79 § .11.13; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.11.13.]

**48.11.140 Limitation of single risk.** (1) No insurer shall retain any risk on any one subject of insurance, whether located or to be performed in this state or elsewhere, in an amount exceeding ten percent of its surplus to policyholders.

(2) For the purposes of this section, a "subject of insurance" as to insurance against fire includes all properties insured by the same insurer which are reasonably subject to loss or damage from the same fire.

(3) Reinsurance in an alien reinsurer not qualified under RCW 48.05.300 may not be deducted in determining risk retained for the purposes of this section.

(4) In the case of surety insurance, the net retention shall be computed after deduction of reinsurances, the amount assumed by any co-surety, the value of any security deposited, pledged, or held subject to the consent of the surety and for the protection of the surety.

(5) This section does not apply to life insurance, disability insurance, title insurance, or insurance of marine risks or marine protection and indemnity risks. [1993 c 462 § 53; 1983 c 3 § 149; 1959 c 225 § 2; 1947 c 79 § .11.14; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.11.14.]

Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462: See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**Chapter 48.12**  
**ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

Sections

- 48.12.010 "Assets" defined.
- 48.12.020 Nonallowable assets.
- 48.12.030 Liabilities.
- 48.12.040 Unearned premium reserve, property, casualty, and surety insurance.
- 48.12.050 Unearned premium reserve, marine and transportation insurance.
- 48.12.060 Reserve—Disability insurance.
- 48.12.070 Loss records.
- 48.12.080 Increased reserves.
- 48.12.090 Loss reserves—Liability insurance.
- 48.12.100 Unallocated liability loss expense.
- 48.12.110 Schedule of experience.
- 48.12.120 Loss reserve—Workers' compensation insurance.
- 48.12.130 Unallocated workers' compensation loss expense.
- 48.12.140 "Loss payments," "loss expense" defined.
- 48.12.160 Credit for reinsurance.
- 48.12.170 Valuation of bonds.
- 48.12.180 Valuation of stocks.
- 48.12.190 Valuation of property.
- 48.12.200 Valuation of purchase money mortgages.

**48.12.010 "Assets" defined.** In any determination of the financial condition of any insurer there shall be allowed as assets only such assets as belong wholly and exclusively to the insurer, which are registered, recorded, or held under the insurer's name, and which consist of:

(1) Cash in the possession of the insurer or in transit under its control, and the true balance of any deposit of the insurer in a solvent bank or trust company;

(2) Investments, securities, properties, and loans acquired or held in accordance with this code, and in connection therewith the following items:

(a) Interest due or accrued on any bond or evidence of indebtedness which is not in default and which is not valued on a basis including accrued interest.

(b) Declared and unpaid dividends on stocks and shares unless such amount has otherwise been allowed as an asset.

(c) Interest due or accrued upon a collateral loan in an amount not to exceed one year's interest thereon.

(d) Interest due or accrued on deposits in solvent banks and trust companies, and interest due or accrued on other assets if such interest is in the judgment of the commissioner a collectible asset.

(e) Interest due or accrued on a mortgage loan, in amount not exceeding in any event the amount, if any, of the difference between the unpaid principal and the value of the property less delinquent taxes thereon; but if any interest on the loan is in default more than eighteen months, or if any interest on the loan is in default and any taxes or any installment thereof on the property are and have been due and unpaid for more than eighteen months, no allowance shall be made for any interest on the loan.

(f) Rent due or accrued on real property if such rent is not in arrears for more than three months.

(3) Premium notes, policy loans, and other policy assets and liens on policies of life insurance, in amount not exceeding the legal reserve and other policy liabilities carried on each individual policy;

(4) The net amount of uncollected and deferred premiums in the case of a life insurer which carries the full annual mean tabular reserve liability;

(5) Premiums in the course of collection, other than for life insurance, not more than ninety days past due, less commissions payable thereon. The foregoing limitation shall not apply to premiums payable directly or indirectly by the United States government or any of its instrumentalities;

(6) Installment premiums other than life insurance premiums, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the commissioner consistent with practice formulated or adopted by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners;

(7) Notes and like written obligations not past due, taken for premiums other than life insurance premiums, on policies permitted to be issued on such basis, to the extent of the unearned premium reserves carried thereon and unless otherwise required by regulation prescribed by the commissioner;

(8) Reinsurance recoverable subject to RCW 48.12.160;

(9) Amounts receivable by an assuming insurer representing funds withheld by a solvent ceding insurer under a reinsurance treaty;

(10) Deposits or equities recoverable from underwriting associations, syndicates and reinsurance funds, or from any suspended banking institution, to the extent deemed by the commissioner available for the payment of losses and claims and at values to be determined by him;

(11) Electronic and mechanical machines constituting a data processing and accounting system if the cost of such system is at least twenty-five thousand dollars, which cost shall be amortized in full over a period not to exceed ten calendar years; and

(12) Other assets, not inconsistent with the foregoing provisions, deemed by the commissioner available for the payment of losses and claims, at values to be determined by him. [1977 ex.s. c 180 § 2; 1963 c 195 § 11; 1947 c 79 § .12.01; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.12.01.]

**48.12.020 Nonallowable assets.** In addition to assets impliedly excluded under RCW 48.12.010, the following expressly shall not be allowed as assets in any determination of the financial condition of an insurer:

(1) Goodwill, except in accordance with regulations prescribed by the commissioner, trade names, agency plants and other like intangible assets.

(2) Prepaid or deferred charges for expenses and commissions paid by the insurer.

(3) Advances to officers (other than policy loans or loans made pursuant to RCW 48.07.130), whether secured or not, and advances to employees, agents and other persons on personal security only.

(4) Stock of such insurer, owned by it, or any equity therein or loans secured thereby, or any proportionate interest in such stock through the ownership by such insurer of an interest in another firm, corporation or business unit.

(5) Furniture, furnishings, fixtures, safes, equipment, vehicles, library, stationery, literature, and supplies; except, electronic and mechanical machines authorized by subsection (11) of RCW 48.12.010, or such personal property as the insurer is permitted to hold pursuant to paragraph (e) of subsection (2) of RCW 48.13.160, or which is acquired through foreclosure of chattel mortgages acquired pursuant to RCW 48.13.150, or which is reasonably necessary for the maintenance and operation of real estate lawfully acquired and held by the insurer other than real estate used by it for home office, branch office, and similar purposes.

(6) The amount, if any, by which the aggregate book value of investments as carried in the ledger assets of the insurer exceeds the aggregate value thereof as determined under this code. [1982 c 218 § 1; 1963 c 195 § 12; 1947 c 79 § .12.02; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.12.02.]

**Severability—1982 c 218:** "If any provision of this amendatory act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1982 c 218 § 7.]

**48.12.030 Liabilities.** In any determination of the financial condition of an insurer, liabilities to be charged against its assets shall include:

(1) The amount of its capital stock outstanding, if any; and

(2) The amount, estimated consistent with the provisions of this chapter, necessary to pay all of its unpaid losses and claims incurred on or prior to the date of statement, whether reported or unreported, together with the expense of adjustment or settlement thereof; and

(3) With reference to life and disability insurance, and annuity contracts,

(a) the amount of reserves on life insurance policies and annuity contracts in force (including disability benefits for both active and disabled lives, and accidental death benefits, in or supplementary thereto) and disability insurance, valued according to the tables of mortality, tables of morbidity, rates of interest, and methods adopted pursuant to this chapter which are applicable thereto; and

(b) any additional reserves which may be required by the commissioner, consistent with practice formulated or approved by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, on account of such insurances; and

(4) With reference to insurances other than those specified in subdivision (3) of this section, and other than title insurance, the amount of reserves equal to the unearned portions of the gross premiums charged on policies in force, computed in accordance with this chapter; and

(5) Taxes, expenses, and other obligations accrued at the date of the statement; and

(6) Any additional reserve set up by the insurer for a specific liability purpose or required by the commissioner consistent with practices adopted or approved by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. [1973 1st ex.s. c 162 § 1; 1947 c 79 § .12.03; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.12.03.]

**48.12.040 Unearned premium reserve, property, casualty, and surety insurance.** (1) With reference to insurances against loss or damage to property, except as provided in RCW 48.12.050, and with reference to all general

casualty insurances, and surety insurances, every insurer shall maintain an unearned premium reserve on all policies in force.

(2) The commissioner may require that such reserve shall be equal to the unearned portions of the gross premiums in force after deducting authorized reinsurance, as computed on each respective risk from the policy's date of issue. If the commissioner does not so require, the portions of the gross premiums in force, less authorized reinsurance, to be held as a premium reserve, shall be computed according to the following table:

Term for which policy was written	Reserve for unearned premium
One year, or less . . . . .	1/2
Two years . . . . .	First year 3/4 Second year 1/4
Three years . . . . .	First year 5/6 Second year 1/2 Third year 1/6
Four years . . . . .	First year 7/8 Second year 5/8 Third year 3/8 Fourth year 1/8
Five years . . . . .	First year 9/10 Second year 7/10 Third year 1/2 Fourth year 3/10 Fifth year 1/10
Over five years . . . . .	Pro rata

(3) In lieu of computation according to such table, all of such reserves may be computed, at the insurer's option, on a monthly pro rata basis.

(4) After adopting any one of the methods for computing such reserve an insurer shall not change methods without the commissioner's approval.

(5) If, for certain policies, the insurer's exposure to loss is uneven over the policy term, the commissioner may grant permission to the insurer to use a different method of calculating the unearned premium reserve on those certain policies. [1995 c 35 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 162 § 2; 1947 c 79 § .12.04; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.12.04.]

**48.12.050 Unearned premium reserve, marine and transportation insurance.** With reference to marine and transportation insurances, premiums on trip risks not terminated shall be deemed unearned and the commissioner may require the insurer to carry a reserve thereon equal to one hundred percent on trip risks written during the month ended as of the date of statement; and computed upon a pro rata basis or, with the commissioner's consent, in accordance with the alternative methods provided in RCW 48.12.040 for all other risks. [1947 c 79 § .12.05; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.12.05.]

**48.12.060 Reserve—Disability insurance.** For all disability insurance policies the insurer shall maintain an active life reserve which shall place a sound value on its liabilities under such policies and be not less than the reserve according to appropriate standards set forth in regulations issued by the commissioner and, in no event, less in the

aggregate than the pro rata gross unearned premiums for such policies. [1973 1st ex.s. c 162 § 3; 1947 c 79 § .12.06; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.12.06.]

**48.12.070 Loss records.** An insurer shall maintain a complete and itemized record showing all losses and claims as to which it has received notice, including with regard to property, casualty, surety, and marine and transportation insurances, all notices received of the occurrence of any event which may result in a loss. [1947 c 79 § .12.07; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.12.07.]

**48.12.080 Increased reserves.** (1) If the commissioner determines that an insurer's unearned premium reserves, however computed, are inadequate, he may require the insurer to compute such reserves or any part thereof according to such other method or methods as are prescribed in this chapter.

(2) If the loss experience of an insurer shows that its loss reserves, however estimated, are inadequate, the commissioner shall require the insurer to maintain loss reserves in such increased amount as is needed to make them adequate. [1947 c 79 § .12.08; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.12.08.]

**48.12.090 Loss reserves—Liability insurance.** The reserves for outstanding losses and loss expenses under policies of personal injury liability insurance and under policies of employer's liability insurance shall be computed as follows:

(1) The reserves for outstanding losses and loss expenses under policies of personal injury liability insurance and under policies of employer's liability insurance shall be computed in accordance with accepted loss-reserving standards and principles and shall make a reasonable provision for all unpaid loss and loss expense obligations of the insurer under the terms of such policies.

(2) Reserves under liability policies written during the three years immediately preceding the date of determination shall include any additional reserves required by the annual statement instructions of the national association of insurance commissioners. [1995 c 35 § 2; 1947 c 79 § .12.09; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.12.09.]

**48.12.100 Unallocated liability loss expense.** Subject to any restrictions contained in the annual statement instructions or accounting practices and procedures manuals of the national association of insurance commissioners, all unallocated liability loss expense payments shall be distributed as follows:

(1) All payments associated with particular claims shall be distributed to the year in which the claim was covered; and

(2) All other payments shall be distributed by year in a reasonable manner. [1995 c 35 § 3; 1947 c 79 § .12.10; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.12.10.]

**48.12.110 Schedule of experience.** Any insurer transacting any liability or workers' compensation insurances shall include in its annual statement filed with the commissioner, a schedule of its experience thereunder in such form

as the commissioner may prescribe. [1987 c 185 § 19; 1947 c 79 § .12.11; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.12.11.]

**Intent—Severability—1987 c 185:** See notes following RCW 51.12.130.

**48.12.120 Loss reserve—Workers' compensation insurance.** The loss reserve for workers' compensation insurance shall be as follows:

(1) For all compensation claims under policies of compensation insurance written more than three years prior to the date of determination, the loss reserve shall be not less than the present values at four percent interest of the determined and the estimated future payments.

(2) For all compensation claims under policies of compensation insurance written in the three years immediately preceding the date of determination, the loss reserve shall be not less than the present value at three and one-half percent interest of the determined and the estimated future payments, and shall include any additional reserves required by the annual statement instructions of the national association of insurance commissioners. [1995 c 35 § 4; 1987 c 185 § 20; 1947 c 79 § .12.12; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.12.12.]

**Intent—Severability—1987 c 185:** See notes following RCW 51.12.130.

**48.12.130 Unallocated workers' compensation loss expense.** Subject to any restrictions contained in the annual statement instructions or accounting practices and procedures manuals of the national association of insurance commissioners, all unallocated workers' compensation loss expense payments shall be distributed as follows:

(1) All payments associated with particular claims shall be distributed to the year in which the claim was covered; and

(2) All other payments shall be distributed by year in a reasonable manner. [1995 c 35 § 5; 1987 c 185 § 21; 1947 c 79 § .12.13; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.12.13.]

**Intent—Severability—1987 c 185:** See notes following RCW 51.12.130.

**48.12.140 "Loss payments," "loss expense" defined.** "Loss payments" and "loss expense payments" as used with reference to liability and workers' compensation insurances shall include all payments to claimants, payments for medical and surgical attendance, legal expenses, salaries and expenses of investigators, adjusters and claims field men, rents, stationery, telegraph and telephone charges, postage, salaries and expenses of office employees, home office expenses and all other payments made on account of claims, whether such payments are allocated to specific claims or are unallocated. [1987 c 185 § 22; 1947 c 79 § .12.14; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.12.14.]

**Intent—Severability—1987 c 185:** See notes following RCW 51.12.130.

**48.12.160 Credit for reinsurance. (Effective until January 1, 1997.)** (1) Any insurance company organized under the laws of this state may take credit as an asset or as a deduction from loss or claim, unearned premium, or life policy or contract reserves on risks ceded to a reinsurer to the extent reinsured by an insurer or insurers holding a

certificate of authority to transact that kind of business in this state. The credit on ceded risks reinsured by any insurer which is not authorized to transact business in this state may be taken:

(a) Where the reinsurer is a group including incorporated and unincorporated underwriters, and the group maintains a trust fund in a United States bank that is determined by the national association of insurance commissioners to meet credit standards for issuing letters of credit in connection with reinsurance, which trust fund must be in an amount equal to the group's liabilities attributable to business written in the United States, and in addition, the group shall maintain a trustee surplus of which one hundred million dollars shall be held jointly and exclusively for the benefit of United States ceding insurers of any member of the group; the incorporated members of the group shall not be engaged in any business other than underwriting as a member of the group and shall be subject to the same level of solvency regulation and control by the group's domiciliary regulator as are the unincorporated members; and the group shall make available to the commissioner an annual certification of the solvency of each underwriter by the group's domiciliary regulator and its independent public accountants; or

(b) In an amount not exceeding:

(i) The amount of deposits by and funds withheld from the assuming insurer pursuant to express provision therefor in the reinsurance contract, as security for the payment of the obligations thereunder, if the deposits or funds are assets of the types and amounts that are authorized under chapter 48.13 RCW and are held subject to withdrawal by and under the control of the ceding insurer or if the deposits or funds are placed in trust for these purposes in a bank which is a member of the federal reserve system and withdrawals from the trust cannot be made without the consent of the ceding company; or

(ii) The amount of a clean, irrevocable, and unconditional letter of credit issued by a United States bank that is determined by the national association of insurance commissioners to meet credit standards for issuing letters of credit in connection with reinsurance, and issued for a term of at least one year with provisions that it must be renewed unless the bank gives notice of nonrenewal at least thirty days before the expiration issued under arrangements satisfactory to the commissioner of insurance as constituting security to the ceding insurer substantially equal to that of a deposit under (b)(i) of this subsection.

(2) Any reinsurance ceded by a company organized under the laws of this state or ceded by any company not organized under the laws of this state and transacting business in this state must be payable by the assuming insurer on the basis of liability of the ceding company under the contract or contracts reinsured without diminution because of the insolvency of the ceding company, and any such reinsurance agreement which may be canceled on less than ninety days notice must provide for a run-off of the reinsurance in force at the date of cancellation.

(3) A reinsurance agreement may provide that the liquidator or receiver or statutory successor of an insolvent ceding insurer shall give written notice of the pendency of a claim against the insolvent ceding insurer on the policy or bond reinsured within a reasonable time after such claim is filed in the insolvency proceeding and that during the

pendency of such claim any assuming insurer may investigate such claim and interpose, at its own expense, in the proceeding where such claim is to be adjudicated, any defense or defenses which it may deem available to the ceding insurer or its liquidator or receiver or statutory successor.

The expense thus incurred by the assuming insurer shall be chargeable subject to court approval against the insolvent ceding insurer as a part of the expense of liquidation to the extent of a proportionate share of the benefit which may accrue to the ceding insurer solely as a result of the defense undertaken by the assuming insurer.

(4) Where two or more assuming insurers are involved in the same claim and a majority in interest elect to interpose to such claim, the expense shall be apportioned in accordance with the terms of the reinsurance agreement as though such expense had been incurred by the ceding insurer. [1994 c 86 § 1; 1993 c 91 § 2; 1977 ex.s. c 180 § 3; 1947 c 79 § .12.16; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.12.16.]

**Effective date—1994 c 86:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately [March 23, 1994]." [1994 c 86 § 3.]

**48.12.160 Credit for reinsurance. (Effective January 1, 1997.)** (1) Any insurance company organized under the laws of this state may take credit as an asset or as a deduction from loss or claim, unearned premium, or life policy or contract reserves on risks ceded to a reinsurer to the extent reinsured by an insurer or insurers holding a certificate of authority to transact that kind of business in this state. The credit on ceded risks reinsured by any insurer which is not authorized to transact business in this state may be taken:

(a) Where the reinsurer is a group including incorporated and unincorporated underwriters, and the group maintains a trust fund in a United States bank that is determined by the national association of insurance commissioners to meet credit standards for issuing letters of credit in connection with reinsurance, which trust fund must be in an amount equal to the group's liabilities attributable to business written in the United States, and in addition, the group shall maintain a trustee surplus of which one hundred million dollars shall be held jointly and exclusively for the benefit of United States ceding insurers of any member of the group; the incorporated members of the group shall not be engaged in any business other than underwriting as a member of the group and shall be subject to the same level of solvency regulation and control by the group's domiciliary regulator as are the unincorporated members; and the group shall make available to the commissioner an annual certification of the solvency of each underwriter by the group's domiciliary regulator and its independent public accountants;

(b) Where the reinsurer does not meet the definition of (a) of this subsection, the reinsurer maintains a trust fund in a United States bank that is determined by the national association of insurance commissioners to meet credit standards for issuing letters of credit in connection with reinsurance, which trust fund must be in an amount equal to the reinsurer's liabilities attributable to reinsurance ceded by United States domiciled insurers, and in addition, the



assuming insurer shall maintain a trusted surplus of not less than twenty million dollars; or

(c) In an amount not exceeding:

(i) The amount of deposits by and funds withheld from the assuming insurer pursuant to express provision therefor in the reinsurance contract, as security for the payment of the obligations thereunder, if the deposits or funds are assets of the types and amounts that are authorized under chapter 48.13 RCW and are held subject to withdrawal by and under the control of the ceding insurer or if the deposits or funds are placed in trust for these purposes in a bank which is a member of the federal reserve system and withdrawals from the trust cannot be made without the consent of the ceding company; or

(ii) The amount of a clean, irrevocable, and unconditional letter of credit issued by a United States bank that is determined by the national association of insurance commissioners to meet credit standards for issuing letters of credit in connection with reinsurance, and issued for a term of at least one year with provisions that it must be renewed unless the bank gives notice of nonrenewal at least thirty days before the expiration issued under arrangements satisfactory to the commissioner of insurance as constituting security to the ceding insurer substantially equal to that of a deposit under (c)(i) of this subsection.

(2) Any reinsurance ceded by a company organized under the laws of this state or ceded by any company not organized under the laws of this state and transacting business in this state must be payable by the assuming insurer on the basis of liability of the ceding company under the contract or contracts reinsured without diminution because of the insolvency of the ceding company, and any such reinsurance agreement which may be canceled on less than ninety days notice must provide for a run-off of the reinsurance in force at the date of cancellation.

(3) A reinsurance agreement may provide that the liquidator or receiver or statutory successor of an insolvent ceding insurer shall give written notice of the pendency of a claim against the insolvent ceding insurer on the policy or bond reinsured within a reasonable time after such claim is filed in the insolvency proceeding and that during the pendency of such claim any assuming insurer may investigate such claim and interpose, at its own expense, in the proceeding where such claim is to be adjudicated, any defense or defenses which it may deem available to the ceding insurer or its liquidator or receiver or statutory successor.

The expense thus incurred by the assuming insurer shall be chargeable subject to court approval against the insolvent ceding insurer as a part of the expense of liquidation to the extent of a proportionate share of the benefit which may accrue to the ceding insurer solely as a result of the defense undertaken by the assuming insurer.

(4) Where two or more assuming insurers are involved in the same claim and a majority in interest elect to interpose to such claim, the expense shall be apportioned in accordance with the terms of the reinsurance agreement as though such expense had been incurred by the ceding insurer. [1996 c 297 § 1; 1994 c 86 § 1; 1993 c 91 § 2; 1977 ex.s. c 180 § 3; 1947 c 79 § .12.16; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.12.16.]

**Rules to implement—1996 c 297:** "The insurance commissioner shall adopt rules to implement and administer the amendatory changes made by section 1, chapter 297, Laws of 1996." [1996 c 297 § 2.]

**Effective dates—1996 c 297:** "(1) Sections 2 and 3 of this act are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately [March 30, 1996].

(2) Section 1 of this act shall take effect January 1, 1997." [1996 c 297 § 4.]

**Effective date—1994 c 86:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately [March 23, 1994]." [1994 c 86 § 3.]

**48.12.170 Valuation of bonds.** (1) All bonds or other evidences of debt having a fixed term and rate held by any insurer may, if amply secured and not in default as to principal or interest, be valued as follows:

(a) If purchased at par, at the par value.

(b) If purchased above or below par, on the basis of the purchase price adjusted so as to bring the value to par at the earliest date callable at par or maturing at par and so as to yield in the meantime the effective rate of interest at which the purchase was made; or in lieu of such method, according to such accepted method of valuation as is approved by the commissioner.

(c) Purchase price shall in no case be taken at a higher figure than the actual market value at the time of purchase.

(d) Unless otherwise provided by a valuation established or approved by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, no such security shall be carried at above call price for the entire issue during any period within which the security may be so called.

(2) Such securities not amply secured or in default as to principal or interest shall be carried at market value.

(3) The commissioner shall have full discretion in determining the method of calculating values according to the rules set forth in this section, and not inconsistent with any such methods then currently formulated or approved by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. [1947 c 79 § .12.17; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.12.17.]

**48.12.180 Valuation of stocks.** (1) Securities, other than those referred to in RCW 48.12.170, held by an insurer shall be valued, in the discretion of the commissioner, at their market value, or at their appraised value, or at prices determined by him or her as representing their fair market value.

(2) Preferred or guaranteed stocks or shares while paying full dividends may be carried at a fixed value in lieu of market value, at the discretion of the commissioner and in accordance with such method of computation as he or she may approve.

(3) The stock of a subsidiary of an insurer shall be valued on the basis of the greater of (a) the value of only such of the assets of such subsidiary as would constitute lawful investments for the insurer if acquired or held directly by the insurer or (b) such other value determined pursuant to rules and cumulative limitations which shall be promulgated by the commissioner to effectuate the purposes of this chapter.

(4) The commissioner has full discretion in determining the method of calculating values according to the rules set

forth in this section, and consistent with such methods as then adopted by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. [1993 c 462 § 54; 1973 c 151 § 1; 1947 c 79 § .12.18; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.12.18.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.12.190 Valuation of property.** (1) Real property acquired pursuant to a mortgage loan or a contract for a deed, in the absence of a recent appraisal deemed by the commissioner to be reliable, shall not be valued at an amount greater than the unpaid principal of the defaulted loan or contract at the date of such acquisition, together with any taxes and expenses paid or incurred in connection with such acquisition, and the cost of improvements thereafter made by the insurer and any amounts thereafter paid by the insurer on assessments levied for improvements in connection with the property.

(2) Other real property held by an insurer shall not be valued at any amount in excess of fair value, less reasonable depreciation based on the estimated life of the improvements.

(3) Personal property acquired pursuant to chattel mortgages made under RCW 48.13.150 shall not be valued at an amount greater than the unpaid balance of principal on the defaulted loan at date of acquisition together with taxes and expenses incurred in connection with such acquisition, or the fair value of such property, whichever amount is the lesser.

(4) The commissioner has full discretion in determining the method of calculating values according to the rules set forth in this section, and consistent with such methods as then adopted by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. [1993 c 462 § 55; 1967 ex.s. c 95 § 10; 1947 c 79 § .12.19; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.12.19.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.12.200 Valuation of purchase money mortgages.**

(1) Purchase money mortgages shall be valued in an amount not exceeding the acquisition cost of the real property covered thereby or ninety percent of the fair value of such real property, whichever is less.

(2) The commissioner has full discretion in determining the method of calculating values according to the rules set forth in this section, and consistent with such methods as then adopted by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. [1993 c 462 § 56; 1947 c 79 § .12.20; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.12.20.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

## Chapter 48.13 INVESTMENTS

### Sections

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*Valuation of investments: RCW 48.12.170 through 48.12.200.*

**48.13.010 Scope of chapter—Eligible investments.**

(1) Investments of domestic insurers shall be eligible to be held as assets only as prescribed in this chapter.

(2) Any particular investment of a domestic insurer held by it on the effective date of this code and which was a legal investment immediately prior thereto, shall be deemed a legal investment hereunder.

(3) The eligibility of an investment shall be determined as of the date of its making or acquisition.

(4) Except as to RCW 48.13.360, this chapter applies only to domestic insurers. [1973 c 151 § 2; 1947 c 79 § .13.01; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.13.01.]

**48.13.020 General qualifications.** (1) No security or other investment shall be eligible for purchase or acquisition under this chapter unless it is interest bearing or interest accruing or dividend or income paying, is not then in default in any respect, and the insurer is entitled to receive for its exclusive account and benefit, the interest or income accruing thereon; except,

(a) that an insurer may acquire real property as provided in RCW 48.13.160, and

(b) that this section shall not prevent participation by an insurer in a mortgage loan if the insurer, either individually or jointly with other lenders, holds a senior participation in such mortgage or deed of trust giving it substantially the rights of a first mortgagee as to its interest in that loan.

(2) No security shall be eligible for purchase at a price above its market value except voting stock of a corporation being acquired as a subsidiary.

(3) No provision of this chapter shall prohibit the acquisition by an insurer of other or additional securities or property if received as a dividend or as a lawful distribution of assets, or if acquired pursuant to a lawful and bona fide agreement of bulk reinsurance or consolidation. Any investments so acquired through bulk reinsurance or consolidation, which are not otherwise eligible under this chapter, shall be disposed of pursuant to RCW 48.13.290 if personal property or securities, or pursuant to RCW 48.13.170 if real property. [1983 1st ex.s. c 32 § 2; 1982 c 218 § 2; 1967 ex.s. c 95 § 11; 1947 c 79 § .13.02; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.13.02.]

**Severability—1982 c 218:** See note following RCW 48.12.020.

**48.13.030 Limitation on securities of one entity.**

Except as set forth in RCW 48.13.273, an insurer shall not, except with the consent of the commissioner, have at any time any combination of investments in or loans upon the security of the obligations, property, and securities of any one person, institution, or municipal corporation aggregating an amount exceeding four percent of the insurer's assets. This section shall not apply to investments in, or loans upon the security of general obligations of the government of the United States or of any state of the United States, nor to investments in foreign securities pursuant to subsection (1) of RCW 48.13.180, nor include policy loans made pursuant to RCW 48.13.190. [1993 c 92 § 1; 1947 c 79 § .13.03; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.13.03.]

**48.13.040 Public obligations.** An insurer may invest any of its funds in bonds or other evidences of debt, not in default as to principal or interest, which are valid and legally authorized obligations issued, assumed or guaranteed by the United States or by any state thereof or by any territory or possession of the United States or by the District of Columbia or by any county, city, town, village, municipality or district therein or by any political subdivision thereof or by any civil division or public instrumentality of one or more of the foregoing, if, by statutory or other legal requirements applicable thereto, such obligations are payable, as to both principal and interest, (1) from taxes levied or required to be levied upon all taxable property or all taxable income within the jurisdiction of such governmental unit or, (2) from adequate special revenues pledged or otherwise appropriated or by law required to be provided for the purpose of such payment, but not including any obligation payable solely out of special assessments on properties benefited by local improvements unless adequate security is evidenced by the ratio of assessment to the value of the property or the obligation is additionally secured by an adequate guaranty fund required by law. [1947 c 79 § .13.04; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.13.04.]

**48.13.050 Corporate obligations.** Except as set forth in RCW 48.13.273, an insurer may invest any of its funds in obligations other than those eligible for investment under RCW 48.13.110 if they are issued, assumed, or guaranteed by any solvent institution created or existing under the laws of the United States or of any state, district or territory thereof, and are qualified under any of the following:

(1) Obligations which are secured by adequate collateral security and bear fixed interest if during each of any three, including the last two, of the five fiscal years next preceding the date of acquisition by the insurer, the net earnings of the issuing, assuming or guaranteeing institution available for its fixed charges, as defined in RCW 48.13.060, have been not less than one and one-fourth times the total of its fixed charges for such year. In determining the adequacy of collateral security, not more than one-third of the total value of such required collateral shall consist of stock other than stock meeting the requirements of RCW 48.13.080.

(2) Fixed interest bearing obligations, other than those described in subdivision (1) of this section, if the net earnings of the issuing, assuming or guaranteeing institution available for its fixed charges for a period of five fiscal years next preceding the date of acquisition by the insurer have averaged per year not less than one and one-half times its average annual fixed charges applicable to such period and if during the last year of such period such net earnings have been not less than one and one-half times its fixed charges for such year.

(3) Adjustment, income or other contingent interest obligations if the net earnings of the issuing, assuming or guaranteeing institution available for its fixed charges for a period of five fiscal years next preceding the date of acquisition by the insurer have averaged per year not less than one and one-half times the sum of its average annual fixed charges and its average annual maximum contingent interest applicable to such period and if during each of the last two years of such period such net earnings have been not less than one and one-half times the sum of its fixed charges and maximum contingent interest for such year. [1993 c 92 § 2; 1947 c 79 § .13.05; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.13.05.]

**48.13.060 Terms defined.** (1) Certain terms used are defined for the purposes of this chapter as follows:

(a) "Obligation" includes bonds, debentures, notes or other evidences of indebtedness.

(b) "Net earnings available for fixed charges" means net income after deducting operating and maintenance expenses, taxes other than federal and state income taxes, depreciation and depletion, but excluding extraordinary nonrecurring items of income or expense appearing in the regular financial statements of such institution.

(c) "Fixed charges" includes interest on funded and unfunded debt, amortization of debt discount, and rentals for leased properties.

(d) "Admitted assets" means the amount as of the last day of the most recently concluded annual statement year, computed in the same manner as "assets" in RCW 48.12.010.

(e) "Aggregate amount" of medium grade and lower grade obligations means the aggregate statutory statement value of those obligations thereof.

(f) "Institution" means a corporation, a joint stock company, an association, a trust, a business partnership, a business joint venture, or similar entity.

(2) If net earnings are determined in reliance upon consolidated earnings statements of parent and subsidiary institutions, such net earnings shall be determined after provision for income taxes of subsidiaries and after proper allowance for minority stock interest, if any; and the

required coverage of fixed charges shall be computed on a basis including fixed charges and preferred dividends of subsidiaries other than those payable by such subsidiaries to the parent corporation or to any other of such subsidiaries, except that if the minority common stock interest in the subsidiary corporation is substantial, the fixed charges and preferred dividends may be apportioned in accordance with regulations prescribed by the commissioner. [1993 c 92 § 3; 1947 c 79 § .13.06; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.13.06.]

**48.13.070 Securities of merged or reorganized institutions.** In applying the earnings test set forth in RCW 48.13.060 to any such institution, whether or not in legal existence during the whole of such five years next preceding the date of investment by the insurer, which has at any time during the five-year period acquired substantially all of the assets of any other institution or institutions by purchase, merger, consolidation or otherwise, or has been reorganized pursuant to the bankruptcy law, the earnings of the predecessor or constituent institutions, or of the institution so reorganized, available for interest and dividends for such portion of the five-year period as may have preceded such acquisition, or such reorganization, may be included in the earnings of such issuing, assuming or guaranteeing institution for such portion of such period as may be determined in accordance with adjusted or pro forma consolidated earnings statements covering such portion of such period and giving effect to all stock or shares outstanding, and all fixed charges existing, immediately after such acquisition, or such reorganization. [1947 c 79 § .13.07; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.13.07.]

**48.13.080 Preferred or guaranteed stocks.** (1) An insurer may invest any of its funds, in an aggregate amount not exceeding ten percent of its assets, if a life insurer, or not exceeding fifteen percent of such assets if other than a life insurer, in preferred or guaranteed stocks or shares, other than common stocks, of solvent institutions existing under the laws of the United States or of any state, district or territory thereof, if all of the prior obligations and prior preferred stocks, if any, of such institution at the date of acquisition by the insurer are eligible as investments under this chapter; and if qualified under either of the following:

(a) Preferred stocks or shares shall be deemed qualified if both these requirements are met:

(i) The net earnings of the institution available for its fixed charges for a period of five fiscal years next preceding the date of acquisition by the insurer must have averaged per year not less than one and one-half times the sum of its average annual fixed charges, if any, its average annual maximum contingent interest, if any, and its average annual preferred dividend requirements applicable to such period; and

(ii) during each of the last two years of such period such net earnings must have been not less than one and one-half times the sum of its fixed charges, contingent interest and preferred dividend requirements for such year. The term "preferred dividend requirements" shall be deemed to mean cumulative or noncumulative dividends whether paid or not.

(b) Guaranteed stocks or shares shall be deemed qualified if the assuming or guaranteeing institution meets the requirements of subdivision (1) of RCW 48.13.050,

construed so as to include as a fixed charge the amount of guaranteed dividends of such issue or the rental covering the guarantee of such dividends.

(2) An insurer shall not invest in or loan upon any preferred stock having voting rights, of any one institution, in excess of such proportion of the total issued and outstanding preferred stock of such institution having voting rights, as would, when added to any common shares of such institution, directly or indirectly held by it, exceed fifteen percent of all outstanding shares of such institution having voting rights, nor an amount in excess of the limit provided by RCW 48.13.030. This limitation shall not apply to such shares of a corporation which is the subsidiary of an insurer, and which corporation is engaged exclusively in a kind of business properly incidental to the insurance business of the insurer. [1947 c 79 § .13.08; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.13.08.]

**48.13.090 Trustees' or receivers' obligations.** An insurer may invest any of its funds, in an aggregate amount not exceeding two percent of its assets, in certificates, notes, or other obligations issued by trustees or receivers of institutions existing under the laws of the United States or of any state, district or territory thereof, which, or the assets of which, are being administered under the direction of any court having jurisdiction, if such obligation is adequately secured as to principal and interest. [1947 c 79 § .13.09; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.13.09.]

**48.13.100 Equipment trust certificates.** An insurer may invest any of its funds, in an aggregate amount not exceeding ten percent of its assets, in equipment trust obligations or certificates which are adequately secured, or in other adequately secured instruments evidencing an interest in transportation equipment wholly or in part within the United States and the right to receive determined portions of rental, purchase or other fixed obligatory payments for the use or purchase of such transportation equipment. [1947 c 79 § .13.10; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.13.10.]

**48.13.110 Mortgages, deeds of trust, mortgage bonds, notes, contracts.** An insurer may invest any of its funds in:

(1)(a) Bonds or evidences of debt which are secured by first mortgages or deeds of trust on improved unencumbered real property located in the United States;

(b) Chattel mortgages in connection therewith pursuant to RCW 48.13.150;

(c) The equity of the seller of any such property in the contract for a deed, covering the entire balance due on a bona fide sale of such property, in amount not to exceed ten thousand dollars or the amount permissible under RCW 48.13.030, whichever is greater, in any one such contract for deed.

(2) Purchase money mortgages or like securities received by it upon the sale or exchange of real property acquired pursuant to RCW 48.13.160 as amended in \*section 7 of this 1969 amendatory act.

(3) Bonds or notes secured by mortgage or trust deed guaranteed or insured by the Federal Housing Administration under the terms of an act of congress of the United States of

June 27, 1934, entitled the "National Housing Act," as amended.

(4) Bonds or notes secured by mortgage or trust deed guaranteed or insured as to principal in whole or in part by the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs pursuant to the provisions of Title III of an act of congress of the United States of June 22, 1944, entitled the "Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944," as amended.

(5) Evidences of debt secured by first mortgages or deeds of trust upon leasehold estates, except agricultural leaseholds executed pursuant to RCW 79.01.096, running for a term of not less than fifteen years beyond the maturity of the loan as made or as extended, in improved real property, otherwise unencumbered, and if the mortgagee is entitled to be subrogated to all the rights under the leasehold.

(6) Evidences of debt secured by first mortgages or deeds of trust upon agricultural leasehold estates executed pursuant to RCW 79.01.096, otherwise unencumbered, and if the mortgagee is entitled to be subrogated to all the rights under the leasehold. [1975 1st ex.s. c 154 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 241 § 4; 1947 c 79 § .13.11; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.13.11.]

\*Reviser's note: The reference to "section 7 of this 1969 amendatory act" is to section 7, chapter 241, Laws of 1969 ex. sess., which amended RCW 48.13.160.

#### **48.13.120 Investments limited by property value.**

(1) An investment made pursuant to the provisions of RCW 48.13.110 shall not exceed seventy-five percent of the fair value of the particular property at the time of investment. However, if the loan is secured by a first mortgage or other first lien upon real property improved with a single-family residential building, the terms of such loan provide for monthly payments of principal and interest sufficient to effect full repayment of the loan within the remaining useful life of the building as estimated in the appraisal for the loan, or thirty years and two months, whichever is less, the principal so loaned or the entire note or bond issue so secured, plus the amount of the liens of any public bond, assessment, or tax assessed upon the property, may not exceed eighty percent of the market value of the real property, or of the real property together with the improvements which are taken as security. This restriction shall not apply to purchase money mortgages or like securities received by an insurer upon the sale or exchange of real property acquired pursuant to RCW 48.13.160.

(2) The extent to which a mortgage loan made under RCW 48.13.110 (3) or (4) is guaranteed or insured by the Federal Housing Administration or guaranteed by the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs may be deducted before application of the limitations contained in subsection (1) of this section. [1993 c 92 § 7; 1969 ex.s. c 241 § 5; 1967 c 150 § 11; 1955 c 303 § 1; 1949 c 190 § 16; 1947 c 79 § .13.12; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 45.13.12.]

#### **48.13.125 Mortgage loans on one family dwellings—**

**Limitation on amortization.** Loans on one family dwellings secured by mortgages or deeds of trust or investments therein shall be amortized within not more than thirty years and two months by payments of installments thereon at regular intervals not less frequent than every three months; except those guaranteed or insured in whole or in part by the Federal Housing Administration, the Administrator of

Veterans' Affairs or the Farmers Home Administration. [1969 ex.s. c 241 § 6; 1967 c 150 § 10.]

**48.13.130 "Encumbrance" defined.** (1) Real property shall not be deemed to be encumbered within the meaning of RCW 48.13.110 by reason of the existence of:

(a) Instruments reserving mineral, oil, timber or similar rights, rights of way, sewer rights, or rights in walls;

(b) Liens for taxes or assessments not delinquent, or liens not delinquent for community recreational facilities, or for the maintenance of community facilities, or for service and maintenance of water rights;

(c) Building restrictions or other restrictive covenants;

(d) Encroachments, if such encroachments are taken into consideration in determining the fair value of the property;

(e) A lease under which rents or profits are reserved to the owner if in any event the security for the loan or investment is a first lien upon the real property; or

(f) With respect to loans secured by mortgage, deed of trust, or other collateral guaranteed or insured in full or in part by the government of the United States, such encumbrances as are allowed as exceptions in title by the administrator or administration of the division of such government so guaranteeing or insuring.

(2) If under any of the exceptions set forth in subsection (1) of this section there is any sum owing but not due or delinquent, the total amount of such sum shall be deducted from the amount which otherwise might be loaned on the property. The value of any mineral, oil, timber or similar right reserved shall not be included in the fair value of the property. [1955 c 303 § 2; 1947 c 79 § .13.13; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.13.13.]

#### **48.13.140 Appraisal of property—Insurance—Limit of loan.**

(1) The fair value of property shall be determined by appraisal by a competent appraiser at the time of the acquisition of real property or of the making or acquiring of a mortgage loan or investing in a contract for the deed thereon; except, that as to bonds or notes secured by mortgage or trust deed guaranteed or insured by the Federal Housing Administration, or guaranteed or insured as to principal in full or in part by the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs, or guaranteed or insured by the Farmers Home Administration, the valuation made by such administration or administrator shall be deemed to have been made by a competent appraiser for the purposes of this subsection.

(2) Buildings and other improvements located on mortgaged premises shall be kept insured for the benefit of the mortgagee against loss or damage from fire in an amount not less than the unpaid balance of the obligation, or the insurable value of the property, whichever is the lesser.

(3) An insurer shall not make or acquire a loan or loans upon the security of any one parcel of real property in aggregate amount in excess of twenty-five thousand dollars or more than the amount permissible under RCW 48.13.030, whichever is the greater. [1967 ex.s. c 95 § 12; 1955 c 303 § 3; 1947 c 79 § .13.14; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.13.14.]

**48.13.150 Auxiliary chattel mortgages.** (1) In connection with a mortgage loan on the security of real property designed and used primarily for residential purposes

only, acquired pursuant to RCW 48.13.110, an insurer may loan or invest an amount not exceeding twenty percent of the amount loaned on or invested in such real property mortgage, on the security of a chattel mortgage for a term of not more than five years representing a first and prior lien, except for taxes not then delinquent, on personal property constituting durable equipment owned by the mortgagor and kept and used in the mortgaged premises.

(2) The term "durable equipment" shall include only mechanical refrigerators, mechanical laundering machines, heating and cooking stoves and ranges, mechanical kitchen aids, vacuum cleaners, and fire extinguishing devices; and in addition in the case of apartment houses and hotels, room furniture and furnishings.

(3) Prior to acquisition of a chattel mortgage, items of property to be included shall be separately appraised by a competent appraiser and the fair market value thereof determined. No such chattel mortgage loan shall exceed in amount the same ratio of loan to the value of the property as is applicable to the companion loan on the real property. [1947 c 79 § .13.15; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.13.15.]

**48.13.160 Real property owned—Home office building.** (1) An insurer may own and invest or have invested in its home office and branch office buildings any of its funds in aggregate amount not to exceed ten percent of its assets unless approved by the commissioner, or if a mutual or reciprocal insurer not to exceed ten percent of its assets nor such amount as would reduce its surplus, exclusive of such investment, below fifty thousand dollars unless approved by the commissioner.

(2) An insurer may own real property acquired in satisfaction or on account of loans, mortgages, liens, judgments, or other debts previously owing to the insurer in the course of its business.

(3) An insurer may invest or have invested in aggregate amount not exceeding three percent of its assets in the following real property, and in the repair, alteration, furnishing, or improvement thereof:

(a) Real property requisite for its accommodation in the convenient transaction of its business if approved by the commissioner.

(b) Real property acquired by gift or devise.

(c) Real property acquired in exchange for real property owned by it. If necessary in order to consummate such an exchange, the insurer may put up cash in amount not to exceed twenty percent of the fair value of its real property to be so exchanged, in addition to such property.

(d) Real property acquired through a lawful merger or consolidation with it of another insurer and not required for the purposes specified in subsection (1) and in paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of this section.

(e) Upon approval of the commissioner, in real property and equipment incident to real property, requisite or desirable for the protection or enhancement of the value of other real property owned by the insurer.

(4) A domestic life insurer with assets of at least twenty-five million dollars and at least ten million dollars in capital and surplus, and a domestic property and casualty insurer with assets of at least seventy-five million dollars and at least thirty million dollars in capital and surplus, or, if a

mutual or reciprocal property or casualty insurer, at least thirty million dollars in surplus, may, in addition to the real property included in subsections (1), (2) and (3) of this section, own such real property other than property to be used for ranch, mining, recreational, amusement, or club purposes, as may be acquired as an investment for the production of income, or as may be acquired to be improved or developed for such investment purpose pursuant to an existing program therefor, subject to the following limitations and conditions:

(a) The cost of each parcel of real property so acquired under this subsection (4), including the estimated cost to the insurer of the improvement or development thereof, when added to the book value of all other real property under this subsection (4), together with the admitted value of all common stock, then held by it, shall not exceed twenty percent of its admitted assets or fifty percent of its surplus over the minimum required surplus, whichever is greater, as of the thirty-first day of December next preceding; and

(b) The cost of each parcel of real property so acquired, including the estimated cost to the insurer of the improvement or development thereof, shall not exceed as of the thirty-first day of December next preceding, four percent of its admitted assets.

(c) Indirect or proportionate interests in real estate held by a domestic life insurer through any subsidiary shall be included in proportion to such insurer's interest in the subsidiary in applying the limits provided in subsection (4). [1981 c 339 § 6; 1973 c 151 § 3; 1969 ex.s. c 241 § 7; 1967 ex.s. c 95 § 13; 1949 c 190 § 17; 1947 c 79 § .13.16; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 45.13.16.]

**48.13.170 Disposal of real property—Time limit.**

(1) Real property acquired by an insurer pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of RCW 48.13.160 shall be disposed of within five years after it has ceased being necessary for the use of the insurer in the transaction of its business. Real property acquired by an insurer pursuant to loans, mortgages, liens, judgments, or other debts, or pursuant to paragraphs (b), (c), (d), and (e) of subsection (3) of RCW 48.13.160 shall be disposed of within five years after date of acquisition. The time for any such disposal may be extended by the commissioner for a definite additional period or periods upon application and proof that forced sale of the property, otherwise necessary, would be against the best interests of the insurer.

(2) Any such real property held by the insurer without the commissioner's consent beyond the time permitted for its disposal shall not be carried or allowed as an asset. [1967 ex.s. c 95 § 14; 1947 c 79 § .13.17; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.13.17.]

**48.13.180 Foreign securities.** (1) An insurer authorized to transact insurance in a foreign country may invest any of its funds, in aggregate amount not exceeding its deposit and reserve obligations incurred in such country, in securities of or in such country possessing characteristics and of a quality similar to those required pursuant to this chapter for investments in the United States.

(2) An insurer may invest any of its funds, in an aggregate amount not exceeding five percent of its assets, in

addition to any amount permitted pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, in obligations of the governments of the Dominion of Canada or of Canadian provinces or municipalities, and in obligations of Canadian corporations, which have not been in default during the five years next preceding date of acquisition, and which are otherwise of equal quality to like United States public or corporate securities as prescribed in this chapter. [1947 c 79 § .13.18; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.13.18.]

**48.13.190 Policy loans.** A life insurer may loan to its policyholder upon the pledge of the policy as collateral security, any sum not exceeding the legal reserve maintained on the policy. [1947 c 79 § .13.19; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.13.19.]

**48.13.200 Savings and share accounts.** An insurer may invest or deposit any of its funds in share or savings accounts of savings and loan associations, or in savings accounts of banks, and in any one such institution only to the extent that such an account is insured by the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation or the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. [1947 c 79 § .13.20; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.13.20.]

**48.13.210 Insurance stocks.** (1) An insurer other than a life insurer may invest a portion of its surplus funds in an aggregate amount not exceeding fifty percent of its surplus over its capital stock and other liabilities, or thirty-five percent of its capital funds, whichever is greater, in the stocks of other insurers organized and existing under the laws of states of the United States. Indirect or proportionate interests in insurance stocks held by an insurer through any intermediate subsidiary or subsidiaries shall be included in applying the limitations provided in subsections (1), (2), and (3) of this section.

(2) A life insurer may invest in such insurance stocks in an aggregate amount not exceeding the smaller of the following amounts: Five percent of its assets; or twenty-five percent of its surplus over its capital stock and other liabilities, or of surplus over its required minimum surplus if a mutual life insurer.

(3) An insurer shall not purchase or hold as an investment more than five percent of the voting stock of any one other insurer, and subject further to the investment limits of RCW 48.13.030. This limitation shall not apply if such other insurer is the subsidiary of, and substantially all its shares having voting powers are owned by, the insurer.

(4) No such insurance stock shall be eligible as an investment unless it meets the qualifications for stocks of other corporations as set forth in RCW 48.13.220.

(5) The limitations on investment in insurance stocks set forth in this chapter shall not apply to stocks acquired under a plan for merger of the insurers which has been approved by the commissioner or to shares received as stock dividends upon shares already owned. [1979 ex.s. c 199 § 3; 1979 ex.s. c 130 § 4; 1947 c 79 § .13.21; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.13.21.]

**48.13.220 Common stocks—Investment—Acquisition—Engaging in certain businesses.** (1) After

satisfying the requirements of RCW 48.13.260, an insurer may invest any of its funds in common shares of stock in solvent United States corporations that qualify as a sound investment; except, that as to life insurers such investments shall further not aggregate an amount in excess of fifty percent of the insurer's surplus over its minimum required surplus.

(2) The insurer shall not invest in or loan upon the security of more than ten percent of the outstanding common shares of any one such corporation, subject further to the aggregate investment limitation of RCW 48.13.030.

(3) The limitations of subsection (2) of this section shall not apply to investment in the securities of any subsidiary corporations of the insurer which are engaged or organized to engage exclusively in one or more of the following businesses:

(a) Acting as an insurance agent for its parent or for any of its parent's insurer subsidiaries or affiliates;

(b) Investing, reinvesting, or trading in securities or acting as a securities broker or dealer for its own account, that of its parent, any subsidiary of its parent, or any affiliate or subsidiary;

(c) Rendering management, sales, or other related services to any investment company subject to the Federal Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended;

(d) Rendering investment advice;

(e) Rendering services related to the functions involved in the operation of an insurance business including, but not limited to, actuarial, loss prevention, safety engineering, data processing, accounting, claims appraisal, and collection services;

(f) Acting as administrator of employee welfare benefit and pension plans for governments, government agencies, corporations, or other organizations or groups;

(g) Ownership and management of assets which the parent could itself own and manage: PROVIDED, That the aggregate investment by the insurer and its subsidiaries acquired pursuant to this paragraph shall not exceed the limitations otherwise applicable to such investments by the parent;

(h) Acting as administrative agent for a government instrumentality which is performing an insurance function or is responsible for a health or welfare program;

(i) Financing of insurance premiums;

(j) Any other business activity reasonably ancillary to an insurance business;

(k) Owning one or more subsidiary (i) insurers to the extent permitted by this chapter, or (ii) businesses specified in paragraphs (a) through (k) of this subsection inclusive, or (iii) other businesses the stock of which is eligible under RCW 48.13.240 or 48.13.250, or any combination of such insurers and businesses.

(4) No acquisition of a majority of the total outstanding common shares of any corporation shall be made pursuant to this section unless a notice of intention of such proposed acquisition shall have been filed with the commissioner not less than ninety days, or such shorter period as may be permitted by the commissioner, in advance of such proposed acquisition, nor shall any such acquisition be made if the commissioner at any time prior to the expiration of the notice period finds that the proposed acquisition is contrary to law, or determines that such proposed acquisition would

be contrary to the best interests of the parent insurer's policyholders or of the people of this state. The following shall be the only factors to be considered in making the foregoing determination:

(a) The availability of the funds or assets required for such acquisition;

(b) The fairness of any exchange of stock, assets, cash, or other consideration for the stock or assets to be received;

(c) The impact of the new operation on the parent insurer's surplus and existing insurance business and the risks inherent in the parent insurer's investment portfolio and operations;

(d) The fairness and adequacy of the financing proposed for the subsidiary;

(e) The likelihood of undue concentration of economic power;

(f) Whether the effect of the acquisition may be substantially to lessen competition in any line of commerce in insurance or to tend to create a monopoly therein; and

(g) Whether the acquisition might result in an excessive proliferation of subsidiaries which would tend to unduly dilute management effectiveness or weaken financial strength or otherwise be contrary to the best interests of the parent insurer's policyholders or of the people of this state. At any time after an acquisition, the commissioner may order its disposition if he finds, after notice and hearing, that its continued retention is hazardous or prejudicial to the interests of the parent insurer's policyholders. The contents of each notice of intention of a proposed acquisition filed hereunder and information pertaining thereto shall be kept confidential, shall not be subject to subpoena, and shall not be made public unless after notice and hearing the commissioner determines that the interests of policyholders, stockholders, or the public will be served by the publication thereof.

(5) A domestic insurance company may, provided that it maintains books and records which separately account for such business, engage directly in any business referred to in paragraphs (d), (e), (h), and (j) of subsection (3) of this section either to the extent necessarily or properly incidental to the insurance business the insurer is authorized to do in this state or to the extent approved by the commissioner and subject to any limitations he may prescribe for the protection of the interests of the policyholders of the insurer after taking into account the effect of such business on the insurer's existing insurance business and its surplus, the proposed allocation of the estimated cost of such business, and the risks inherent in such business as well as the relative advantages to the insurer and its policyholders of conducting such business directly instead of through a subsidiary. [1982 c 218 § 3; 1973 c 151 § 4; 1949 c 190 § 18; 1947 c 79 § .13.22; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 45.13.22.]

**Severability—1982 c 218:** See note following RCW 48.12.020.

**48.13.230 Collateral loans.** An insurer may loan its funds upon the pledge of securities or evidences of debt eligible for investment under this chapter. As at date made, no such loan shall exceed in amount ninety percent of the market value of such collateral pledged, except that loans upon pledges of United States government bonds may be equal to the market value of the bonds pledged. The amount

so loaned shall be included in the maximum percentage of funds permitted to be invested in the kinds of securities or evidences of debt pledged or permitted by RCW 48.13.030. [1947 c 79 § .13.23; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.13.23.]

**48.13.240 Miscellaneous investments.** (1) An insurer may loan or invest its funds in an aggregate amount not exceeding the lesser of the following sums: Ten percent of its assets, or fifty percent of its surplus over its capital and other liabilities, or if a mutual or reciprocal insurer fifty percent of its surplus over minimum required surplus, in loans or investments not otherwise eligible for investment and not specifically prohibited by RCW 48.13.270.

(2) No such loan or investment shall be any item described in RCW 48.12.020.

(3) No such investment in or loan upon the security of any one person or entity shall exceed the amount specified in subsection (1) of this section or one percent of the insurer's assets, whichever is the lesser, except that this subsection (3) shall not apply to an investment in the stock of a subsidiary company.

(4) The insurer shall keep a separate record of all investments acquired under this section. [1982 c 218 § 4; 1947 c 79 § .13.24; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.13.24.]

**Severability—1982 c 218:** See note following RCW 48.12.020.

**48.13.250 Special consent investments.** Upon advance approval of the commissioner and in compliance with RCW 48.13.020, an insurer may make any investment or kind of investment or exchange of assets otherwise prohibited or not eligible under any other section of this chapter. The commissioner's order of approval if granted shall specify whether the investment or any part thereof may be credited to required minimum capital or surplus investments, or to investment of reserves. [1947 c 79 § .13.25; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.13.25.]

**48.13.260 Required investments for capital and reserves.** (1) An insurer shall invest and keep invested its funds aggregating in amount, if a stock insurer, not less than one hundred percent of its minimum required capital, or if a mutual or reciprocal insurer, not less than one hundred percent of its required minimum surplus, in cash or investments eligible in accordance with RCW 48.13.040 (public obligations), and in mortgage loans on real property located within this state, pursuant to RCW 48.13.110.

(2) In addition to the investments required by subsection (1) of this section, an insurer shall invest and keep invested its funds aggregating not less than one hundred percent of its reserves required by this code in cash or premiums in course of collection or in investments eligible in accordance with the following sections: RCW 48.13.040 (public obligations), 48.13.050 (corporate obligations), 48.13.080 (preferred or guaranteed stocks), 48.13.090 (trustees' or receivers' obligations), 48.13.100 (equipment trust certificates), 48.13.110 (mortgages, loans and contracts), 48.13.150 (auxiliary chattel mortgages), 48.13.160 (real property, home office building, etc.), 48.13.180 (foreign securities), 48.13.190 (policy loans), 48.13.200 (savings and share accounts), 48.13.220 (common stocks), 48.13.230 (collateral loans), 48.13.250 (special consent investments).



(3) This section shall not apply to title insurers nor to mutual insurers on the assessment premium plan. [1971 ex.s. c 13 § 16; 1947 c 79 § .13.26; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.13.26.]

**48.13.265 Investments secured by real estate—Amount restricted.** An insurer shall not invest or have invested at any one time more than sixty-five percent of its assets in investments in real estate, real estate contracts, and notes, bonds and other evidences of debt secured by mortgage on real estate, as described in RCW 48.13.110 and 48.13.160. Any insurer which, on June 13, 1957, has in excess of sixty-five percent of its assets so invested shall not make any further such investments while such excess exists. [1957 c 193 § 8.]

**48.13.270 Prohibited investments.** An insurer shall not, except with the commissioner's approval in advance, invest in or loan its funds upon the security of, or hold:

(1) Issued shares of its own capital stock, except for the purpose of mutualization in accordance with RCW 48.08.080;

(2) Securities issued by any corporation if a majority of its stock having voting power is owned directly or indirectly by or for the benefit of any one or more of the insurer's officers and directors;

(3) Any investment or loan ineligible under the provisions of RCW 48.13.030;

(4) Securities issued by any insolvent corporation;

(5) Obligations contrary to the provisions of RCW 48.13.273; or

(6) Any investment or security which is found by the commissioner to be designed to evade any prohibition of this code. [1995 c 84 § 1; 1993 c 92 § 4; 1982 c 218 § 5; 1947 c 79 § .13.27; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.13.27.]

**Severability—1982 c 218:** See note following RCW 48.12.020.

**48.13.273 Acquisition of medium and lower grade obligations—Definitions—Limitations—Rules.** (1) As used in this section:

(a) "Lower grade obligations" means obligations that are rated four, five, or six by the securities valuation office.

(b) "Medium grade obligations" means obligations that are rated three by the securities valuation office.

(c) "Securities valuation office" means the entity created by the national association of insurance commissioners in part, to assign rating categories for bond obligations acquired by insurers.

(2) No insurer may acquire directly or indirectly, any medium grade or lower grade obligation if, after giving effect to the acquisition, the aggregate amount of all medium grade and lower grade obligations then held by the insurer would exceed twenty percent of its admitted assets provided that:

(a) No more than ten percent of an insurer's admitted assets may be invested in lower grade obligations;

(b) No more than three percent of an insurer's admitted assets may be invested in lower grade obligations rated five or six by the securities valuation office;

(c) No more than one percent of an insurer's admitted assets may be invested in lower grade obligations rated six by the securities valuation office;

(d) No more than one percent of an insurer's admitted assets may be invested in medium and lower grade obligations issued, guaranteed, or insured by any one institution; and

(e) No more than one-half of one percent of an insurer's admitted assets may be invested in lower grade obligations issued, guaranteed, or insured by any one institution.

(3) This section does not require an insurer to sell or otherwise dispose of any obligation lawfully acquired before July 25, 1993, or in accordance with this chapter. The commissioner shall adopt rules identifying the circumstances under which the commissioner may approve an investment in obligations exceeding the limitations of this section as necessary to mitigate financial loss by an insurer.

(4) The board of directors of any domestic insurance company which acquires or invests, directly or indirectly, more than two percent of its admitted assets in medium grade and lower grade obligations of any institution, shall adopt a written plan for making those investments. The plan, in addition to guidelines with respect to the quality of the issues invested in, shall contain diversification standards including, but not limited to, standards for issuer, industry, duration, liquidity, and geographic location. [1993 c 92 § 5.]

**48.13.275 Obligations rated by the securities valuation office.** Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 48.13.050, an insurer may invest its funds in obligations rated by the securities valuation office. Investments in obligations that are rated one or two by the securities valuation office shall be subject to the limitations contained in RCW 48.13.030. [1993 c 92 § 6.]

**48.13.280 Securities underwriting, agreements to withhold or repurchase, prohibited.** No insurer shall

(1) participate in the underwriting of the marketing of securities in advance of their issuance or enter into any transaction for such underwriting for the account of such insurer jointly with any other person; or

(2) enter into any agreement to withhold from sale any of its property, or to repurchase any property sold by it. [1947 c 79 § .13.28; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.13.28.]

**48.13.290 Disposal of ineligible property or securities.** (1) Any ineligible personal property or securities acquired by an insurer may be required to be disposed of within the time not less than six months specified by order of the commissioner, unless before that time it attains the standard of eligibility, if retention of such property or securities would be contrary to the policyholders or public interest in that it tends to substantially lessen competition in the insurance business or threatens impairment of the financial condition of the insurer.

(2) Any personal property or securities acquired by an insurer contrary to RCW 48.13.270 shall be disposed of forthwith or within any period specified by order of the commissioner.

(3) Any property or securities ineligible only because of being excess of the amount permitted under this chapter to

be invested in the category to which it belongs shall be ineligible only to the extent of such excess. [1982 c 218 § 6; 1973 c 151 § 5; 1947 c 79 § .13.29; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.13.29.]

**Severability—1982 c 218:** See note following RCW 48.12.020.

**48.13.340 Authorization of investments.** No investment, loan, sale or exchange thereof shall, except as to the policy loans of a life insurer, be made by any domestic insurer unless authorized or approved by its board of directors or by a committee charged by the board of directors or the bylaws with the duty of making such investment, loan, sale or exchange. The minutes of any such committee shall be recorded and reports thereof shall be submitted to the board of directors for approval or disapproval. [1949 c 190 § 19; 1947 c 79 § .13.34; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 45.13.34.]

**48.13.350 Record of investments.** (1) As to each investment or loan of the funds of a domestic insurer a written record in permanent form showing the authorization thereof shall be made and signed by an officer of the insurer or by the chairman of such committee authorizing the investment or loan.

(2) As to each such investment or loan the insurer's records shall contain:

(a) In the case of loans: The name of the borrower; the location and legal description of the property; a physical description, and the appraised value of the security; the amount of the loan, rate of interest and terms of repayment.

(b) In the case of securities: The name of the obligor; a description of the security and the record of earnings; the amount invested, the rate of interest or dividend, the maturity and yield based upon the purchase price.

(c) In the case of real estate: The location and legal description of the property; a physical description and the appraised value; the purchase price and terms.

(d) In the case of all investments:

(i) The amount of expenses and commissions if any incurred on account of any investment or loan and by whom and to whom payable if not covered by contracts with mortgage loan representatives or correspondents which are part of the insurer's records.

(ii) The name of any officer or director of the insurer having any direct, indirect, or contingent interest in the securities or loan representing the investment, or in the assets of the person in whose behalf the investment or loan is made, and the nature of such interest. [1949 c 190 § 20; 1947 c 79 § .13.35; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 45.13.35.]

**48.13.360 Investments of foreign and alien insurers.** The investments of a foreign or alien insurer shall be as permitted by the laws of its domicile but shall be of a quality substantially as high as those required under this chapter for similar funds of like domestic insurers. [1947 c 79 § .13.36; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.13.36.]

**Chapter 48.14  
FEES AND TAXES**

Sections

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- 48.14.100 Foreign or alien insurers, continuing liability for taxes.

**48.14.010 Fee schedule.** (1) The commissioner shall collect in advance the following fees:

- (a) **For filing charter documents:**
  - (i) Original charter documents, bylaws or record of organization of insurers, or certified copies thereof, required to be filed \$250.00
  - (ii) Amended charter documents, or certified copy thereof, other than amendments of bylaws . . . . . \$ 10.00
  - (iii) No additional charge or fee shall be required for filing any of such documents in the office of the secretary of state.
- (b) **Certificate of authority:**
  - (i) Issuance . . . . . \$ 25.00
  - (ii) Renewal . . . . . \$ 25.00
- (c) **Annual statement of insurer, filing . . . . . \$ 20.00**
- (d) **Organization or financing of domestic insurers and affiliated corporations:**
  - (i) Application for solicitation permit, filing \$100.00
  - (ii) Issuance of solicitation permit . . . . . \$ 25.00
- (e) **Agents' licenses:**
  - (i) Agent's qualification licenses every two years . . . . . \$ 50.00
  - (ii) Filing of appointment of each such agent, every two years . . . . . \$ 20.00
  - (iii) Limited license issued pursuant to RCW 48.17.190, every two years . . . . . \$ 20.00
- (f) **Reinsurance intermediary licenses:**
  - (i) Reinsurance intermediary-broker, each year . . . . . \$ 50.00
  - (ii) Reinsurance intermediary-manager, each year . . . . . \$100.00
- (g) **Brokers' licenses:**
  - (i) Broker's license, every two years . . . . \$100.00
  - (ii) Surplus line broker, every two years . . \$200.00
- (h) **Solicitors' license, every two years . . . . . \$ 20.00**
- (i) **Adjusters' licenses:**
  - (i) Independent adjuster, every two years . . \$ 50.00
  - (ii) Public adjuster, every two years . . . . \$ 50.00
- (j) **Resident general agent's license, every two years . . . . . \$ 50.00**

- (k) **Managing general agent appointment, every two years** . . . . . \$200.00
- (l) **Examination for license, each examination:**  
All examinations, except examinations administered by an independent testing service, the fees for which are to be approved by the commissioner and collected directly by and retained by such independent testing service . . . . . \$ 20.00
- (m) **Miscellaneous services:**
  - (i) Filing other documents . . . . . \$ 5.00
  - (ii) Commissioner's certificate under seal . . \$ 5.00
  - (iii) Copy of documents filed in the commissioner's office, reasonable charge therefor as determined by the commissioner.

(2) All fees so collected shall be remitted by the commissioner to the state treasurer not later than the first business day following, and shall be placed to the credit of the general fund: PROVIDED, That fees for examinations administered by an independent testing service which are approved by the commissioner pursuant to subsection (1)(l) of this section shall be collected directly by such independent testing service and retained by it. [1994 c 131 § 2; 1993 c 462 § 57; 1988 c 248 § 7; 1981 c 111 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 269 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 182 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 241 § 8; 1967 c 150 § 12; 1955 c 303 § 4; 1947 c 79 § .14.01; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.14.01.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**Effective date, implementation—1979 ex.s. c 269:** "This act shall take effect on April 1, 1980. The insurance commissioner is authorized to immediately take such steps as are necessary to insure that this 1979 act is implemented on its effective date." [1979 ex.s. c 269 § 10.]

**48.14.020 Premium taxes.** (1) Subject to other provisions of this chapter, each authorized insurer except title insurers shall on or before the first day of March of each year pay to the state treasurer through the commissioner's office a tax on premiums. Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, such tax shall be in the amount of two percent of all premiums, excluding amounts returned to or the amount of reductions in premiums allowed to holders of industrial life policies for payment of premiums directly to an office of the insurer, collected or received by the insurer during the preceding calendar year other than ocean marine and foreign trade insurances, after deducting premiums paid to policyholders as returned premiums, upon risks or property resident, situated, or to be performed in this state. For the purposes of this section the consideration received by an insurer for the granting of an annuity shall not be deemed to be a premium.

(2) In the case of insurers which require the payment by their policyholders at the inception of their policies of the entire premium thereon in the form of premiums or premium deposits which are the same in amount, based on the character of the risks, regardless of the length of term for which such policies are written, such tax shall be in the amount of two percent of the gross amount of such premiums and premium deposits upon policies on risks resident, located, or to be performed in this state, in force as of the thirty-first day of December next preceding, less the unused or unabsorbed portion of such premiums and premium deposits computed at the average rate thereof actually paid or credited to policyholders or applied in part payment of any renewal premiums or premium deposits on one-year policies expiring during such year.

(3) Each authorized insurer shall with respect to all ocean marine and foreign trade insurance contracts written within this state during the preceding calendar year, on or before the first day of March of each year pay to the state treasurer through the commissioner's office a tax of ninety-five one-hundredths of one percent on its gross underwriting profit. Such gross underwriting profit shall be ascertained by deducting from the net premiums (i.e., gross premiums less all return premiums and premiums for reinsurance) on such ocean marine and foreign trade insurance contracts the net losses paid (i.e., gross losses paid less salvage and recoveries on reinsurance ceded) during such calendar year under such contracts. In the case of insurers issuing participating contracts, such gross underwriting profit shall not include, for computation of the tax prescribed by this subsection, the amounts refunded, or paid as participation dividends, by such insurers to the holders of such contracts.

(4) The state does hereby preempt the field of imposing excise or privilege taxes upon insurers or their agents, other than title insurers, and no county, city, town or other municipal subdivision shall have the right to impose any such taxes upon such insurers or their agents.

(5) If an authorized insurer collects or receives any such premiums on account of policies in force in this state which were originally issued by another insurer and which other insurer is not authorized to transact insurance in this state on its own account, such collecting insurer shall be liable for and shall pay the tax on such premiums. [1986 c 296 § 1; 1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 7; 1982 2nd ex.s. c 10 § 1; 1982 1st ex.s. c 35 § 15; 1979 ex.s. c 233 § 2; 1969 ex.s. c 241 § 9; 1947 c 79 § .14.02; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.14.02.]

**Severability—1986 c 296:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1986 c 296 § 11.]

**Application—1986 c 296 § 1:** "[The 1986 c 296 amendment of] RCW 48.14.020 applies to the payment of taxes due beginning July 1, 1986, and thereafter." [1986 c 296 § 12.]

**Effective date—1986 c 296:** "Section 7 of this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, the support of the state government and its existing institutions, and shall take effect immediately. The remainder of this act shall take effect July 1, 1986." [1986 c 296 § 13.] "Section 7 of this act" is the enactment of RCW 48.02.190, which took effect April 4, 1986.

**Construction—Severability—Effective dates—1983 2nd ex.s. c 3:** See notes following RCW 82.04.255.

**Payment of additional premium tax—1982 2nd ex.s. c 10:** "The additional premium tax payments required by the amendment of RCW 48.14.020 by section 1 of this act shall be paid to the state treasurer through the insurance commissioner's office on March 1, 1983. Thereafter the prepayment schedule provided by RCW 48.14.025 shall apply." [1982 2nd ex.s. c 10 § 2.]

**Severability—Effective dates—1982 1st ex.s. c 35:** See notes following RCW 82.08.020.

**Effective date—1979 ex.s. c 233:** "This 1979 amendatory act shall become effective beginning upon and after January 1, 1980." [1979 ex.s. c 233 § 4.]

**Intent—1979 ex.s. c 233:** "It is the intent of the legislature to eliminate existing tax discrimination between qualified and nonqualified pension plans which are effectuated by annuity contracts, by excluding the

consideration paid for such contracts from premiums subject to the premium tax." [1979 ex.s. c 233 § 1.]

**Severability—1979 ex.s. c 233:** "If any provision of this amendatory act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1979 ex.s. c 233 § 3.]

*Credit against premium tax for assessments paid pursuant to RCW 48.32.060(1)(c):* RCW 48.32.145.

*Portion of state taxes on fire insurance premiums to be deposited in firemen's pension fund:* RCW 41.16.050.  
*volunteer fire fighters' relief and pension principal and administrative funds:* RCW 41.24.030.

**48.14.0201 Premiums and prepayments tax—Health care services.** (1) As used in this section, "taxpayer" means a health maintenance organization, as defined in RCW 48.46.020, a health care service contractor, as defined in RCW 48.44.010, or a certified health plan certified under \*RCW 48.43.030.

(2) Each taxpayer shall pay a tax on or before the first day of March of each year to the state treasurer through the insurance commissioner's office. The tax shall be equal to the total amount of all premiums and prepayments for health care services received by the taxpayer during the preceding calendar year multiplied by the rate of two percent.

(3) Taxpayers shall prepay their tax obligations under this section. The minimum amount of the prepayments shall be percentages of the taxpayer's tax obligation for the preceding calendar year recomputed using the rate in effect for the current year. For the prepayment of taxes due during the first calendar year, the minimum amount of the prepayments shall be percentages of the taxpayer's tax obligation that would have been due had the tax been in effect during the previous calendar year. The tax prepayments shall be paid to the state treasurer through the commissioner's office by the due dates and in the following amounts:

- (a) On or before June 15, forty-five percent;
- (b) On or before September 15, twenty-five percent;
- (c) On or before December 15, twenty-five percent.

(4) For good cause demonstrated in writing, the commissioner may approve an amount smaller than the preceding calendar year's tax obligation as recomputed for calculating the health maintenance organization's, health care service contractor's, or certified health plan's prepayment obligations for the current tax year.

(5) Moneys collected under this section shall be deposited in the general fund through March 31, 1996, and in the health services account under RCW 43.72.900 after March 31, 1996.

(6) The taxes imposed in this section do not apply to:

(a) Amounts received by any taxpayer from the United States or any instrumentality thereof as prepayments for health care services provided under Title XVIII (medicare) of the federal social security act. This exemption shall expire July 1, 1997.

(b) Amounts received by any health care service contractor, as defined in RCW 48.44.010, as prepayments for health care services included within the definition of practice of dentistry under RCW 18.32.020. This exemption does not apply to amounts received under a certified health plan certified under \*RCW 48.43.030. [1993 sp.s. c 25 § 601; 1993 c 492 § 301.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 48.43.030 was repealed by 1995 c 265 § 27, effective July 1, 1995.

**Severability—Effective dates—Part headings, captions not law—1993 sp.s. c 25:** See notes following RCW 82.04.230.

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

**Short title—Severability—Savings—Captions not law—Reservation of legislative power—Effective dates—1993 c 492:** See RCW 43.72.910 through 43.72.915.

**48.14.021 Reduction of tax—Policies connected with pension, etc., plans exempt or qualified under internal revenue code.** As to premiums received from policies or contracts issued in connection with a pension, annuity or profit-sharing plan exempt or qualified under sections 401, 403(b), 404, 408(b), or 501(a) of the United States internal revenue code, the rate of tax specified in RCW 48.14.020 shall be reduced twelve and one-half percent with respect to the tax payable in 1964, twenty-five percent with respect to the tax payable in 1965, thirty-seven and one-half percent with respect to the tax payable in 1966, fifty percent with respect to the tax payable in 1967, sixty-two and one-half percent with respect to the tax payable in 1968, seventy-five percent with respect to the tax payable in 1969, eighty-seven and one-half percent with respect to the tax payable in 1970, and one hundred percent with respect to the tax payable in 1971 and annually thereafter. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 119 § 1; 1974 ex.s. c 132 § 1; 1963 c 166 § 1.]

**48.14.022 Taxes—Exemptions and deductions.** (1) The taxes imposed in RCW 48.14.020 and 48.14.0201 do not apply to premiums and prepayments collected or received for policies of insurance issued under RCW 48.41.010 through 48.41.210.

(2) In computing tax due under RCW 48.14.020 and 48.14.0201, there may be deducted from taxable premiums and prepayments the amount of any assessment against the taxpayer under RCW 48.41.010 through 48.41.210. Any portion of the deduction allowed in this section which cannot be deducted in a tax year without reducing taxable premiums below zero may be carried forward and deducted in successive years until the deduction is exhausted. [1995 c 304 § 1; 1987 c 431 § 23.]

**Effective date—1995 c 304:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately [May 9, 1995]." [1995 c 304 § 2.]

**Severability—1987 c 431:** See RCW 48.41.910.

*Business and occupation tax deductions:* RCW 82.04.4329.

**48.14.025 Prepayment of tax obligations under RCW 48.14.020.** (1) Every insurer with a tax obligation under RCW 48.14.020 shall make prepayment of the tax obligations under RCW 48.14.020 for the current calendar year's business, if the sum of the tax obligations under RCW 48.14.020 for the preceding calendar year's business is four hundred dollars or more.

(2) The commissioner shall credit the prepayment toward the appropriate tax obligations of the insurer for the current calendar year under RCW 48.14.020.

(3) The minimum amounts of the prepayments shall be percentages of the insurer's preceding calendar year's tax obligation recomputed using the rate in effect for the current

year and shall be paid to the state treasurer through the commissioner's office by the due dates and in the following amounts:

- (a) On or before June 15, forty-five percent;
- (b) On or before September 15, twenty-five percent; and
- (c) On or before December 15, twenty-five percent.

For good cause demonstrated in writing, the commissioner may approve an amount smaller than the preceding calendar year's tax obligation as recomputed for calculating the insurer's prepayment obligations.

(4) The effect of transferring policies of insurance from one insurer to another insurer is to transfer the tax prepayment obligation with respect to the policies.

(5) On or before June 1 of each year, the commissioner shall notify each insurer required to make prepayments in that year of the amount of each prepayment and shall provide remittance forms to be used by the insurer. However, an insurer's responsibility to make prepayments is not affected by failure of the commissioner to send, or the insurer to receive, the notice or forms. [1986 c 296 § 2; 1982 c 181 § 4; 1981 c 6 § 1.]

**Severability—Effective date—1986 c 296:** See notes following RCW 48.14.020.

**Severability—1982 c 181:** See note following RCW 48.03.010.

**48.14.027 Exemption for state health care premiums before July 1, 1990.** The taxes imposed in RCW 48.14.020 do not apply to premiums collected or received before July 1, 1990, for medical and dental coverage purchased under chapter 41.05 RCW. [1988 c 107 § 32.]

**Implementation—Effective dates—1988 c 107:** See RCW 41.05.901.

**48.14.030 Tax statement.** The insurer shall file with the commissioner as part of its annual statement a statement of premiums so collected or received according to such form as shall be prescribed and furnished by the commissioner. In every such statement the reporting of premiums for tax purposes shall be on a written basis or on a paid-for basis consistent with the basis required by the annual statement. [1947 c 79 § .14.03; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.14.03.]

**48.14.040 Retaliatory provision.** (1) If pursuant to the laws of any other state or country, any taxes, licenses, fees, deposits, or other obligations or prohibitions, in the aggregate, or additional to or at a net rate in excess of any such taxes, licenses, fees, deposits or other obligations or prohibitions imposed by the laws of this state upon like foreign or alien insurers and their agents and solicitors, are imposed on insurers of this state and their agents doing business in such other state or country, a like rate, obligation or prohibition may be imposed by the commissioner, as to any item or combination of items involved, upon all insurers of such other state or country and their agents doing business in this state, so long as such laws remain in force or are so applied.

(2) For the purposes of this section, an alien insurer may be deemed to be domiciled in the state wherein it has established its principal office or agency in the United States. If no such office or agency has been established, the domicile of the alien insurer shall be deemed to be the

country under the laws of which it is formed. [1988 c 248 § 8; 1949 c 190 § 21, part; 1947 c 79 § .14.04; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 45.14.04.]

**48.14.050 "Ocean marine and foreign trade insurances" defined.** For the purposes of this code other than as to chapter 48.19 RCW "ocean marine and foreign trade insurances" shall include only:

(1) Insurances upon vessels, crafts, hulls and of interests therein or with relation thereto;

(2) Insurance of marine builders' risks, marine war risks, and contracts of marine protection and indemnity insurance;

(3) Insurance of freights and disbursements pertaining to a subject of insurance coming within this definition;

(4) Insurance of personal property and interests therein, in course of exportation from or importation into any country, or in course of transportation coastwise, including transportation by land, water or air from point of origin to final destination, in respect to, appertaining to, or in connection with, any and all risks or perils of navigation, transit or transportation, and while being prepared for and while awaiting shipment, and during any delays, storage, transshipment or reshipment incident thereto. [1947 c 79 § .14.05; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.14.05.]

**48.14.060 Failure to pay tax—Penalty.** (1) Any insurer failing to file its tax statement and to pay the specified tax or prepayment of tax on premiums by the last day of the month in which the tax becomes due shall be assessed a penalty of five percent of the amount of the tax; and if the tax is not paid within forty-five days after the due date, the insurer shall be assessed a total penalty of ten percent of the amount of the tax; and if the tax is not paid within sixty days of the due date, the insurer shall be assessed a total penalty of twenty percent of the amount of the tax. In such event the tax may be collected by distraint, and the penalty recovered by any action instituted by the commissioner in any court of competent jurisdiction. The amount of any such penalty collected shall be paid to the state treasurer and credited to the general fund.

(2) At his discretion the commissioner may revoke the certificate of authority of any such delinquent insurer, such certificate of authority not to be reissued until all taxes, prepayments of tax, and penalties incurred by the insurer have been fully paid and the insurer has otherwise qualified for the certificate of authority. [1981 c 6 § 2; 1947 c 79 § .14.06; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.14.06.]

**48.14.070 Refunds.** In event any person has paid to the commissioner any tax, license fee or other charge in error or in excess of that which he is lawfully obligated to pay, the commissioner shall upon written request made to him make a refund thereof. A person may only request a refund of taxes within six years from the date the taxes were paid. A person may only request a refund of fees or charges other than taxes within thirteen months of the date the fees or charges were paid. Refunds may be made either by crediting the amount toward payment of charges due or to become due from such person, or by making a cash refund. To facilitate such cash refunds the commissioner may

establish a revolving fund out of funds appropriated by the legislature for his use. [1979 ex.s. c 130 § 2; 1947 c 79 § .14.07; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.14.07.]

**48.14.080 Premium tax in lieu of other forms.** As to insurers, other than title insurers and taxpayers under RCW 48.14.0201, the taxes imposed by this title shall be in lieu of all other taxes, except taxes on real and tangible personal property, excise taxes on the sale, purchase or use of such property, and the tax imposed in RCW 82.04.260(15). [1993 sp.s. c 25 § 602; 1993 c 492 § 302; 1949 c 190 § 21, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 45.14.08.]

**Severability—Effective dates—Part headings, captions not law—1993 sp.s. c 25:** See notes following RCW 82.04.230.

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.72.005.

**Short title—Severability—Savings—Captions not law—Reservation of legislative power—Effective dates—1993 c 492:** See RCW 43.72.910 through 43.72.915.

**48.14.090 Determining amount of direct premium taxable in this state.** In determining the amount of direct premium taxable in this state, all such premiums written, procured, or received in this state shall be deemed written upon risks or property resident, situated, or to be performed in this state except such premiums as are properly allocated or apportioned and reported as taxable premiums of any other state or states. [1963 c 195 § 14.]

**48.14.100 Foreign or alien insurers, continuing liability for taxes.** Any foreign or alien insurer authorized to do business in this state which hereafter either withdraws from the state or has its certificate of authority suspended or revoked shall continue to pay premium taxes pursuant to this chapter as to policies upon risks or property resident, situated, or to be performed in this state, which policies were issued during the time the insurer was authorized in this state. [1963 c 195 § 15.]

## Chapter 48.15

### UNAUTHORIZED INSURERS

#### Sections

48.15.020	Solicitation by unauthorized insurer prohibited—Personal liability.
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48.15.040	"Surplus line" coverage.
48.15.050	Endorsement of contract.
48.15.060	Validity of contracts.
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48.15.150	Legal process against surplus line insurer.
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48.15.170	Records of insureds—Inspection.

**48.15.020 Solicitation by unauthorized insurer prohibited—Personal liability.** (1) An insurer not thereunto authorized by the commissioner shall not solicit insurance

business in this state, nor transact insurance business in this state except as provided in this chapter.

(2)(a) No person shall, in this state, represent an unauthorized insurer except as provided in this chapter. This provision shall not apply to any adjuster or attorney at law representing such an insurer from time to time in this state in his or her professional capacity.

(b) A person, other than a duly licensed surplus line broker acting in good faith under his or her license, who makes a contract of insurance in this state, directly or indirectly, on behalf of an unauthorized insurer, without complying with the provisions of this chapter, is personally liable for the performance of such contract.

(3) Each violation of this section shall constitute a separate offense punishable by a fine of not more than twenty-five thousand dollars, and the commissioner, at the commissioner's discretion, may order replacement of policies improperly placed with an unauthorized insurer with policies issued by an authorized insurer. Violations may result in suspension or revocation of a license. [1992 c 149 § 1; 1983 1st ex.s. c 32 § 3; 1980 c 102 § 2; 1947 c 79 § .15.02; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.15.02.]

#### 48.15.030 Validity of contracts illegally effectuated.

A contract of insurance effectuated by an unauthorized insurer in violation of the provisions of this code shall be voidable except at the instance of the insurer. [1947 c 79 § .15.03; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.15.03.]

**48.15.040 "Surplus line" coverage.** If certain insurance coverages cannot be procured from authorized insurers, such coverages, hereinafter designated as "surplus lines," may be procured from unauthorized insurers subject to the following conditions:

(1) The insurance must be procured through a licensed surplus line broker.

(2) The insurance must not be procurable, after diligent effort has been made to do so from among a majority of the insurers authorized to transact that kind of insurance in this state.

(3) Coverage shall not be procured from an unauthorized insurer for the purpose of securing a lower premium rate than would be accepted by any authorized insurer nor to secure any other competitive advantage.

(4) The commissioner may by regulation establish the degree of effort required to comply with subsections (2) and (3) of this section.

(5) At the time of the procuring of any such insurance an affidavit setting forth the facts referred to in subsections (2) and (3) of this section must be executed by the surplus line broker. Such affidavit shall be filed with the commissioner within thirty days after the insurance is procured. [1983 1st ex.s. c 32 § 4; 1947 c 79 § .15.04; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.15.04.]

**48.15.050 Endorsement of contract.** Every insurance contract procured and delivered as a surplus line coverage pursuant to this chapter shall have stamped upon it and be initialed by or bear the name of the surplus line broker who procured it, the following:

"This contract is registered and delivered as a surplus line coverage under the insurance code of the state of Washington, enacted in 1947." [1947 c 79 § .15.05; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.15.05.]

**48.15.060 Validity of contracts.** Insurance contracts procured as surplus line coverage from unauthorized insurers in accordance with this chapter shall be fully valid and enforceable as to all parties, and shall be given recognition in all matters and respects to the same effect as like contracts issued by authorized insurers. [1947 c 79 § .15.06; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.15.06.]

**48.15.070 Surplus line brokers—Licensing.** Any individual while a resident of this state, or any firm or any corporation that has in its employ a qualified individual who is a resident of this state and who is authorized to exercise the powers of the firm or corporation, deemed by the commissioner to be competent and trustworthy, and while maintaining an office at a designated location in this state, may be licensed as a surplus line broker in accordance with this section.

(1) Application to the commissioner for the license shall be made on forms furnished by the commissioner.

(2) The license shall expire if not timely renewed. Surplus line brokers licenses shall be valid for the time period established by the commission unless suspended or revoked at an earlier date.

(3) Prior to issuance of license the applicant shall file with the commissioner a bond in favor of the state of Washington in the penal sum of twenty thousand dollars, with authorized corporate sureties approved by the commissioner, conditioned that he will conduct business under the license in accordance with the provisions of this chapter and that he will promptly remit the taxes provided by RCW 48.15.120. The licensee shall maintain such bond in force for as long as the license remains in effect.

(4) Every applicant for a surplus line broker's license or for the renewal of a surplus line broker's license shall file with the application or request for renewal a bond in favor of the people of the state of Washington, executed by an authorized corporate surety approved by the commissioner, in the amount of one hundred thousand dollars and shall be the bonding requirement for new licensees. The licensee shall maintain such bond in force while so licensed. The bond may be continuous in form, and total aggregate liability on the bond may be limited to the amount stated in the bond. The bond shall be contingent on the accounting by the surplus line broker to any person requesting such broker to obtain insurance, for moneys or premiums collected in connection therewith. A bond issued in accordance with RCW 48.17.250 or with this subsection will satisfy the requirements of both RCW 48.17.250 and this subsection if the limit of liability is not less than the greater of the requirement of RCW 48.17.250 or the requirement of this subsection.

(5) Any bond issued pursuant to subsection (3) or (4) of this section shall remain in force until the surety is released from liability by the commissioner, or until the bond is canceled by the surety. Without prejudice to any liability accrued prior to such cancellation, the surety may cancel the

bond upon thirty days' advance notice in writing filed with the commissioner.

(6) For the purposes of this section, a "qualified individual" is a natural person who has met all the requirements that must be met by an individual surplus line broker. [1994 c 131 § 3; 1983 1st ex.s. c 32 § 24; 1982 c 181 § 5; 1981 c 199 § 1; 1980 c 102 § 3; 1979 ex.s. c 130 § 3; 1977 ex.s. c 182 § 2; 1959 c 225 § 4; 1947 c 79 § .15.07; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.15.07.]

**Severability—1982 c 181:** See note following RCW 48.03.010.

**48.15.080 Broker may accept business.** A licensed surplus line broker may accept and place surplus line business for any insurance agent or broker licensed in this state for the kind of insurance involved, and may compensate such agent or broker therefor. [1947 c 79 § .15.08; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.15.08.]

**48.15.085 Liability of insurer assuming direct risk.**

(1) If pursuant to the surplus lines provisions of this chapter an insurer has assumed direct risk under a coverage and the premium therefor has been paid to the broker who placed such insurance, the insurer shall be liable to the insured for unearned premiums payable upon cancellation of the insurance, whether or not the broker is indebted to the insurer for such premium or otherwise. This provision shall not affect rights as between the insurer and the broker.

(2) Each such insurer shall be deemed to have subjected itself to this section by acceptance of such direct risk. [1959 c 225 § 5.]

**48.15.090 Solvent insurer required.** (1) A surplus line broker shall not knowingly place surplus line insurance with insurers unsound financially. The surplus line broker shall ascertain the financial condition of the unauthorized insurer, and maintain written evidence thereof, before placing insurance therewith. The surplus line broker shall not so insure with:

(a) Any foreign insurer having less than six million dollars of capital and surplus or substantially equivalent capital funds, of which not less than one million five hundred thousand dollars is capital; or

(b) Any alien insurer having less than six million dollars of capital and surplus or substantially equivalent capital funds. By January 1, 1992, this requirement shall be increased to twelve million five hundred thousand dollars. By January 1, 1993, this requirement shall be further increased to fifteen million dollars. Such alien insurers must have in force in the United States an irrevocable trust account, in a qualified United States financial institution, on behalf of United States policyholders of not less than two million five hundred thousand dollars and consisting of cash, securities, letters of credit, or of investments of substantially the same character and quality as those which are eligible investments for the capital and statutory reserves of admitted insurers authorized to write like kinds of insurance in this state. There must be on file with the commissioner a copy of the trust, certified by the trustee, evidencing a subsisting trust deposit having an expiration date which at no time shall be less than five years after the date of creation of the trust.

Such trust fund shall be included in the calculation of the insurer's capital and surplus or its equivalents; or

(c) Any group including incorporated and individual insurers maintaining a trust fund of less than fifty million dollars as security to the full amount thereof for all policyholders in the United States of each member of the group, and such trust shall likewise comply with the terms and conditions established in (b) of this subsection for an alien insurer; or

(d) Any insurance exchange created by the laws of an individual state, maintaining capital and surplus, or substantially equivalent capital funds of less than fifty million dollars in the aggregate. For insurance exchanges which maintain funds for the protection of all insurance exchange policyholders, each individual syndicate shall maintain minimum capital and surplus, or the substantial equivalent thereof, of not less than six million dollars. In the event the insurance exchange does not maintain funds for the protection of all insurance exchange policyholders, each individual syndicate shall meet the minimum capital and surplus requirements of (a) of this subsection.

(2) The commissioner may, by rule:

(a) Increase the financial requirements under subsection (1) of this section by not more than one million dollars in any twelve-month period, but in no case may the requirements exceed fifteen million dollars; or

(b) Prescribe the terms under which the foregoing financial requirements may be waived in circumstances where insurance cannot be otherwise procured on risks located in this state.

(3) For any violation of this section the surplus line broker may be fined not less than one hundred dollars or more than five thousand dollars, and in addition to or in lieu thereof the surplus line broker's license may be revoked, suspended, or nonrenewed. [1994 c 86 § 2; 1991 sp.s. c 5 § 2; 1980 c 102 § 4; 1975 1st ex.s. c 266 § 6; 1969 ex.s. c 241 § 10; 1955 c 303 § 5; 1947 c 79 § .15.09; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.15.09.]

**Effective date—1994 c 86:** See note following RCW 48.12.160.

**Effective date—1991 sp.s. c 5:** See note following RCW 48.05.340.

**Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 266:** See note following RCW 48.01.010.

**48.15.100 Record of surplus line broker.** (1) Each licensed surplus line broker shall keep a full and true record of each surplus line contract procured by him including a copy of the daily report, if any, showing such of the following items as may be applicable:

(a) Amount of the insurance;

(b) Gross premiums charged;

(c) Return premium paid, if any;

(d) Rate of premium charged upon the several items of property;

(e) Effective date of the contract, and the terms thereof;

(f) Name and address of the insurer;

(g) Name and address of the insured;

(h) Brief general description of property insured and where located;

(i) Other information as may be required by the commissioner.

(2) All such records as to any particular transaction shall be kept available and open to the inspection of the commissioner at any business time during the five years next following the date of completion of such transaction. [1955 c 303 § 6; 1947 c 79 § .15.10; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.15.10.]

**48.15.110 Broker's annual statement.** (1) Each surplus line broker shall on or before the first day of March of each year file with the commissioner a verified statement of all surplus line insurance transacted by him during the preceding calendar year.

(2) The statement shall be on forms as prescribed and furnished by the commissioner and shall show:

(a) Aggregate of net premiums;

(b) Additional information as required by the commissioner. [1955 c 303 § 7; 1947 c 79 § .15.11; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.15.11.]

**48.15.120 Premium tax—Surplus lines.** (1) On or before the first day of March of each year each surplus line broker shall remit to the state treasurer through the commissioner a tax on the premiums, exclusive of sums collected to cover federal and state taxes and examination fees, on surplus line insurance subject to tax transacted by him during the preceding calendar year as shown by his annual statement filed with the commissioner, and at the same rate as is applicable to the premiums of authorized foreign insurers under this code. Such tax when collected shall be credited to the general fund.

(2) If a surplus line policy covers risks or exposures only partially in this state the tax so payable shall be computed upon the proportion of the premium which is properly allocable to the risks or exposures located in this state. [1947 c 79 § .15.12; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.15.12.]

**48.15.130 Penalty for default.** If any surplus line broker fails to file his annual statement, or fails to remit the tax provided by RCW 48.15.120, by the last day of the month in which the tax becomes due, the surplus line broker shall pay the penalties provided in RCW 48.14.060. The tax may be collected by distraint, or the tax and fine may be recovered by an action instituted by the commissioner in any court of competent jurisdiction. Any fine collected by the commissioner shall be paid to the state treasurer and credited to the general fund. [1983 1st ex.s. c 32 § 5; 1980 c 102 § 5; 1947 c 79 § .15.13; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.15.13.]

**48.15.140 Revocation, suspension, or failure to renew broker's license.** (1) The commissioner may revoke, suspend, or refuse to renew any surplus line broker's license:

(a) If the surplus line broker fails to file his annual statement or to remit the tax as required by this chapter; or

(b) If the surplus line broker fails to maintain an office in this state, or to keep the records, or to allow the commissioner to examine his records as required by this chapter; or

(c) For any of the causes for which a broker's license may be revoked under chapter 48.17 RCW.

(2) The commissioner may suspend or revoke any such license whenever he deems suspension or revocation to be for the best interests of the people of this state.



(3) The procedures provided by this code for the suspension or revocation of general brokers' licenses shall be applicable to suspension or revocation of a surplus line broker's license.

(4) No broker whose license has been so revoked shall again be so licensed within one year thereafter, nor until any fines or delinquent taxes owing by him have been paid. [1980 c 102 § 6; 1947 c 79 § .15.14; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.15.14.]

**48.15.150 Legal process against surplus line insurer.**

(1) An unauthorized insurer shall be sued, upon any cause of action arising in this state under any contract issued by it as a surplus line contract, pursuant to this chapter, in the superior court of the county in which the cause of action arose.

(2) Service of legal process against the insurer may be made in any such action by service upon the commissioner of duplicate copies of such legal process either by a person competent to serve a summons or by registered mail or certified mail with return receipt requested. At the time of such service the plaintiff shall pay to the commissioner ten dollars, taxable as costs in the action. The commissioner shall forthwith mail the documents of process served, or a true copy thereof, to the insurer at its principal place of business last known to the commissioner, or to the person designated by the insurer for that purpose in the most recent document filed with the commissioner, on forms prescribed by the commissioner, by prepaid registered or certified mail with return receipt requested. The insurer shall have forty days from the date of service upon the commissioner within which to plead, answer, or otherwise defend the action. Upon service of process upon the commissioner in accordance with this provision, the court shall be deemed to have jurisdiction in personam of the insurer.

(3) An unauthorized insurer issuing such policy shall be deemed thereby to have authorized service of process against it in the manner and to the effect as provided in this section. Any such policy shall contain a provision designating the commissioner as the person upon whom service of process may be made. [1979 ex.s. c 199 § 4; 1963 c 195 § 16; 1955 c 303 § 8; 1947 c 79 § .15.15; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.15.15.]

**48.15.160 Exemptions from surplus line requirements.** (1) The provisions of this chapter controlling the placing of insurance with unauthorized insurers shall not apply to reinsurance or to the following insurances when so placed by licensed agents or brokers of this state:

- (a) Ocean marine and foreign trade insurances.
- (b) Insurance on subjects located, resident, or to be performed wholly outside of this state, or on vehicles or aircraft owned and principally garaged outside this state.
- (c) Insurance on operations of railroads engaged in transportation in interstate commerce and their property used in such operations.

(d) Insurance of aircraft owned or operated by manufacturers of aircraft, or of aircraft operated in schedule interstate flight, or cargo of such aircraft, or against liability, other than workers' compensation and employer's liability, arising out of the ownership, maintenance or use of such aircraft.

(2) Agents and brokers so placing any such insurance with an unauthorized insurer shall keep a full and true record of each such coverage in detail as required of surplus line insurance under this chapter and shall meet the requirements imposed upon a surplus line broker pursuant to RCW 48.15.090 and any regulations adopted thereunder. The record shall be preserved for not less than five years from the effective date of the insurance and shall be kept available in this state and open to the examination of the commissioner. The agent or broker shall furnish to the commissioner at the commissioner's request and on forms as designated and furnished by him or her a report of all such coverages so placed in a designated calendar year. [1987 c 185 § 23; 1985 c 264 § 5; 1949 c 190 § 22; 1947 c 79 § .15.16; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 45.15.16.]

**Intent—Severability—1987 c 185:** See notes following RCW 51.12.130.

**48.15.170 Records of insureds—Inspection.** Every person for whom insurance has been placed with an unauthorized insurer pursuant to or in violation of this chapter shall, upon the commissioner's order, produce for his examination all policies and other documents evidencing the insurance, and shall disclose to the commissioner the amount of the gross premiums paid or agreed to be paid for the insurance. For each refusal to obey such order, such person shall be liable to a fine of not more than five hundred dollars. [1947 c 79 § .15.17; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.15.17.]

**Chapter 48.16**

**DEPOSITS OF INSURERS**

Sections

- 48.16.010 Deposits of insurers—In general.
- 48.16.020 Deposits to be held in trust.
- 48.16.030 Securities eligible for deposit.
- 48.16.050 Commissioner's receipt—Records.
- 48.16.060 Transfer of securities.
- 48.16.070 Depositories—Designation.
- 48.16.080 Liability for safekeeping.
- 48.16.090 Dividends and substitutions.
- 48.16.100 Release of deposits—Generally.
- 48.16.110 Release of existing deposits.
- 48.16.120 Voluntary excess deposits.
- 48.16.130 Immunity from levy.

**48.16.010 Deposits of insurers—In general.** The commissioner shall accept deposits of securities or funds by insurers as follows:

- (1) Deposits in amount as required to be made as prerequisite to a certificate of authority to transact insurance in this state.
- (2) Deposits of domestic or alien insurers in amount as required to be made by the laws of other states as prerequisite for authority to transact insurance in such other states.
- (3) Deposits in amounts as result from application of the retaliatory provision, RCW 48.14.040.
- (4) Deposits in other additional amounts permitted to be made by this code. [1955 c 86 § 3; 1947 c 79 § .16.01; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.16.01.]

**Effective date—Supervision of transfer—1955 c 86:** See notes following RCW 48.05.080.

**48.16.020 Deposits to be held in trust.** Each such deposit shall be held by the commissioner in trust for the protection of all policyholders in the United States of the insurer making it; except that deposits of alien insurers shall be so held for the security of such insurer's obligations arising out of its insurance transactions in the United States, and except as to deposits the purpose of which may be further limited pursuant to the retaliatory provision, RCW 48.14.040. [1955 c 86 § 4; 1947 c 79 § .16.02; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.16.02.]

**Effective date—Supervision of transfer—1955 c 86:** See notes following RCW 48.05.080.

**48.16.030 Securities eligible for deposit.** All such deposits shall consist of cash funds or public obligations as specified in RCW 48.13.040; except, that with respect to deposits held on account of registered policies heretofore issued, the commissioner may accept deposit of such other kinds of securities as are expressly required to be deposited by the terms of such policies. [1955 c 86 § 5; 1947 c 79 § .16.03; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.16.03.]

**Effective date—Supervision of transfer—1955 c 86:** See notes following RCW 48.05.080.

**48.16.050 Commissioner's receipt—Records.** (1) The commissioner shall deliver to the insurer a receipt for all funds and securities so deposited by it.

(2) The commissioner or the designated depository shall keep a record in permanent form of all funds and securities so deposited. [1955 c 86 § 6; 1947 c 79 § .16.05; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.16.05.]

**Effective date—Supervision of transfer—1955 c 86:** See notes following RCW 48.05.080.

**48.16.060 Transfer of securities.** (1) No transfer of any funds or security so held on deposit, whether voluntary or by operation of law, shall be valid unless approved in writing by the commissioner.

(2) A statement of each such transfer shall be entered on the records of the commissioner or designated depository, showing the name of the insurer from whose deposit such transfer is made, the name of the transferee, and the par value of the securities so transferred. [1955 c 86 § 7; 1947 c 79 § .16.06; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.16.06.]

**Effective date—Supervision of transfer—1955 c 86:** See notes following RCW 48.05.080.

**48.16.070 Depositories—Designation.** The commissioner may designate any solvent trust company or other solvent financial institution having trust powers domiciled in this state, as the commissioner's depository to receive and hold any deposit of securities. Any deposit so held shall be at the expense of the insurer. Any solvent financial institution domiciled in this state, the deposits of which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation, may be designated as the commissioner's depository to receive and hold any deposit of funds. All funds deposited shall be fully insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation. [1985 c 264 § 6;

1955 c 86 § 8; 1947 c 79 § .16.07; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.16.07.]

**Effective date—Supervision of transfer—1955 c 86:** See notes following RCW 48.05.080.

**48.16.080 Liability for safekeeping.** The state of Washington shall be responsible for the safekeeping and return of all funds and securities deposited pursuant to this chapter with the commissioner or in any such depository so designated by him. [1955 c 86 § 9; 1947 c 79 § .16.08; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.16.08.]

**Effective date—Supervision of transfer—1955 c 86:** See notes following RCW 48.05.080.

**48.16.090 Dividends and substitutions.** While solvent and complying with this code an insurer shall be entitled:

(1) To collect and receive interest and dividends accruing on the securities so held on deposit for its account, and

(2) From time to time exchange and substitute for any of such securities, other securities eligible for deposit and of at least equal value. [1947 c 79 § .16.09; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.16.09.]

**48.16.100 Release of deposits—Generally.** (1) Any such required deposit shall be released in these instances only:

(a) Upon extinguishment of all liabilities of the insurer for the security of which the deposit is held, by reinsurance contract or otherwise.

(b) If any such deposit or portion thereof is no longer required under this code.

(c) If the deposit has been made pursuant to the retaliatory provision, RCW 48.14.040, it shall be released in whole or in part when no longer so required.

(d) Upon proper order of a court of competent jurisdiction the deposit shall be released to the receiver, conservator, rehabilitator, or liquidator of the insurer for whose account the deposit is held.

(2) No such release shall be made except on application to and written order of the commissioner made upon proof satisfactory to him of the existence of one of such grounds therefor. The commissioner shall have no personal liability for any such release of any deposit or part thereof so made by him in good faith.

(3) All releases of deposits or any part thereof shall be made to the person then entitled thereto upon proof of title satisfactory to the commissioner.

(4) Deposits held on account of title insurers are subject further to the provisions of chapter 48.29 RCW. [1947 c 79 § .16.10; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.16.10.]

**48.16.110 Release of existing deposits.** Any part of any deposit of an insurer held by the commissioner which is in amount in excess of the deposit required or permitted to be made by such insurer under this code, shall, upon written order of the commissioner, be released; except, that no deposit held on account of any registered policies heretofore issued by the insurer shall be released except in accordance with the conditions under which such deposit was made.

[1955 c 86 § 10; 1947 c 79 § .16.11; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.16.11.]

**Effective date—Supervision of transfer—1955 c 86:** See notes following RCW 48.05.080.

**48.16.120 Voluntary excess deposits.** An insurer may deposit and maintain on deposit with the commissioner funds and eligible securities in amount exceeding its required deposit under this code by not more than one hundred thousand dollars, for the purpose of absorbing fluctuations in the value of securities held in its required deposit, and to facilitate the exchange and substitution of such required securities. During the solvency of the insurer any such excess deposit or any part thereof shall be released to it upon its request. During the insolvency of the insurer such excess deposit shall be released only as provided in RCW 48.16.100. [1955 c 86 § 11; 1947 c 79 § .16.12; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.16.12.]

**Effective date—Supervision of transfer—1955 c 86:** See notes following RCW 48.05.080.

**48.16.130 Immunity from levy.** No judgment creditor or other claimant of an insurer shall levy upon any deposit held pursuant to this chapter, or upon any part thereof. [1947 c 79 § .16.13; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.16.13.]

## Chapter 48.17

### AGENTS, BROKERS, SOLICITORS, AND ADJUSTERS

#### Sections

- 48.17.010 "Agent" defined.
- 48.17.020 "Broker" defined.
- 48.17.030 "Solicitor" defined.
- 48.17.040 Service representatives.
- 48.17.050 "Adjuster" defined.
- 48.17.055 "Insurance education provider" defined.
- 48.17.060 License required—Exceptions—Penalty.
- 48.17.065 Application of chapter to health care service contractors and health maintenance organizations.
- 48.17.070 General qualifications for license.
- 48.17.090 Application for license.
- 48.17.100 One filing of personal data sufficient.
- 48.17.110 Examination of applicants.
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- 48.17.150 Agent's and broker's qualifications—Continuing education requirements.
- 48.17.160 Appointment of agents—Revocation—Expiration—Renewal.
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- 48.17.550 Duration of suspension.
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- 48.17.563 Insurance education providers—Commissioner's approval—Renewal fee.
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*Agent on commission not subject to unemployment compensation: RCW 50.04.230.*

*Binders: RCW 48.18.230.*

*Illegal inducements: RCW 48.30.150.*

*Independent agency contract: Chapter 48.18 RCW.*

*Rebating: RCW 48.30.140.*

*"Twisting" prohibited: RCW 48.30.180.*

*Unfair practices: Chapter 48.30 RCW.*

**48.17.010 "Agent" defined.** "Agent" means any person appointed by an insurer to solicit applications for insurance on its behalf. If authorized so to do, an agent may effectuate insurance contracts. An agent may collect premiums on insurances so applied for or effectuated. [1985 c 264 § 7; 1981 c 339 § 9; 1947 c 79 § .17.01; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.01.]

**48.17.020 "Broker" defined.** "Broker" means any person who, on behalf of the insured, for compensation as an independent contractor, for commission, or fee, and not being an agent of the insurer, solicits, negotiates, or procures insurance or reinsurance or the renewal or continuance thereof, or in any manner aids therein, for insureds or prospective insureds other than himself. [1947 c 79 § .17.02; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.02.]

**48.17.030 "Solicitor" defined.** "Solicitor" means an individual authorized by an agent or broker to solicit applications for insurance as a representative of such agent or broker and to collect premiums in connection therewith. An individual employed by, and devoting full time to clerical work with incidental taking of insurance applications and receiving premiums in the office of the agent or broker is not deemed to be a solicitor if his compensation is not related to the volume of such applications, insurances, or premiums. [1947 c 79 § .17.03; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.03.]

**48.17.040 Service representatives.** Individuals other than an officer, manager, or general agent of the insurer,

employed on salary by an insurer or general agent to work with and assist agents in soliciting, negotiating, and effectuating insurance in such insurer or in the insurers represented by the general agent, are deemed to be service representatives and are not required to be licensed. [1947 c 79 § .17.04; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.04.]

**48.17.050 "Adjuster" defined.** (1) "Adjuster" means any person who, for compensation as an independent contractor or as an employee of an independent contractor, or for fee or commission, investigates or reports to his principal relative to claims arising under insurance contracts, on behalf solely of either the insurer or the insured. An attorney at law who adjusts insurance losses from time to time incidental to the practice of his profession, or an adjuster of marine losses, or a salaried employee of an insurer or of a general agent, is not deemed to be an "adjuster" for the purposes of this chapter.

(2) "Independent adjuster" means such an adjuster representing the interests of the insurer.

(3) "Public adjuster" means an adjuster employed by and representing solely the financial interests of the insured named in the policy. [1947 c 79 § .17.05; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.05.]

**48.17.055 "Insurance education provider" defined.** "Insurance education provider" means any insurer, health care service contractor, health maintenance organization, professional association, educational institution created by Washington statutes, or vocational school licensed under Title 28C RCW or independent contractor to which the commissioner has granted authority to conduct and certify completion of a course satisfying the insurance education requirements of RCW 48.17.150. [1989 c 323 § 2.]

**Effective date—1989 c 323:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect July 1, 1989." [1989 c 323 § 8.]

**48.17.060 License required—Exceptions—Penalty.** (1) No person shall in this state act as or hold himself out to be an agent, broker, solicitor, or adjuster unless then licensed therefor by this state.

(2) No agent, solicitor, or broker shall solicit or take applications for, procure, or place for others any kind of insurance for which he is not then licensed.

(3) This section shall not apply with respect to any person securing and forwarding information required for the purposes of group credit life and credit disability insurance or credit casualty insurance against loss or damage resulting from failure of debtors to pay their obligations in connection with an extension of credit and such other credit life and disability insurance or credit casualty insurance against loss or damage resulting from failure of debtors to pay their obligations as the commissioner shall determine, and where no commission or other compensation is payable on account of the securing and forwarding of such information. However, the reimbursement of a creditor's actual expenses for securing and forwarding information required for the purposes of such group insurance shall not be considered a commission or other compensation if such reimbursement

does not exceed three dollars per certificate issued, or in the case of a monthly premium plan extending beyond twelve months, not to exceed three dollars per loan transaction revision per year.

(4) Any person violating this section shall be liable to a fine of not to exceed five hundred dollars and imprisonment for not to exceed six months for each instance of such violation. [1995 c 214 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 266 § 7; 1955 c 303 § 9; 1947 c 79 § .17.06; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.06.]

**Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 266:** See note following RCW 48.01.010.

**48.17.065 Application of chapter to health care service contractors and health maintenance organizations.** The provisions of this chapter shall apply to agents of health care service contractors and health maintenance organizations. [1983 c 202 § 7.]

**48.17.070 General qualifications for license.** For the protection of the people of this state the commissioner shall not issue or renew any such license except in compliance with this chapter, nor to, nor to be exercised by, any person found by him to be untrustworthy, or incompetent, or who has not established to the satisfaction of the commissioner that he is qualified therefor in accordance with this chapter. [1947 c 79 § .17.07; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.07.]

**48.17.090 Application for license.** (1) Application for any such license shall be made to the commissioner upon forms as prescribed and furnished by him. As a part of or in connection with any such application the applicant shall furnish information concerning his identity, including his fingerprints, personal history, experience, business record, purposes, and other pertinent facts, as the commissioner may reasonably require.

(2) Any person wilfully misrepresenting any fact required to be disclosed in any such application shall be liable to penalties as provided by this code.

(3) If in the process of verifying fingerprints, business records, or other information the commissioner's office incurs fees or charges from another governmental agency or from a business firm, the amount of such fees or charges shall be paid to the commissioner's office by the applicant and shall be considered the recovery of a previous expenditure. [1982 c 181 § 6; 1981 c 339 § 10; 1967 c 150 § 15; 1947 c 79 § .17.09; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.09.]

**Severability—1982 c 181:** See note following RCW 48.03.010.

**48.17.100 One filing of personal data sufficient.** (1) The filing of personal data by an individual in connection with one application for an agent's license shall be sufficient, regardless of the number of insurers to be represented by the agent or the number of subsequent applications by the same applicant.

(2) The commissioner may, for his information from time to time require any licensed agent, or solicitor, or broker, or adjuster, to supply him with the information called for in an application for license. [1947 c 79 § .17.10; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.10.]

**48.17.110 Examination of applicants.** (1) Each applicant for license as an agent, broker, solicitor, or adjuster shall, prior to the issuance of any such license, personally take and pass to the satisfaction of the examining authority, an examination given as a test of that person's qualifications and competence, but this requirement shall not apply to:

(a) Applicants for limited licenses under RCW 48.17.190, at the discretion of the commissioner.

(b) Applicants who within the two year period next preceding date of application have been licensed as a resident in this state under a license requiring qualifications similar to qualifications required by the license applied for or who have successfully completed a course of study recognized as a mark of distinction by the insurance industry and who are deemed by the commissioner to be fully qualified and competent.

(c) Applicants for license as a nonresident agent or as a nonresident broker or as a nonresident adjuster who are duly licensed in their state of residence and who are deemed by the commissioner to be fully qualified and competent for a similar license in this state.

(d) Applicants for an agent's or solicitor's license covering the same kinds of insurance as an agent's or solicitor's license then held by them.

(e) Applicants for an adjuster's license who for a period of one year, a portion of which was in the year next preceding the date of application, have been a full time salaried employee of an insurer or of a general agent to adjust, investigate, or report claims arising under insurance contracts.

(2) Any person licensed as an insurance broker by this state prior to June 8, 1967, who is otherwise qualified to be a licensed insurance broker, shall be entitled to renew that person's broker's license by payment of the applicable fee for such of the broker's licenses authorized by RCW 48.17.240, as that person shall elect, without taking any additional examination, except as provided in subsection (3).

(3) The commissioner may at any time require any licensed agent, broker, solicitor, or adjuster to take and successfully pass an examination testing the licensee's competence and qualifications as a condition to the continuance or renewal of a license, if the licensee has been guilty of violation of this code, or has so conducted affairs under an insurance license as to cause the commissioner reasonably to desire further evidence of the licensee's qualifications. [1990 1st ex.s. c 3 § 2; 1977 ex.s. c 182 § 3; 1967 c 150 § 16; 1965 ex.s. c 70 § 19; 1963 c 195 § 17; 1955 c 303 § 10; 1949 c 190 § 23; 1947 c 79 § .17.11; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 45.17.11.]

**48.17.120 Scope of examinations.** (1) Each such examination shall be of sufficient scope and difficulty to test the applicant's knowledge relative to the kinds of insurance which may be dealt with under the license applied for, and of the duties and responsibilities of, and laws of this state applicable to, such a licensee, and so as reasonably to assure that a passing score indicates that the applicant is qualified from the standpoint of knowledge and education.

(2) Examination as to ocean marine and related coverages may be waived by the commissioner as to any

applicant deemed by the commissioner to be qualified by past experience to deal in such insurances.

(3) The commissioner shall prepare, or approve, and make available to insurers, general agents, brokers, agents, and applicants a printed manual specifying in general terms the subjects which may be covered in any examination for a particular license. [1989 c 323 § 6; 1981 c 111 § 2; 1967 c 150 § 17; 1955 c 303 § 11; 1947 c 79 § .17.12; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.12.]

**Effective date—1989 c 323:** See note following RCW 48.17.055.

**48.17.125 Examination questions—Confidentiality—Penalties.** It is unlawful for any unauthorized person to remove, reproduce, duplicate, or distribute in any form, any question(s) used by the state of Washington to determine the qualifications and competence of insurance agents, brokers, solicitors, or adjusters required by Title 48 RCW to be licensed. This section shall not prohibit an insurance education provider from creating and using sample test questions in courses approved pursuant to RCW 48.17.150.

Any person violating this section shall be subject to penalties as provided by RCW 48.01.080 and 48.17.560. [1989 c 323 § 1.]

**Effective date—1989 c 323:** See note following RCW 48.17.055.

**48.17.130 Examinations—Form, time of, fee.** (1) The answers of the applicant to any such examination shall be written by the applicant under the examining authority's supervision, and any such written examination may be supplemented by oral examination at the discretion of the examining authority.

(2) Examinations shall be given at such times and places within this state as the examining authority deems necessary reasonably to serve the convenience of both the examining authority and applicants.

(3) The examining authority may require a waiting period of reasonable duration before giving a new examination to an applicant who has failed to pass a previous similar examination.

(4) For each examination taken, the commissioner shall collect in advance the fee provided in RCW 48.14.010. In the event the commissioner contracts with an independent testing service for examination development and administration, the examination fee may be collected directly by such testing service. [1981 c 111 § 3; 1967 c 150 § 18; 1947 c 79 § .17.13; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.13.]

**48.17.150 Agent's and broker's qualifications—Continuing education requirements.** (1) To qualify for an agent's or broker's license an applicant must otherwise comply with this code therefor and must

(a) be eighteen years of age or over, if an individual;

(b) be a bona fide resident of and actually reside in this state, or if a corporation, be other than an insurer and maintain a lawfully established place of business in this state, except as provided in RCW 48.17.330;

(c) be empowered to be an agent or broker, as the case may be, under its members' agreement, if a firm, or by its articles of incorporation, if a corporation;

(d) complete such minimum educational requirements for the issuance of an agent's license for the kinds of

insurance specified in RCW 48.17.210 as may be required by regulation issued by the commissioner;

(e) successfully pass any examination as required under RCW 48.17.110;

(f) be a trustworthy person;

(g) if for an agent's license, be appointed as its agent by one or more authorized insurers, subject to issuance of the license; and

(h) if for broker's license, have had at least two years experience either as an agent, solicitor, adjuster, general agent, broker, or as an employee of insurers or representatives of insurers, and special education or training of sufficient duration and extent reasonably to satisfy the commissioner that he possesses the competence necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of broker.

(2) The commissioner shall by regulation establish minimum continuing education requirements for the renewal or reissuance of a license to an agent or a broker: PROVIDED, That the commissioner shall require that continuing education courses will be made available on a state-wide basis in order to ensure that persons residing in all geographical areas of this state will have a reasonable opportunity to attend such courses. The continuing education requirements shall be appropriate to the license for the kinds of insurance specified in RCW 48.17.210: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the continuing education requirements may be waived by the commissioner for good cause shown.

(3) If the commissioner finds that the applicant is so qualified and that the license fee has been paid, the license shall be issued. Otherwise, the commissioner shall refuse to issue the license. [1994 c 131 § 4; 1988 c 248 § 9; 1979 ex.s. c 269 § 7; 1971 ex.s. c 292 § 47; 1967 c 150 § 19; 1961 c 194 § 4; 1947 c 79 § .17.15; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.15.]

**Effective date, implementation—1979 ex.s. c 269:** See note following RCW 48.14.010.

**Severability—1971 ex.s. c 292:** See note following RCW 26.28.010.

**48.17.160 Appointment of agents—Revocation—Expiration—Renewal.** (1) Each insurer on appointing an agent in this state shall file written notice thereof with the commissioner on forms as prescribed and furnished by the commissioner, and shall pay the filing fee therefor as provided in RCW 48.14.010. The commissioner shall return the appointment of agent form to the insurer for distribution to the agent. The commissioner may adopt regulations establishing alternative appointment procedures for individuals within licensed firms, corporations, or sole proprietorships who are empowered to exercise the authority conferred by the firm, corporate, or sole proprietorship license.

(2) Each appointment shall be effective until the agent's license expires or is revoked, the appointment has expired, or written notice of termination of the appointment is filed with the commissioner, whichever occurs first.

(3) When the appointment is revoked by the insurer, written notice of such revocation shall be given to the agent and a copy of the notice of revocation shall be mailed to the commissioner.

(4) Revocation of an appointment by the insurer shall be deemed to be effective as of the date designated in the notice as being the effective date if the notice is actually received

by the agent prior to such designated date; otherwise, as of the earlier of the following dates:

(a) The date such notice of revocation was received by the agent.

(b) The date such notice, if mailed to the agent at his last address of record with the insurer, in due course should have been received by the agent.

(5) Appointments expire if not timely renewed. Each insurer shall pay the renewal fee set forth for each agent holding an appointment on the renewal date assigned the agents of the insurer by the commissioner. The commissioner, by rule, shall determine renewal dates. If a staggered system is used, fees shall be prorated in the conversion to a staggered system. [1994 c 131 § 5; 1990 1st ex.s. c 3 § 3; 1979 ex.s. c 269 § 2; 1967 c 150 § 20; 1959 c 225 § 6; 1955 c 303 § 13; 1947 c 79 § .17.16; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.16.]

**Effective date, implementation—1979 ex.s. c 269:** See note following RCW 48.14.010.

**48.17.170 Form and content of licenses.** Agents', solicitors', adjusters' and brokers' licenses shall be in the form and contain the essential information prescribed by the commissioner. [1979 ex.s. c 269 § 3; 1947 c 79 § .17.17; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.17.]

**Effective date, implementation—1979 ex.s. c 269:** See note following RCW 48.14.010.

**48.17.180 Licenses to firms and corporations.** (1) A firm or corporation may be licensed as an agent, adjuster, or broker if each individual empowered to exercise the authority conferred by the corporate or firm license is also licensed. Exercise or attempted exercise of the powers of the firm or corporation by an unlicensed person, with the knowledge or consent of the firm or corporation, shall constitute cause for the revocation or suspension of the license.

(2) Licenses shall be issued in a trade name only upon proof satisfactory to the commissioner that the trade name has been lawfully registered.

(3) For the purpose of this section, a firm shall include a duly licensed individual acting as a sole proprietorship having associated licensees authorized to act on the proprietor's behalf in the proprietor's business or trade name. [1990 1st ex.s. c 3 § 4; 1979 ex.s. c 269 § 4; 1947 c 79 § .17.18; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.18.]

**Effective date, implementation—1979 ex.s. c 269:** See note following RCW 48.14.010.

*Title insurance agents, separate licenses for individuals not required: RCW 48.29.170.*

**48.17.190 Limited licenses.** The commissioner may issue limited licenses to the following:

(1) Persons selling transportation tickets of a common carrier of persons or property who shall act as such agents only as to transportation ticket policies of disability insurance or baggage insurance on personal effects.

(2) Compensated master policyholders of credit life and credit accident and health insurance and credit casualty insurance against loss or damage resulting from failure of debtors to pay their obligations, retail dealers compensated

by any such master policyholders, or the authorized representative(s) of either.

(3) Persons selling special or unique policies of insurance covering goods sold or leased from a primary business or activity other than the transaction of insurance or covering collateral securing loans from a primary business or activity other than the transaction of insurance if, in the commissioner's discretion, such limited license would safeguard and promote the public interest. [1995 c 214 § 2; 1979 c 138 § 1; 1967 c 150 § 21; 1947 c 79 § .17.19; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.19.]

**48.17.200 One license required by agent.** An agent is required to have but one license regardless of the number of appointments by insurers the agent may have. [1979 ex.s. c 269 § 5; 1955 c 303 § 14; 1947 c 79 § .17.20; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.20.]

**Effective date, implementation—1979 ex.s. c 269:** See note following RCW 48.14.010.

**48.17.210 Minimum license combinations.** Except as provided in RCW 48.17.190, an agent's license shall not be issued unless it includes, and the applicant is qualified for, one or more of the following kinds of insurance:

- (1) Casualty.
- (2) Disability.
- (3) Life.
- (4) Marine and transportation.
- (5) Property.
- (6) Surety.
- (7) Vehicle. [1947 c 79 § .17.21; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.21.]

**48.17.230 Agent placing rejected business.** A licensed agent appointed by an insurer as to life or disability insurances may, if with the knowledge and consent of such insurer, place any portion of a life or disability risk which has been rejected by such insurer, with other authorized insurers without being licensed as to such other insurers. Any agent so placing rejected business becomes the agent for the company issuing the insurance with respect to that business just as if it had appointed such person as its agent. [1988 c 248 § 10; 1947 c 79 § .17.23; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.23.]

**48.17.240 Scope of broker's license.** A broker's license may be issued to cover the following lines of insurance:

- (a) All lines of insurance; or
- (b) All lines except life, which shall be designated as a casualty-property broker's license; or
- (c) Life and disability only. [1967 c 150 § 22; 1947 c 79 § .17.24; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.24.]

**48.17.250 Broker's bond.** (1) Every applicant for a broker's license or for the renewal of a broker's license existing on the effective date of this code shall file with the application or request for renewal and shall thereafter maintain in force while so licensed a bond in favor of the people of the state of Washington, executed by an authorized corporate surety approved by the commissioner, in the

amount of twenty thousand dollars. If the applicant is a firm or corporation, the bond shall be in the amount of twenty thousand dollars plus five thousand dollars for the second and five thousand dollars for each additional individual empowered and designated in the license to exercise the powers conferred thereby. The bond may be continuous in form, and total aggregate liability on the bond may be limited to the required amount of the bond. The bond shall be contingent on the accounting by the broker to any person requesting the broker to obtain insurance, for moneys or premiums collected in connection therewith.

(2) Any such bond shall remain in force until the surety is released from liability by the commissioner, or until the bond is canceled by the surety. Without prejudice to any liability accrued prior to such cancellation, the surety may cancel the bond upon thirty days advance notice in writing filed with the commissioner. [1979 ex.s. c 269 § 8; 1977 ex.s. c 182 § 4; 1947 c 79 § .17.25; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.25.]

**Effective date, implementation—1979 ex.s. c 269:** See note following RCW 48.14.010.

**48.17.260 Broker's authority—Commissions.** (1) A broker, as such, is not an agent or other representative of an insurer, and does not have power, by his own acts, to bind the insurer upon any risk or with reference to any insurance contract.

(2) An insurer or agent shall have the right to pay to a broker licensed under this code, or under the laws of any other state or province, and such broker shall have the right to receive from the insurer or agent, the customary commissions upon insurances placed in the insurer by the broker. [1949 c 190 § 24; 1947 c 79 § .17.26; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 45.17.26.]

**48.17.270 Agent-broker combinations—Compensation—Disclosure.** (1) A licensed agent may be licensed as a broker and be a broker as to insurers for which the licensee is not then appointed as agent. A licensed broker may be licensed as and be an agent as to insurers appointing such agent. The sole relationship between a broker and an insurer as to which the licensee is appointed as an agent shall, as to transactions arising during the existence of such agency appointment, be that of insurer and agent.

(2) Unless the agency-insurer agreement provides to the contrary, an insurance agent licensed as a broker may, with respect to property and casualty insurance, receive the following compensation:

- (a) A commission paid by the insurer;
- (b) A fee paid by the insured; or
- (c) A combination of commission paid by the insurer and a fee paid by the insured from which a broker may offset or reimburse the insured for all or part of the fee.

If the compensation received by an agent who is also licensed as a broker and who is dealing directly with the insured includes a fee, the full amount of compensation, including an explanation of any offset or reimbursement, must be disclosed in writing, signed by the broker and the insured, and the writing must be retained by the broker for not less than five years. [1994 c 203 § 1; 1993 c 455 § 1;

1981 c 339 § 13; 1947 c 79 § .17.27; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.27.]

**48.17.280 Solicitor's qualifications.** The commissioner shall license as a solicitor an individual only who meets the following requirements:

- (1) Is a resident of this state.
- (2) Intends to and does make the soliciting and handling of insurance business under his license his principal vocation.
- (3) Is to represent and be employed by but one licensed agent or broker.
- (4) Has passed any examination as required under this chapter.
- (5) Is otherwise qualified under this code. [1947 c 79 § .17.28; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.28.]

**48.17.290 Solicitor's license—Application.** The commissioner shall issue a solicitor's license only upon application by the applicant and the request of the agent or broker to be represented, upon such forms as the commissioner shall prescribe and furnish. [1947 c 79 § .17.29; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.29.]

**48.17.300 Solicitor's license fee—Custody—Cancellation.** (1) The fee for issuance or renewal of a solicitor's license shall be paid by the agent or broker by whom the solicitor is employed.

(2) The solicitor's license shall be delivered to and shall remain in the possession of the employing agent or broker. Upon termination of such employment, the license shall likewise terminate and shall be returned to the commissioner for cancellation. [1947 c 79 § .17.30; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.30.]

**48.17.310 Limitations upon solicitors.** (1) A solicitor's license shall not cover any kind of insurance for which the agent or broker by whom he is employed is not then licensed.

(2) A solicitor shall not have power to bind an insurer upon or with reference to any risk or insurance contract, or to countersign insurance contracts.

(3) Any individual while licensed as a solicitor shall not be licensed as an agent or broker. [1947 c 79 § .17.31; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.31.]

**48.17.320 Responsibility of employing agent or broker.** All business transacted by a solicitor under his license shall be in the name of the agent or broker by whom he is employed and the agent or broker shall be responsible for all acts or omissions of the solicitor within the scope of such employment. [1947 c 79 § .17.32; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.32.]

**48.17.330 Nonresident agents and brokers—Reciprocity.** (1) The commissioner may license as an agent or as a broker, a person who is otherwise qualified therefor under this code but who is not a resident of or domiciled in this state, if by the laws of the state or province of his

residence or domicile a similar privilege is extended to residents of or corporations domiciled in this state.

(2) Any such licensee shall be subject to the same obligations and limitations, and to the commissioner's supervision as though resident or domiciled in this state, subject to RCW 48.14.040.

(3) No such person shall be so licensed unless he files the power of attorney provided for in RCW 48.17.340, and, if a corporation, it must have complied with the laws of this state governing the admission of foreign corporations. [1973 1st ex.s. c 107 § 1; 1955 c 303 § 28; 1947 c 79 § .17.33; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.33.]

**Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 107:** "If any provision of this 1973 amendatory act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1973 1st ex.s. c 107 § 5.]

**48.17.340 Service of process against nonresident agent or broker.** (1) Each licensed nonresident agent or broker shall appoint the commissioner as his attorney to receive service of legal process issued against the agent or broker in this state upon causes of action arising within this state. Service upon the commissioner as attorney shall constitute effective legal service upon the agent or broker.

(2) The appointment shall be irrevocable for as long as there could be any cause of action against the agent or broker arising out of his insurance transactions in this state.

(3) Duplicate copies of such legal process against such agent or broker shall be served upon the commissioner either by a person competent to serve a summons, or through registered mail. At the time of such service the plaintiff shall pay to the commissioner ten dollars, taxable as costs in the action.

(4) Upon receiving such service, the commissioner shall forthwith send one of the copies of the process, by registered mail with return receipt requested, to the defendant agent or broker at his last address of record with the commissioner.

(5) The commissioner shall keep a record of the day and hour of service upon him of all such legal process. No proceedings shall be had against the defendant agent or broker, and such defendant shall not be required to appear, plead, or answer until the expiration of forty days after the date of service upon the commissioner. [1981 c 339 § 14; 1947 c 79 § .17.34; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.34.]

**48.17.380 Adjusters—Qualifications for license.** The commissioner shall license as an adjuster only an individual, firm, or corporation which has otherwise complied with this code therefor and the individual or responsible officer of the firm or corporation has furnished evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that he is qualified as follows:

- (1) Is eighteen or more years of age.
- (2) Is a bona fide resident of this state, or is a resident of a state which will permit residents of this state to act as adjusters in such other state.
- (3) Is a trustworthy person.
- (4) Has had experience or special education or training with reference to the handling of loss claims under insurance contracts, of sufficient duration and extent reasonably to make him competent to fulfill the responsibilities of an adjuster.



(5) Has successfully passed any examination as required under this chapter.

(6) If for a public adjuster's license, has filed the bond required by RCW 48.17.430. [1981 c 339 § 15; 1971 ex.s. c 292 § 48; 1947 c 79 § .17.38; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.38.]

**Severability—1971 ex.s. c 292:** See note following RCW 26.28.010.

**48.17.390 Adjusters—Separate licenses.** The commissioner may license an individual, firm, or corporation as an independent adjuster or as a public adjuster, and separate licenses shall be required for each type of adjuster. An individual, firm, or corporation may be concurrently licensed under separate licenses as an independent adjuster and as a public adjuster. The full license fee shall be paid for each such license. [1981 c 339 § 16; 1947 c 79 § .17.39; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.39.]

**48.17.410 Authority of adjuster.** An adjuster shall have authority under his license only to investigate or report to his principal upon claims as limited under RCW 48.17.050 on behalf only of the insurers if licensed as an independent adjuster, or on behalf only of insureds if licensed as a public adjuster. An adjuster licensed concurrently as both an independent and a public adjuster shall not represent both the insurer and the insured in the same transaction. [1947 c 79 § .17.41; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.41.]

**48.17.420 Agent may adjust—Nonresident adjusters.** (1) On behalf of and as authorized by an insurer for which he is licensed as agent, an agent may from time to time act as an adjuster and investigate and report upon claims without being required to be licensed as an adjuster.

(2) No license by this state shall be required of a nonresident independent adjuster, for the adjustment in this state of a single loss, or of losses arising out of a catastrophe common to all such losses. [1947 c 79 § .17.42; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.42.]

**48.17.430 Public adjuster's bond.** (1) Prior to the issuance of a license as public adjuster, the applicant therefor shall file with the commissioner and shall thereafter maintain in force while so licensed a surety bond in favor of the people of the state of Washington, executed by an authorized corporate surety approved by the commissioner, in the amount of five thousand dollars. The bond may be continuous in form, and total aggregate liability on the bond may be limited to the payment of five thousand dollars. The bond shall be contingent on the accounting by the adjuster to any insured whose claim he is handling, for moneys or any settlement received in connection therewith.

(2) Any such bond shall remain in force until the surety is released from liability by the commissioner, or until canceled by the surety. Without prejudice to any liability accrued prior to cancellation, the surety may cancel a bond upon thirty days advance notice in writing filed with the commissioner.

(3) Such bond shall be required of any adjuster acting as a public adjuster as of the effective date of this code, or thereafter under any unexpired license heretofore issued.

[1977 ex.s. c 182 § 5; 1947 c 79 § .17.43; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.43.]

**48.17.450 Place of business.** (1) Every licensed agent, broker, and adjuster, other than an agent licensed for life or disability insurances only, shall have and maintain in this state, or, if a nonresident agent or nonresident broker, in this state or in the state of the licensee's domicile, a place of business accessible to the public. Such place of business shall be that wherein the agent or broker principally conducts transactions under that person's licenses. The address of the licensee's place of business shall appear on all of that person's licenses, and the licensee shall promptly notify the commissioner of any change thereof. A licensee maintaining more than one place of business in this state shall obtain a duplicate license or licenses for each additional such place, and shall pay the full fee therefor.

(2) Any notice, order, or written communication from the commissioner to a person licensed under this chapter which directly affects the person's license shall be sent by mail to the person's last residential address, if an individual, and to the person's last business address, if licensed as a firm or corporation, as such address is shown in the commissioner's licensing records. A licensee shall promptly notify the commissioner of any change of residential or business address. [1990 1st ex.s. c 3 § 5; 1988 c 248 § 11; 1953 c 197 § 6; 1947 c 79 § .17.45; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.45.]

**48.17.460 Display of license.** (1) The license or licenses of each agent, other than licenses as to life or disability insurances only, or of each broker or adjuster shall be displayed in a conspicuous place in that part of his place of business which is customarily open to the public.

(2) The license of a solicitor shall be so displayed in the place of business of the agent or broker by whom he is employed. [1947 c 79 § .17.46; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.46.]

**48.17.470 Records of agents, brokers, adjusters.** (1) Every agent, or broker, or adjuster shall keep at his address as shown on his license, a record of all transactions consummated under his license. This record shall be in organized form and shall include:

(a) If an agent or broker,

(i) a record of each insurance contract procured, issued, or countersigned, together with the names of the insurers and insureds, the amount of premium paid or to be paid, and a statement of the subject of the insurance;

(ii) the names of any other licensees from whom business is accepted, and of persons to whom commissions or allowances of any kind are promised or paid.

(b) If an adjuster, a record of each investigation or adjustment undertaken or consummated, and a statement of any fee, commission, or other compensation received or to be received by the adjuster on account of such investigation or adjustment.

(c) Such other and additional information as shall be customary, or as may reasonably be required by the commissioner.

(2) All such records as to any particular transaction shall be kept available and open to the inspection of the commissioner at any business time during the five years immediately after the date of the completion of such transaction.

(3) This section shall not apply as to life or disability insurances. [1947 c 79 § .17.47; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.47.]

**48.17.475 Licensee to reply promptly to inquiry by commissioner.** Every insurance agent, broker, adjuster, or other person licensed under this chapter shall promptly reply in writing to an inquiry of the commissioner relative to the business of insurance. [1967 c 150 § 13.]

**48.17.480 Reporting and accounting for premiums.** (1) An agent or any other representative of an insurer involved in the procuring or issuance of an insurance contract shall report to the insurer the exact amount of consideration charged as premium for such contract, and such amount shall likewise be shown in the contract and in the records of the agent. Each wilful violation of this provision shall constitute a misdemeanor.

(2) All funds representing premiums or return premiums received by an agent, solicitor or broker, shall be so received in his or her fiduciary capacity, and shall be promptly accounted for and paid to the insured, insurer, or agent as entitled thereto.

(3) Any person licensed under this chapter who receives funds which belong to or should be paid to another person as a result of or in connection with an insurance transaction is deemed to have received the funds in a fiduciary capacity. The licensee shall promptly account for and pay the funds to the person entitled to the funds.

(4) Any agent, solicitor, broker, adjuster or other person licensed under this chapter who, not being lawfully entitled thereto, diverts or appropriates funds received in a fiduciary capacity or any portion thereof to his or her own use, shall be guilty of larceny by embezzlement, and shall be punished as provided in the criminal statutes of this state. [1988 c 248 § 12; 1947 c 79 § .17.48; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.48.]

**48.17.490 Sharing commissions.** (1) No agent, general agent, solicitor, or broker shall compensate or offer to compensate in any manner any person other than an agent, general agent, solicitor, or broker, licensed in this or any other state or province, for procuring or in any manner helping to procure applications for or to place insurance in this state. This provision shall not prohibit the payment of compensation not contingent upon volume of business transacted, in the form of salaries to the regular employees of such agent, general agent, solicitor or broker, or the payment for services furnished by an unlicensed person who does not participate in the transaction of insurance in any way requiring licensing as an agent, solicitor, broker, or adjuster and who is not compensated on any basis dependent upon a sale of insurance being made.

(2) No such licensee shall be promised or allowed any compensation on account of the procuring of applications for or the placing of kinds of insurance which he himself is not then licensed to procure or place.

(3) The commissioner shall suspend or revoke the licenses of all licensees participating in any violation of this section. [1988 c 248 § 13; 1947 c 79 § .17.49; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.49.]

**48.17.500 Expiration and renewal of licenses.** (1) All agents' licenses issued by the commissioner shall be valid for the time period established by the commissioner unless:

(a) Suspended or revoked; or

(b) The licensee ceases to hold a valid appointment by an insurer.

(2) All brokers', solicitors', and adjusters' licenses shall be valid for the time period established by the commissioner unless suspended or revoked at an earlier date.

(3) The commissioner, by rule, shall determine renewal dates for licenses of all agents, brokers, solicitors, and adjusters. If a staggered system is used, fees shall be prorated in the conversion to a staggered system.

(4) Subject to the right of the commissioner to suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew any agent's, broker's, solicitor's, or adjuster's license as provided in this code, any such license may be renewed into another like period by filing with the commissioner on or before the expiration date a written request, by or on behalf of the licensee, for such renewal accompanied by payment of the renewal fee as specified in RCW 48.14.010. An agent or broker shall make and file renewal requests on behalf of his solicitors.

If the request and fee for renewal of an agent's, broker's, solicitor's, or adjuster's license is filed with the commissioner prior to expiration of the existing license, the licensee may continue to act under such license, unless sooner revoked or suspended, until the issuance of a renewal license or until the expiration of fifteen days after the commissioner has refused to renew the license and has mailed order of such refusal to the licensee. Any request for renewal not so filed until after date of expiration may be considered by the commissioner as an application for a new license.

(5) As to all licenses, if request for renewal of an agent's license or appointment or broker's, solicitor's, or adjuster's license or payment of the fee is not received by the commissioner prior to the expiration date as required under subsection (4) of this section, the insurer or applicant for renewal shall pay to the commissioner and the commissioner shall collect, in addition to the regular fee, a surcharge as follows: For the first thirty days or part thereof of delinquency the surcharge shall be fifty percent of the fee; for all delinquencies extending more than thirty days, the surcharge shall be one hundred percent of the fee. This subsection shall not be deemed to exempt any person from any penalty provided by law for transacting business without a valid and subsisting license or appointment, or affect the commissioner's right, at his discretion, to consider such delinquent application as one for a new license or appointment. [1979 ex.s. c 269 § 6; 1977 ex.s. c 182 § 6; 1965 ex.s. c 70 § 20; 1957 c 193 § 9; 1953 c 197 § 7; 1947 c 79 § .17.50; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.50.]

**Effective date, implementation—1979 ex.s. c 269:** See note following RCW 48.14.010.

**48.17.510 Temporary licenses.** (1) The commissioner may issue an agent's or broker's temporary license in the following circumstances:

(a) To the surviving spouse or next of kin or to the administrator or executor, or the employee of the administrator or executor, of a licensed agent or broker becoming deceased.

(b) To the spouse, next of kin, employee, or legal guardian of a licensed agent or broker becoming disabled because of sickness, insanity, or injury.

(c) To a surviving member of a firm or surviving officer or employee of a corporation licensed as agent or broker upon the death of an individual designated in the firm or corporation's license to exercise powers thereunder.

(2) An individual to be eligible for any such temporary license must be qualified as for a permanent license except as to experience, training, or the taking of any examination.

(3) Any fee paid to the commissioner for issuance of a temporary license as specified in RCW 48.14.010 shall be credited toward the fee required for a permanent license which is issued to replace the temporary license prior to the expiration of such temporary license. [1982 c 181 § 7; 1955 c 303 § 15; 1953 c 197 § 8; 1947 c 79 § .17.51; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.51.]

**Severability—1982 c 181:** See note following RCW 48.03.010.

**48.17.520 Temporary licenses—Duration—Limitations.** (1) No such temporary license shall be effective for more than ninety days in any twelve month period, subject to extension for an additional period of not more than ninety days at the commissioner's discretion and for good cause shown. The commissioner may refuse so to license again any person who has previously been so licensed.

(2) An individual requesting temporary agent's license on account of death or disability of an agent, shall not be so licensed for any insurer as to which such agent was not licensed at the time of death or commencement of disability. [1985 c 264 § 8; 1953 c 197 § 9; 1947 c 79 § .17.52; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 47.17.52.]

**48.17.530 Refusal, suspension, revocation of licenses.** (1) The commissioner may suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue or renew any license which is issued or may be issued under this chapter or any surplus line broker's license for any cause specified in any other provision of this code, or for any of the following causes:

(a) For any cause for which issuance of the license could have been refused had it then existed and been known to the commissioner.

(b) If the licensee or applicant wilfully violates or knowingly participates in the violation of any provision of this code or any proper order or regulation of the commissioner.

(c) If the licensee or applicant has obtained or attempted to obtain any such license through wilful misrepresentation or fraud, or has failed to pass any examination required under this chapter.

(d) If the licensee or applicant has misappropriated or converted to his own use or has illegally withheld moneys required to be held in a fiduciary capacity.

(e) If the licensee or applicant has, with intent to deceive, materially misrepresented the terms or effect of any insurance contract; or has engaged or is about to engage in any fraudulent transaction.

(f) If the licensee or applicant has been guilty of "twisting," as defined in RCW 48.30.180, or of rebating, as defined in chapter 48.30 RCW.

(g) If the licensee or applicant has been convicted, by final judgment, of a felony.

(h) If the licensee or applicant has shown himself to be, and is so deemed by the commissioner, incompetent, or untrustworthy, or a source of injury and loss to the public.

(i) If the licensee has dealt with, or attempted to deal with, insurances, or to exercise powers relative to insurance outside the scope of his licenses.

(2) If any natural person named under a firm or corporate license, or application therefor, commits or has committed any act or fails or has failed to perform any duty which is a ground for the commissioner to revoke, suspend or refuse to issue or renew the license or application for license, the commissioner may revoke, suspend, refuse to renew, or refuse to issue:

(a) The license, or application therefor, of the corporation or firm; or

(b) The right of the natural person to act thereunder; or

(c) Any other license held or applied for by the natural person; or

(d) He may take all such steps.

(3) Any conduct of an applicant or licensee which constitutes ground for disciplinary action under this code shall be deemed such ground notwithstanding that such conduct took place in another state.

(4) The holder of any license which has been revoked or suspended shall surrender the license certificate to the commissioner at the commissioner's request. [1973 1st ex.s. c 152 § 2; 1969 ex.s. c 241 § 11; 1967 c 150 § 23; 1947 c 79 § .17.53; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.53.]

**Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 152:** See note following RCW 48.05.140.

**48.17.540 Procedure to suspend, revoke, or refuse—Effect of conviction of felony.** (1) The commissioner may revoke or refuse to renew any license issued under this chapter, or any surplus line broker's license, immediately and without hearing, upon sentencing of the licensee for conviction of a felony by final judgment of any court of competent jurisdiction, if the facts giving rise to such conviction demonstrate the licensee to be untrustworthy to maintain any such license.

(2) The commissioner may suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew any such license:

(a) By an order served by mail or personal service upon the licensee not less than fifteen days prior to the effective date thereof, subject to the right of the licensee to have a hearing as provided in RCW 48.04.010; or

(b) By an order on hearing made as provided in chapter 34.05 RCW, the Administrative Procedure Act, effective not less than ten days after the date of the service of the order, subject to the right of the licensee to appeal to the superior court.

(3) The commissioner may temporarily suspend such license by an order served by mail or by personal service

upon the licensee not less than three days prior to the effective date thereof, provided the order contains a notice of revocation and includes a finding that the public safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action. Such suspension shall continue only until proceedings for revocation are concluded. The commissioner also may temporarily suspend such license in cases where proceedings for revocation are pending if he or she finds that the public safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action.

(4) Service by mail under this section shall mean posting in the United States mail, addressed to the licensee at the most recent address shown in the commissioner's licensing records for the licensee. Service by mail is complete upon deposit in the United States mail. [1990 1st ex.s. c 3 § 6; 1989 c 175 § 113; 1988 c 248 § 14; 1982 c 181 § 8; 1973 1st ex.s. c 107 § 2; 1967 c 150 § 24; 1947 c 79 § .17.54; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.54.]

**Effective date—1989 c 175:** See note following RCW 34.05.010.

**Severability—1982 c 181:** See note following RCW 48.03.010.

**Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 107:** See note following RCW 48.17.330.

**48.17.550 Duration of suspension.** Every order suspending any such license shall specify the period during which suspension will be effective, and which period shall in no event exceed twelve months. [1947 c 79 § .17.55; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.55.]

**48.17.560 Fines may be imposed.** After hearing or upon stipulation by the licensee or insurance education provider, and in addition to or in lieu of the suspension, revocation, or refusal to renew any such license or insurance education provider approval, the commissioner may levy a fine upon the licensee or insurance education provider. (1) For each offense the fine shall be an amount not more than one thousand dollars. (2) The order levying such fine shall specify that the fine shall be fully paid not less than fifteen nor more than thirty days from the date of the order. (3) Upon failure to pay any such fine when due, the commissioner shall revoke the licenses of the licensee or the approval(s) of the insurance education provider, if not already revoked. The fine shall be recovered in a civil action brought on behalf of the commissioner by the attorney general. Any fine so collected shall be paid by the commissioner to the state treasurer for the account of the general fund. [1989 c 323 § 3; 1975 1st ex.s. c 266 § 8; 1967 c 150 § 25; 1947 c 79 § .17.56; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.17.56.]

**Effective date—1989 c 323:** See note following RCW 48.17.055.

**Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 266:** See note following RCW 48.01.010.

**48.17.563 Insurance education providers—Commissioner's approval—Renewal fee.** (1) The commissioner may require insurance education providers to furnish specific information regarding their curricula, faculty, methods of monitoring attendance, and other matters reasonably related to providing insurance education under this chapter. The commissioner may grant approvals to such providers who demonstrate the ability to conduct and certify completion of one or more courses satisfying the insurance education requirements of RCW 48.17.150.

(2) Provider and course approvals are valid for the time period established by the commissioner and shall expire if not timely renewed. Each provider shall pay the renewal fee set forth in RCW 48.14.010(1)(n).

(3) In granting approvals for courses required by RCW 48.17.150(1)(d):

(a) The commissioner may require the availability of a licensed agent with appropriate experience on the premises whenever instruction is being offered; and

(b) The commissioner shall not deny approval to any provider on the grounds that the proposed method of education employs nontraditional teaching techniques, such as substituting taped lectures for live instruction, offering instruction without fixed schedules, or providing education at individual learning rates. [1994 c 131 § 6; 1989 c 323 § 7.]

**Effective date—1989 c 323:** See note following RCW 48.17.055.

**48.17.565 Insurance education providers—Violations—Costs awarded.** If an investigation of any provider culminates in a finding by the commissioner or by any court of competent jurisdiction, that the provider has failed to comply with or has violated any statute or regulation pertaining to insurance education, the provider shall pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such investigation.

(1) The commissioner shall calculate such expenses and render a bill therefor by registered mail to the provider. Within thirty days after receipt of such bill, the provider shall pay the full amount to the commissioner. The commissioner shall transmit such payment to the state treasurer. The state treasurer shall credit the payment to the office of the insurance commissioner regulatory account, treating such payment as recovery of a prior expenditure.

(2) In any action brought under this section, if the insurance commissioner prevails, the court may award to the office of the insurance commissioner all costs of the action, including a reasonable attorneys' fee to be fixed by the court. [1989 c 323 § 4.]

**Effective date—1989 c 323:** See note following RCW 48.17.055.

**48.17.568 Insurance education providers—Bond.** In addition to the regulatory requirements imposed pursuant to RCW 48.17.150, the commissioner may require each insurance education provider to post a bond, cash deposit, or irrevocable letter of credit. Every insurance education provider, other than an insurer, health care service contractor, health maintenance organization, or educational institution established by Washington statutes, is subject to the requirement.

(1) The provider shall file with each request for course approval and shall maintain in force while so approved, the bond, cash deposit, or irrevocable letter of credit in favor of the state of Washington, according to criteria which the commissioner shall establish by regulation. The amount of such bond, cash deposit, or irrevocable letter of credit, shall not exceed five thousand dollars for the provider's first approved course and one thousand dollars for each additional approved course.

(2) Proceeds from the bond, cash deposit, or irrevocable letter of credit shall inure to the commissioner for payment

of investigation expenses or for payment of any fine ordered per Washington statutes or regulations governing insurance education: PROVIDED, That recoverable investigation expenses or fines shall not be limited to the amount of such required bond, cash deposit, or irrevocable letter of credit. [1989 c 323 § 5.]

**Effective date—1989 c 323:** See note following RCW 48.17.055.

**48.17.591 Termination of agency contract—Effect on insured.** (1) No insurer authorized to do business in this state may cancel or refuse to renew any policy because that insurer's contract with the independent agent through whom such policy is written has been terminated by the insurer, the agent, or by mutual agreement.

(2) If an insurer intends to terminate a written agency contract with an independent agent, the insurer shall give the agent not less than one hundred twenty days' advance written notice of the intent, unless the termination is based upon the agent's abandonment of the agency, the agent's gross and willful misconduct, the agent's loss of license by order of the insurance commissioner, the agent's sale of, or material change of ownership in, the agency, the agent's fraud or material misrepresentation relative to the business of insurance, or the agent's default in payments due the insurer under the terms of the agreement. During the notice period the insurer shall not amend the existing contract without the consent of the agent.

(a) Unless the agency contract provides otherwise, during the one hundred twenty day notice period the independent agent shall not write or bind any new business on behalf of the terminating insurer without specific written approval. However, routine adjustments by insureds are permitted. The terminating insurer shall permit renewal of all its policies in the agent's book of business for a period of one year following the effective date of the termination, to the extent the policies meet the insurer's underwriting standards and the insurer has no other reason for nonrenewal. The rate of commission for any policies renewed under this provision shall be the same as the agent would have received had the agency agreement not been terminated.

(b) An independent agent whose agency contract has been terminated shall have a reasonable opportunity to transfer affected policies to other insurers with which the agent has an appointment: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That prior to the conclusion of the one-year renewal period following the effective date of the termination, an insurer without a reason for not renewing an insured's policy and which has not received notification of the placement of such policy with another insurer shall provide its insured with appropriate written notice of an offer to continue the policy. In such cases, except where the terminated agent has placed the policy with another agent of the insurer, the insurer shall, where practical, assign the policy to an appointed agent located reasonably near the insured willing to accept the assignment.

(c) An insurer is not required to continue the appointment of a terminated independent agent during or after the one year renewal period. However, an agent whose contract has been terminated by the insurer remains an agent of the terminating insurer as to actions associated with the policies

subject to this section just as if he or she were appointed by the insurer as its agent.

(3) In the absence of receipt of notice from the insured that coverage will not be continued with the existing insurer, an insurer whose agency contract has been terminated by an independent agent, or by the mutual agreement of the insurer and the agent, that elects to renew or lacks a reason not to renew, shall give the renewal notice required by chapter 48.18 RCW to affected insureds, and continue renewed coverage in accordance with the methods specified in subsection (2)(b) of this section. Agents affected by this subsection may provide the notice to an insurer that an insured does not intend to continue existing coverage with the insurer, after receiving written authority to do so from an insured.

(4) For purposes of this section an "independent agent" is a licensed insurance agent representing an insurer on an independent contractor basis and not as an employee. This term includes only those agents not obligated by contract to place insurance accounts with a particular insurer or group of insurers.

(5) This section does not apply to (a) agents or policies of an insurer or group of insurers if the business is not owned by the agent and the termination of any such contractual agreement does not result in the cancellation or nonrenewal of any policies of insurance; (b) general agents, to the extent that they are acting in that capacity; (c) life, disability, surety, ocean marine and foreign trade, and title insurance policies; (d) situations where the termination of the agency contract results from the insolvency or liquidation of the terminating insurer.

(6) No insurer may terminate its agency contract with an appointed agent unless it complies with this section.

(7) Nothing contained in this section excuses an insurer from giving cancellation and renewal notices that may be required by chapter 48.18 RCW. [1990 c 121 § 1. Formerly RCW 48.18.285.]

**Reviser's note:** Previously codified as RCW 48.18.285. Recodified to reflect legislative directive under 1990 c 121.

**48.17.600 Separation of premium funds.** (1) All funds representing premiums or return premiums received by an agent, solicitor or broker in his or her fiduciary capacity shall be accounted for and maintained in a separate account from all other business and personal funds.

(2) An agent, solicitor or broker shall not commingle or otherwise combine premiums with any other moneys, except as provided in subsection (3) of this section.

(3) An agent, solicitor or broker may commingle with premium funds any additional funds as he or she may deem prudent for the purpose of advancing premiums, establishing reserves for the paying of return premiums, or for any contingencies as may arise in his or her business of receiving and transmitting premium or return premium funds.

(4) Each willful violation of this section shall constitute a misdemeanor.

(5) This section shall not apply to agents for title insurance companies or insurance brokers whose average daily balance for premiums received on behalf of insureds in the state of Washington equals or exceeds one million dollars. [1988 c 248 § 15; 1986 c 69 § 1.]

**Effective date—1986 c 69:** "This act shall take effect on January 1, 1987." [1986 c 69 § 2.]

## Chapter 48.18

### THE INSURANCE CONTRACT

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*Exemptions of proceeds of insurance on exempt property: RCW 6.15.030.*

*False claims or proof: RCW 48.30.230.*

*Misrepresentation in application: RCW 48.30.210.*

**48.18.010 Scope of chapter.** The applicable provisions of this chapter shall apply to insurances other than ocean marine and foreign trade insurances. This chapter shall not apply to life or disability insurance policies not issued for delivery in this state nor delivered in this state. [1947 c 79 § .18.01; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.01.]

**48.18.020 Power to contract.** (1) Any person eighteen years or older shall be considered of full legal age and may contract for or with respect to insurance. Any person seventeen years or younger shall be considered a minor for purposes of Title 48 RCW.

(2) A minor not less than fifteen years of age as at nearest birthday may, notwithstanding such minority, contract for life or disability insurance on his own life or body, for his own benefit or for the benefit of his father, mother, spouse, child, brother, sister, or grandparent, and may exercise all rights and powers with respect to or under the contract as though of full legal age, and may surrender his interest therein and give a valid discharge for any benefit accruing or money payable thereunder. The minor shall not, by reason of his minority, be entitled to rescind, avoid, or repudiate the contract, or any exercise of a right or privilege thereunder, except, that such minor, not otherwise emancipated, shall not be bound by any unperformed agreement to pay, by promissory note or otherwise any premium on any such insurance contract. [1973 1st ex.s. c 163 § 2; 1970 ex.s. c 17 § 4; 1947 c 79 § .18.02; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.02.]

**48.18.030 Insurable interest—Personal insurances—Nonprofit organizations.** (1) Any individual of competent legal capacity may procure or effect an insurance contract upon his own life or body for the benefit of any person. But no person shall procure or cause to be procured any insurance contract upon the life or body of another individual unless the benefits under such contract are payable to the individual insured or his personal representatives, or to a person having, at the time when such contract was made, an insurable interest in the individual insured.

(2) If the beneficiary, assignee or other payee under any contract made in violation of this section receives from the insurer any benefits thereunder accruing upon the death, disablement or injury of the individual insured, the individual insured or his executor or administrator, as the case may be, may maintain an action to recover such benefits from the person so receiving them.

(3) "Insurable interest" as used in this section and in RCW 48.18.060 includes only interests as follows:

(a) In the case of individuals related closely by blood or by law, a substantial interest engendered by love and affection; and

(b) In the case of other persons, a lawful and substantial economic interest in having the life, health or bodily safety of the individual insured continue, as distinguished from an interest which would arise only by, or would be enhanced in value by, the death, disablement or injury of the individual insured.

(c) An individual heretofore or hereafter party to a contract or option for the purchase or sale of an interest in a business partnership or firm, or of shares of stock of a close corporation or of an interest in such shares, has an insurable interest in the life of each individual party to such contract and for the purposes of such contract only, in addition to any insurable interest which may otherwise exist as to the life of such individual.

(d) A guardian, trustee or other fiduciary has an insurable interest in the life of any person for whose benefit the fiduciary holds property, and in the life of any other individual in whose life such person has an insurable interest.

(e) Subject to rules adopted under subsection (4) of this section, upon joint application with a nonprofit organization for, or transfer to a nonprofit organization of, an insurance policy on the life of a person naming the organization as owner and beneficiary, a nonprofit organization's interest in the life of a person if:

(i) The nonprofit organization was established exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes, or to promote amateur athletic competition, to conduct testing for public safety, or to prevent cruelty to children or animals; and

(ii) The nonprofit organization:

(A) Has existed for a minimum of five years; or

(B) Has been issued a certificate of exemption to conduct a charitable gift annuity business under RCW 48.38.010, or is authorized to conduct a charitable gift annuity business under RCW 28B.10.485; or

(C) Has been organized, and at all times has been operated, exclusively for benefit of, to perform the functions of, or to carry out the purposes of one or more nonprofit organizations described in (e)(ii)(A) or (B) of this subsection and is operated, supervised, or controlled by or in connection with one or more such nonprofit organizations; and

(iii) For a joint application, the person is not an employee, officer, or director of the organization who receives significant compensation from the organization and who became affiliated with the organization in that capacity less than one year before the joint application.

(4) The commissioner may adopt rules governing joint applications for, and transfers of, life insurance under subsection (3)(e) of this section. The rules may include:

(a) Standards for full and fair disclosure that set forth the manner, content, and required disclosure for the sale of life insurance issued under subsection (3)(e) of this section; and

(b) For joint applications, a grace period of thirty days during which the insured person may direct the nonprofit organization to return the policy and the insurer to refund any premium paid to the party that, directly or indirectly, paid the premium; and

(c) Standards for granting an exemption from the five-year existence requirement of subsection (3)(e)(ii)(A) of this section to a private foundation that files with the insurance

commissioner documents, stipulations, and information as the insurance commissioner may require to carry out the purpose of subsection (3)(e) of this section.

(5) Nothing in this section permits the personal representative of the insured's estate to recover the proceeds of a policy on the life of a deceased insured person that was applied for jointly by, or transferred to, an organization covered by subsection (3)(e) of this section, where the organization was named owner and beneficiary of the policy.

This subsection applies to all life insurance policies applied for by, or transferred to, an organization covered by subsection (3)(e) of this section, regardless of the time of application or transfer and regardless of whether the organization would have been covered at the time of application or transfer. [1992 c 51 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 89 § 3; 1947 c 79 § .18.03; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.03.]

*Use of trust funds by fiduciaries for life insurance: RCW 11.110.120.*

#### **48.18.040 Insurable interest—Property insurances.**

(1) No contract of insurance on property or of any interest therein or arising therefrom shall be enforceable except for the benefit of persons having an insurable interest in the things insured.

(2) "Insurable interest" as used in this section means any lawful and substantial economic interest in the safety or preservation of the subject of the insurance free from loss, destruction, or pecuniary damage. [1947 c 79 § .18.04; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.04.]

**48.18.050 Named insured—Interest insured.** When the name of a person intended to be insured is specified in the policy, such insurance can be applied only to his own proper interest. This section shall not apply to life and disability insurances. [1947 c 79 § .18.05; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.05.]

**48.18.060 Application—When required.** No life or disability insurance contract upon an individual, except a contract of group life insurance or of group or blanket disability insurance as defined in this code, shall be made or effectuated unless at the time of the making of the contract the individual insured, being of competent legal capacity to contract, in writing applies therefor or consents thereto, except in the following cases:

(1) A spouse may effectuate such insurance upon the other spouse.

(2) Any person having an insurable interest in the life of a minor, or any person upon whom a minor is dependent for support and maintenance, may effectuate insurance upon the life of the minor. [1947 c 79 § .18.06; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.06.]

**48.18.070 Alteration of application.** (1) Any application for insurance in writing by the applicant shall be altered solely by the applicant or by his written consent, except that insertions may be made by the insurer for administrative purposes only in such manner as to indicate clearly that such insertions are not to be ascribed to the applicant. Violation of this provision shall be a misdemeanor.

(2) Any insurer issuing an insurance contract upon such an application unlawfully altered by its officer, employee, or agent shall not have available in any action arising out of such contract, any defense which is based upon the fact of such alteration, or as to any item in the application which was so altered. [1947 c 79 § .18.07; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.07.]

**48.18.080 Application as evidence.** (1) No application for the issuance of any insurance policy or contract shall be admissible in evidence in any action relative to such policy or contract, unless a true copy of the application was attached to or otherwise made a part of the policy when issued and delivered. This provision shall not apply to policies or contracts of industrial life insurance.

(2) If any policy of life or disability insurance delivered in this state is reinstated or renewed, and the insured or the beneficiary or assignee of the policy makes written request to the insurer for a copy of the application, if any, for such reinstatement or renewal, the insurer shall, within fifteen days after receipt of such request at its home office or at any of its branch offices, deliver or mail to the person making such request, a copy of such application. If such copy is not so delivered or mailed, the insurer shall be precluded from introducing the application as evidence in any action or proceeding based upon or involving the policy or its reinstatement or renewal. [1947 c 79 § .18.08; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.08.]

**48.18.090 Warranties and misrepresentations, effect of.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, no oral or written misrepresentation or warranty made in the negotiation of an insurance contract, by the insured or in his behalf, shall be deemed material or defeat or avoid the contract or prevent it attaching, unless the misrepresentation or warranty is made with the intent to deceive.

(2) In any application for life or disability insurance made in writing by the insured, all statements therein made by the insured shall, in the absence of fraud, be deemed representations and not warranties. The falsity of any such statement shall not bar the right to recovery under the contract unless such false statement was made with actual intent to deceive or unless it materially affected either the acceptance of the risk or the hazard assumed by the insurer. [1947 c 79 § .18.09; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.09.]

**48.18.100 Forms of policies—Filing, certification, and approval.** (1) No insurance policy form other than surety bond forms, or application form where written application is required and is to be attached to the policy, or printed life or disability rider or endorsement form shall be issued, delivered, or used unless it has been filed with and approved by the commissioner. This section shall not apply to policies, riders or endorsements of unique character designed for and used with relation to insurance upon a particular subject.

(2) Every such filing containing a certification, in a form approved by the commissioner, by either the chief executive officer of the insurer or by an actuary who is a member of the American Academy of Actuaries, attesting that the filing complies with Title 48 RCW and Title 284 of

the Washington Administrative Code, may be used by such insurer immediately after filing with the commissioner. The commissioner may order an insurer to cease using a certified form upon the grounds set forth in RCW 48.18.110. This subsection shall not apply to certain types of policy forms designated by the commissioner by rule.

(3) Every filing that does not contain a certification pursuant to subsection (2) of this section shall be made not less than thirty days in advance of any such issuance, delivery, or use. At the expiration of such thirty days the form so filed shall be deemed approved unless prior thereto it has been affirmatively approved or disapproved by order of the commissioner. The commissioner may extend by not more than an additional fifteen days the period within which he may so affirmatively approve or disapprove any such form, by giving notice of such extension before expiration of the initial thirty-day period. At the expiration of any such period as so extended, and in the absence of such prior affirmative approval or disapproval, any such form shall be deemed approved. The commissioner may withdraw any such approval at any time for cause. By approval of any such form for immediate use, the commissioner may waive any unexpired portion of such initial thirty-day waiting period.

(4) The commissioner's order disapproving any such form or withdrawing a previous approval shall state the grounds therefor.

(5) No such form shall knowingly be so issued or delivered as to which the commissioner's approval does not then exist.

(6) The commissioner may, by order, exempt from the requirements of this section for so long as he deems proper, any insurance document or form or type thereof as specified in such order, to which in his opinion this section may not practicably be applied, or the filing and approval of which are, in his opinion, not desirable or necessary for the protection of the public.

(7) Every member or subscriber to a rating organization shall adhere to the form filings made on its behalf by the organization. Deviations from such organization are permitted only when filed with the commissioner in accordance with this chapter. [1989 c 25 § 1; 1982 c 181 § 16; 1947 c 79 § .18.10; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.10.]

**Effective date—1989 c 25:** "This act shall take effect on September 1, 1989." [1989 c 25 § 10.]

**Severability—1982 c 181:** See note following RCW 48.03.010.

*Format of disability policies: RCW 48.20.012.*

**48.18.110 Grounds for disapproval.** (1) The commissioner shall disapprove any such form of policy, application, rider, or endorsement, or withdraw any previous approval thereof, only:

(a) If it is in any respect in violation of or does not comply with this code or any applicable order or regulation of the commissioner issued pursuant to the code; or

(b) If it does not comply with any controlling filing theretofore made and approved; or

(c) If it contains or incorporates by reference any inconsistent, ambiguous or misleading clauses, or exceptions and conditions which unreasonably or deceptively affect the



risk purported to be assumed in the general coverage of the contract; or

(d) If it has any title, heading, or other indication of its provisions which is misleading; or

(e) If purchase of insurance thereunder is being solicited by deceptive advertising.

(2) In addition to the grounds for disapproval of any such form as provided in subsection (1) of this section, the commissioner may disapprove any form of disability insurance policy if the benefits provided therein are unreasonable in relation to the premium charged. [1985 c 264 § 9; 1982 c 181 § 9; 1947 c 79 § .18.11; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.11.]

**Severability—1982 c 181:** See note following RCW 48.03.010.

**48.18.120 Standard forms.** (1) The commissioner shall, after hearing, from time to time promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to define and effect reasonable uniformity in all basic contracts of fire insurance which are commonly known as the standard form fire policies and may be so referred to in this code, and the usual supplemental coverages, riders, or endorsements thereon or thereto, to the end that such definitions shall be applied in the construction of the various sections of this code wherein such terms are used and that there be a reasonable concurrency of contract where two or more insurers insure the same subject and risk. All such forms heretofore approved by the commissioner and for use as of immediately prior to the effective date of this code, may continue to be so used until the further order of the commissioner made pursuant to this subsection or pursuant to any other provision of this code.

(2) The commissioner may from time to time, after hearing, promulgate such rules and regulations as he deems necessary to establish reasonable minimum standard conditions and terminology for basic benefits to be provided by disability insurance contracts which are subject to chapters 48.20 and 48.21 RCW, for the purpose of expediting his approval of such contracts pursuant to this code. No such promulgation shall be inconsistent with standard provisions as required pursuant to RCW 48.18.130, nor contain requirements inconsistent with requirements relative to the same benefit provision as formulated or approved by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. [1957 c 193 § 10; 1947 c 79 § .18.12; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.12.]

**48.18.125 Loss payable and mortgagee clauses for property and automobile physical damage insurances—Requirement to use adopted forms.** The commissioner is hereby authorized, and shall within a reasonable time following July 30, 1967, adopt standard forms for loss payable and mortgagee clauses for property and automobile physical damage insurances, pursuant to the procedures set forth in RCW 48.18.120(1). Following the adoption of such forms, no insurer authorized to do business in the state shall use any form other than those so adopted. [1967 ex.s. c 12 § 1.]

**48.18.130 Standard provisions.** (1) Insurance contracts shall contain such standard provisions as are required by the applicable chapters of this code pertaining to

contracts of particular kinds of insurance. The commissioner may waive the required use of a particular standard provision in a particular insurance contract form if

(a) he finds such provision unnecessary for the protection of the insured, and inconsistent with the purposes of the contract, and

(b) the contract is otherwise approved by him.

(2) No insurance contract shall contain any provision inconsistent with or contradictory to any such standard provision used or required to be used, but the commissioner may, except as to the standard provisions of individual disability insurance contracts as required under chapter 48.20 RCW, approve any provision which is in his opinion more favorable to the insured than the standard provision or optional standard provision otherwise required. No endorsement, rider, or other documents attached to such contract shall vary, extend, or in any respect conflict with any such standard provision, or with any modification thereof so approved by the commissioner as being more favorable to the insured.

(3) In lieu of the standard provisions required by this code for contracts for particular kinds of insurance, substantially similar standard provisions required by the law of a foreign or alien insurer's domicile may be used when approved by the commissioner. [1947 c 79 § .18.13; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.13.]

*Standard provisions*

*disability: Chapter 48.20 RCW.*

*group and blanket disability: Chapter 48.21 RCW.*

*group life and annuities: Chapter 48.24 RCW.*

*industrial life: Chapter 48.25 RCW.*

*life insurance and annuities: Chapter 48.23 RCW.*

**48.18.140 Contents of policies in general.** (1) The written instrument, in which a contract of insurance is set forth, is the policy.

(2) A policy shall specify:

(a) The names of the parties to the contract. The insurer's name shall be clearly shown in the policy.

(b) The subject of the insurance.

(c) The risk insured against.

(d) The time at which the insurance thereunder takes effect and the period during which the insurance is to continue.

(e) A statement of the premium, and if other than life, disability, or title insurance, the premium rate where applicable.

(f) The conditions pertaining to the insurance.

(3) If under the contract the exact amount of premiums is determinable only at termination of the contract, a statement of the basis and rates upon which the final premium is to be determined and paid shall be specified in the policy.

(4) This section shall not apply to surety insurance contracts. [1989 c 25 § 2; 1957 c 193 § 11; 1947 c 79 § .18.14; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.14.]

**Effective date—1989 c 25:** See note following RCW 48.18.100.

**48.18.150 Additional contents.** A policy may contain additional provisions, which are not inconsistent with this code, and which are

(1) required to be so inserted by the laws of the insurer's state of domicile; or

(2) necessary, on account of the manner in which the insurer is constituted or operated, to state the rights and obligations of the parties to the contract. [1947 c 79 § .18.15; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.15.]

**48.18.160 Charter or bylaw provisions.** No policy shall contain any provision purporting to make any portion of the charter, bylaws, or other constituent document of the insurer a part of the contract unless such portion is set forth in full in the policy. Any policy provision in violation of this section shall be invalid. [1947 c 79 § .18.16; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.16.]

**48.18.170 "Premium" defined.** "Premium" as used in this code means all sums charged, received, or deposited as consideration for an insurance contract or the continuance thereof. Any assessment, or any "membership," "policy," "survey," "inspection," "service" or similar fee or charge made by the insurer in consideration for an insurance contract is deemed part of the premium. [1947 c 79 § .18.17; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.17.]

**48.18.180 Stated premium must include all charges.** (1) The premium stated in the policy shall be inclusive of all fees, charges, premiums, or other consideration charged for the insurance or for the procurement thereof.

(2) No insurer or its officer, employee, agent, solicitor, or other representative shall charge or receive any fee, compensation, or consideration for insurance which is not included in the premium specified in the policy.

(3) Each violation of this section is a gross misdemeanor.

(4) This section does not apply to a fee paid to a broker by an insured as provided in RCW 48.17.270. [1994 c 203 § 2; 1947 c 79 § .18.18; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.18.]

**48.18.190 Policy must contain entire contract.** No agreement in conflict with, modifying, or extending any contract of insurance shall be valid unless in writing and made a part of the policy. [1947 c 79 § .18.19; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.19.]

**48.18.200 Limiting actions, jurisdiction.** (1) No insurance contract delivered or issued for delivery in this state and covering subjects located, resident, or to be performed in this state, shall contain any condition, stipulation, or agreement

(a) requiring it to be construed according to the laws of any other state or country except as necessary to meet the requirements of the motor vehicle financial responsibility laws of such other state or country; or

(b) depriving the courts of this state of the jurisdiction of action against the insurer; or

(c) limiting right of action against the insurer to a period of less than one year from the time when the cause of action accrues in connection with all insurances other than property and marine and transportation insurances. In contracts of property insurance, or of marine and transportation insur-

ance, such limitation shall not be to a period of less than one year from the date of the loss.

(2) Any such condition, stipulation, or agreement in violation of this section shall be void, but such voiding shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of the contract. [1947 c 79 § .18.20; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.20.]

**48.18.210 Execution of policies.** (1) Every insurance contract shall be executed in the name of and on behalf of the insurer by its officer, employee, or representative duly authorized by the insurer.

(2) A facsimile signature of any such executing officer, employee or representative may be used in lieu of an original signature.

(3) No insurance contract heretofore or hereafter issued and which is otherwise valid shall be rendered invalid by reason of the apparent execution thereof on behalf of the insurer by the imprinted facsimile signature of any individual not authorized so to execute as of the date of the policy, if the policy is countersigned with the original signature of an individual then so authorized to countersign. [1947 c 79 § .18.21; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.21.]

**48.18.220 Receipt of premium to bind coverage—Contents of receipt.** Where an agent or other representative of an insurer receipts premium money at the time that agent or representative purports to bind coverage, the receipt shall state: (a) that it is a binder, (b) a brief description of the coverage bound, and (c) the identity of the insurer in which the coverage is bound. This section does not apply as to life and disability insurances. [1967 ex.s. c 12 § 2.]

**48.18.230 Binders—Duration—Premium.** (1) A "binder" is used to bind insurance temporarily pending the issuance of the policy. No binder shall be valid beyond the issuance of the policy as to which it was given, or beyond ninety days from its effective date, whichever period is the shorter.

(2) If the policy has not been issued a binder may be extended or renewed beyond such ninety days upon the commissioner's written approval, or in accordance with such rules and regulations relative thereto as the commissioner may promulgate.

(3) Where the premium used in the binder differs from the actual policy premium by less than ten dollars, the insurer shall not be required to notify the insured and may use the actual policy premium. [1996 c 95 § 1; 1947 c 79 § .18.23; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.23.]

**48.18.240 Binders—Agent's liability.** The commissioner may suspend or revoke the license of any agent issuing or purporting to issue any binder as to any insurer named therein as to which he is not then authorized so to bind. [1947 c 79 § .18.24; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.24.]

**48.18.250 Underwriters' and combination policies.** (1) Two or more authorized insurers may jointly issue, and shall be jointly and severally liable on, an underwriters' policy bearing their names. Any one insurer may issue policies in the name of an underwriter's department and such policies shall plainly show the true name of the insurer.

(2) Two or more authorized insurers may, with the commissioner's approval, issue a combination policy which shall contain provisions substantially as follows:

(a) That the insurers executing the policy shall be severally liable for the full amount of any loss or damage, according to the terms of the policy, or for specified percentages or amounts thereof, aggregating the full amount of insurance under the policy.

(b) That service of process, or of any notice or proof of loss required by such policy, upon any of the insurers executing the policy, shall constitute service upon all such insurers.

(3) This section shall not apply to co-surety obligations. [1947 c 79 § .18.25; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.25.]

**48.18.260 Delivery of policy.** (1) Subject to the insurer's requirements as to payment of premium, every policy shall be delivered to the insured or to the person entitled thereto within a reasonable period of time after its issuance.

(2) In event the original policy is delivered or is so required to be delivered to or for deposit with any vendor, mortgagee, or pledgee of any motor vehicle or aircraft, and in which policy any interest of the vendee, mortgagor, or pledgor in or with reference to such vehicle or aircraft is insured, a duplicate of such policy, or memorandum thereof setting forth the type of coverage, limits of liability, premiums for the respective coverages, and duration of the policy, shall be delivered by the vendor, mortgagee, or pledgee to each such vendee, mortgagor, or pledgor named in the policy or coming within the group of persons designated in the policy to be so included. If the policy does not provide coverage of legal liability for injury to persons or damage to the property of third parties, a conspicuous statement of such fact shall be printed, written, or stamped on the face of such duplicate policy or memorandum. [1947 c 79 § .18.26; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.26.]

*Vehicle seller must furnish buyer itemized statement of insurance and other charges: RCW 46.70.130.*

**48.18.280 Renewal of policy.** Any insurance policy terminating by its terms at a specified expiration date and not otherwise renewable, may be renewed or extended at the option of the insurer and upon a currently authorized policy form and at the premium rate then required therefor for a specific additional period or periods by a certificate or by endorsement of the policy, and without requiring the issuance of a new policy. [1947 c 79 § .18.28; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.28.]

**48.18.289 Cancellation, nonrenewal, renewal offer—Notice to agent.** Whenever a notice of cancellation or nonrenewal or an offer to renew is furnished to an insured in accord with any provision of this chapter, a copy of such notice or offer shall be provided at the same time to the agent on the account or to the broker of record for the insured. [1988 c 249 § 1; 1987 c 14 § 1.]

**Effective date—1988 c 249:** "This act shall take effect September 1, 1988." [1988 c 249 § 4.]

**48.18.290 Cancellation by insurer.** (1) Cancellation by the insurer of any policy which by its terms is cancellable at the option of the insurer, or of any binder based on such policy which does not contain a clearly stated expiration date, may be effected as to any interest only upon compliance with the following:

(a) Written notice of such cancellation, accompanied by the actual reason therefor, must be actually delivered or mailed to the named insured not less than forty-five days prior to the effective date of the cancellation except for cancellation of insurance policies for nonpayment of premiums, which notice shall be not less than ten days prior to such date and except for cancellation of fire insurance policies under chapter 48.53 RCW, which notice shall not be less than five days prior to such date;

(b) Like notice must also be so delivered or mailed to each mortgagee, pledgee, or other person shown by the policy to have an interest in any loss which may occur thereunder.

(2) The mailing of any such notice shall be effected by depositing it in a sealed envelope, directed to the addressee at his or her last address as known to the insurer or as shown by the insurer's records, with proper prepaid postage affixed, in a letter depository of the United States post office. The insurer shall retain in its records any such item so mailed, together with its envelope, which was returned by the post office upon failure to find, or deliver the mailing to, the addressee.

(3) The affidavit of the individual making or supervising such a mailing, shall constitute prima facie evidence of such facts of the mailing as are therein affirmed.

(4) The portion of any premium paid to the insurer on account of the policy, unearned because of the cancellation and in amount as computed on the pro rata basis, must be actually paid to the insured or other person entitled thereto as shown by the policy or by any endorsement thereon, or be mailed to the insured or such person as soon as possible, and no later than forty-five days after the date of notice of cancellation to the insured for homeowners', dwelling fire, and private passenger auto. Any such payment may be made by cash, or by check, bank draft, or money order.

(5) This section shall not apply to contracts of life or disability insurance without provision for cancellation prior to the date to which premiums have been paid, or to contracts of insurance procured under the provisions of chapter 48.15 RCW. [1988 c 249 § 2; 1986 c 287 § 1; 1985 c 264 § 17; 1982 c 110 § 7; 1980 c 102 § 7; 1979 ex.s. c 199 § 5; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 119 § 2; 1947 c 79 § .18.29; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.29.]

**Effective date—1988 c 249:** See note following RCW 48.18.289.

**Application—1985 c 264 §§ 17-22:** "Sections 17 through 22 of this act apply to all new or renewal policies issued or renewed after May 10, 1985. Sections 17 through 22 of this act shall not apply to or affect the validity of any notice of cancellation mailed or delivered prior to May 10, 1985. Sections 17 through 22 of this act shall not be construed to affect cancellation of a renewal policy, if notice of cancellation is mailed or delivered within forty-five days after May 10, 1985. Sections 17 through 22 of this act shall not be construed to require notice, other than that already required, of intention not to renew any policy which expires less than forty-five days after May 10, 1985." [1985 c 264 § 24.]

**48.18.2901 Renewal required—Exceptions.** (1) Each insurer shall be required to renew any contract of insurance

subject to RCW 48.18.290 unless one of the following situations exists:

(a) The insurer gives the named insured at least forty-five days' notice in writing as provided for in RCW 48.18.290, that it proposes to refuse to renew the insurance contract upon its expiration date; and sets forth therein the actual reason for refusing to renew; or

(b) At least twenty days prior to its expiration date, the insurer has communicated, either directly or through its agent, its willingness to renew in writing to the named insured and has included therein a statement of the amount of the premium or portion thereof required to be paid by the insured to renew the policy, and the insured fails to discharge when due his or her obligation in connection with the payment of such premium or portion thereof; or

(c) The insured has procured equivalent coverage prior to the expiration of the policy period; or

(d) The contract is evidenced by a written binder containing a clearly stated expiration date which has expired according to its terms.

(2) Any insurer failing to include in the notice required by subsection (1)(b) of this section the amount of any increased premium resulting from a change of rates and an explanation of any change in the contract provisions shall renew the policy if so required by that subsection according to the rates and contract provisions applicable to the expiring policy: PROVIDED, That renewal based on the rates and contract provisions applicable to the expiring policy shall not prevent the insurer from making changes in the rates and/or contract provisions of the policy once during the term of its renewal after at least twenty days' advance notice of such change has been given to the named insured.

(3) Renewal of a policy shall not constitute a waiver or estoppel with respect to grounds for cancellation which existed before the effective date of such renewal, or with respect to cancellation of fire policies under chapter 48.53 RCW.

(4) "Renewal" or "to renew" means the issuance and delivery by an insurer of a contract of insurance replacing at the end of the contract period a contract of insurance previously issued and delivered by the same insurer, or the issuance and delivery of a certificate or notice extending the term of a contract beyond its policy period or term: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That any contract of insurance with a policy period or term of six months or less whether or not made continuous for successive terms upon the payment of additional premiums shall for the purpose of RCW 48.18.290 and 48.18.293 through 48.18.295 be considered as if written for a policy period or term of six months: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That any policy written for a term longer than one year or any policy with no fixed expiration date, shall, for the purpose of RCW 48.18.290 and 48.18.293 through 48.18.295, be considered as if written for successive policy periods or terms of one year.

(5) A midterm blanket reduction in rate, approved by the commissioner, for medical malpractice insurance shall not be considered a renewal for purposes of this section. [1993 c 186 § 1; 1988 c 249 § 3; 1986 c 287 § 2; 1985 c 264 § 20.]

**Effective date—1988 c 249:** See note following RCW 48.18.289.

**Application—1985 c 264 §§ 17-22:** See note following RCW 48.18.290.

**48.18.291 Cancellation of private automobile insurance by insurer—Notice—Requirements.** (1) No contract of insurance predicated wholly or in part upon the use of a private passenger automobile shall be terminated by cancellation by the insurer until at least twenty days after mailing written notice of cancellation to the named insured at the latest address filed with the insurer by or on behalf of the named insured, accompanied by the reason therefor: PROVIDED, That where cancellation is for nonpayment of premium, or is within the first thirty days after the contract has been in effect, at least ten days notice of cancellation, accompanied by the reason therefor, shall be given: PROVIDED HOWEVER, That in case of a contract evidenced by a written binder which has been delivered to the insured, if such binder contains a clearly stated expiration date, no additional notice of cancellation or nonrenewal shall be required.

(2) (a) No notice of cancellation by the insurer as to a contract of insurance to which subsection (1) applies shall be valid if sent more than sixty days after the contract has been in effect unless:

(i) The named insured fails to discharge when due any of his or her obligations in connection with the payment of premium for the policy or any installment thereof, whether payable directly to the insurer or to its agent or indirectly under any premium finance plan or extension of credit.

(ii) The driver's license of the named insured, or of any other operator who customarily operates an automobile insured under the policy, has been under suspension or revocation during the policy period or, if the policy is a renewal, during its policy period or the one hundred eighty days immediately preceding the effective date of the renewal policy.

(b) Modification by the insurer of automobile physical damage coverage by the inclusion of a deductible not exceeding one hundred dollars shall not be deemed a cancellation of the coverage or of the policy.

(3) The substance of subsections (1) and (2)(a) of this section must be set forth in each contract of insurance subject to the provisions of subsection (1) above, and may be in the form of an attached endorsement.

(4) No notice of cancellation of a policy which can be canceled only pursuant to subsection (2) shall be effective unless the reason therefor accompanies or is included in the notice of cancellation. [1985 c 264 § 18; 1979 ex.s. c 199 § 6; 1969 ex.s. c 241 § 19.]

**Application—1985 c 264 §§ 17-22:** See note following RCW 48.18.290.

**Construction—1969 ex.s. c 241:** "Sections 19 through 25 of this 1969 amendatory act shall become operative September 1, 1969, and shall apply to policies written or renewed, or which have a renewal anniversary thereafter. Sections 19 through 25 of this 1969 amendatory act shall not apply to or affect the validity of any notice of cancellation mailed or delivered prior to the operative date of this amendatory act. Sections 19 through 25 of this 1969 amendatory act shall not be construed to affect cancellation of a renewal policy, if notice of cancellation is mailed or delivered within sixty days after the operative date of sections 19 through 25 of this amendatory act. Sections 19 through 25 of this 1969 amendatory act shall not be construed to require notice of intention not to renew any policy which expires less than thirty days after the operative date of sections 19 through 25 of this 1969 amendatory act." [1969 ex.s. c 241 § 25.]

**48.18.292 Refusal to renew private automobile insurance by insurer—Change in amount of premium or**

**deductibles.** (1) Each insurer shall be required to renew any contract of insurance subject to RCW 48.18.291 unless one of the following situations exists:

(a) The insurer gives the named insured at least twenty days' notice in writing as provided for in RCW 48.18.291(1), that it proposes to refuse to renew the insurance contract upon its expiration date; and sets forth therein the actual reason for refusing to renew; or

(b) At least twenty days prior to its expiration date, the insurer has communicated its willingness to renew in writing to the named insured, and has included therein a statement of the amount of the premium or portion thereof required to be paid by the insured to renew the policy, including the amount by which the premium or deductibles have changed from the previous policy period, and the date by which such payment must be made, and the insured fails to discharge when due his obligation in connection with the payment of such premium or portion thereof; or

(c) The insured's agent or broker has procured other coverage acceptable to the insured prior to the expiration of the policy period.

(2) Renewal of a policy shall not constitute a waiver or estoppel with respect to grounds for cancellation which existed before the effective date of such renewal.

(3) "Renewal" or "to renew" means the issuance and delivery by an insurer of a contract of insurance replacing at the end of the contract period a contract of insurance previously issued and delivered by the same insurer, or the issuance and delivery of a certificate or notice extending the term of a contract beyond its policy period or term: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That any contract of insurance with a policy period or term of six months or less whether or not made continuous for successive terms upon the payment of additional premiums shall for the purpose of RCW 48.18.291 through 48.18.297 be considered as if written for a policy period or term of six months: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That any policy written for a term longer than one year or any policy with no fixed expiration date, shall, for the purpose of RCW 48.18.291 through 48.18.297, be considered as if written for successive policy periods or terms of one year.

(4) On and after January 1, 1980, no policy of insurance subject to RCW 48.18.291 shall be issued for a policy period or term of less than six months.

(5) No insurer shall refuse to renew the liability and/or collision coverage of an automobile insurance policy on the basis that an insured covered by the policy of the insurer has submitted one or more claims under the comprehensive, road service, or towing coverage of the policy. Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit the nonrenewal of comprehensive, road service, or towing coverage on the basis of one or more claims submitted by an insured. [1985 c 264 § 19; 1981 c 339 § 17; 1979 ex.s. c 199 § 7; 1973 1st ex.s. c 152 § 3; 1969 ex.s. c 241 § 20.]

**Application—1985 c 264 §§ 17-22:** See note following RCW 48.18.290.

**Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 152:** See note following RCW 48.05.140.

**Construction—1969 ex.s. c 241:** See note following RCW 48.18.291.

**48.18.293 Nonliability of commissioner, agents, insurer for information giving reasons for cancellation or refusal to renew—Proof of mailing of notice.** (1) There shall be no liability on the part of, and no cause of action of any nature shall arise against, the insurance commissioner, his agents, or members of his staff, or against any insurer, its authorized representative, its agents, its employees, or any firm, person or corporation furnishing to the insurer information as to reasons for cancellation or refusal to renew, for any statement made by any of them in any written notice of cancellation or refusal to renew, or in any other communications, oral or written, specifying the reasons for cancellation or refusal to renew or the providing of information pertaining thereto, or for statements made or evidence submitted in any hearing conducted in connection therewith.

(2) Proof of mailing of notice of cancellation or refusal to renew or of reasons for cancellation, to the named insured, at the latest address filed with the insurer by or on behalf of the named insured shall be sufficient proof of notice. [1969 ex.s. c 241 § 21.]

**Construction—1969 ex.s. c 241:** See note following RCW 48.18.291.

**48.18.295 RCW 48.18.290 through 48.18.297 not to prevent cancellation or nonrenewal, when.** Nothing in RCW 48.18.290 through 48.18.297 shall be construed to prevent the cancellation or nonrenewal of any such insurance where:

(1) Such cancellation or nonrenewal is ordered by the commissioner under a statutory delinquency proceeding commenced under the provisions of chapter 48.31 RCW, or

(2) Permission for such cancellation or nonrenewal has been given by the commissioner on a showing that the continuation of such coverage can reasonably be expected to create a condition in the company hazardous to its policyholder, or to its creditors, or to its members, subscribers, or stockholders, or to the public. [1985 c 264 § 21; 1969 ex.s. c 241 § 22; 1967 ex.s. c 95 § 2.]

**Application—1985 c 264 §§ 17-22:** See note following RCW 48.18.290.

**Construction—1969 ex.s. c 241:** See note following RCW 48.18.291.

**Severability—1967 ex.s. c 95:** "If any provision of this act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons and circumstances is not affected." [1967 ex.s. c 95 § 16.]

**48.18.296 Contracts to which RCW 48.18.291 through 48.18.297 inapplicable.** The provisions of RCW 48.18.291 through 48.18.297 shall not apply to:

(1) Contracts of insurance issued under the assigned risk plan;

(2) Any policy covering garage, automobile sales agency, repair shop, service station, or public parking place operation hazards; and

(3) Contracts of insurance procured under the provisions of chapter 48.15 RCW. [1986 c 287 § 3; 1985 c 264 § 22; 1983 1st ex.s. c 32 § 6; 1969 ex.s. c 241 § 23.]

**Application—1985 c 264 §§ 17-22:** See note following RCW 48.18.290.

**Construction—1969 ex.s. c 241:** See note following RCW 48.18.291.

**48.18.297 Private passenger automobile defined.** A private passenger automobile as used in RCW 48.18.291 through 48.18.297 shall mean:

(1) An individually owned motor vehicle of the private passenger or station wagon type that is not used as a public or livery conveyance for passengers, nor rented to others.

(2) Any other individually owned four-wheel motor vehicle with a load capacity of fifteen hundred pounds or less which is not used in the occupation, profession, or business of the insured. [1969 ex.s. c 241 § 24.]

**Construction—1969 ex.s. c 241:** See note following RCW 48.18.291.

**48.18.298 Disability insurance—Refusal to renew by insurer.** No insurer shall refuse to renew any policy of individual disability insurance issued after July 1, 1973 because of a change in the physical or mental condition or health of any person covered thereunder: PROVIDED, That after approval of the insurance commissioner, an insurer may discharge its obligation to renew the contract by obtaining for the insured coverage with another insurer which is comparable in terms of premiums and benefits. [1973 1st ex.s. c 188 § 1.]

**Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 188:** "If any provision of this act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1973 1st ex.s. c 188 § 5.]

**48.18.299 Disability insurance—Cancellation by insurer.** No contract of insurance enumerated in RCW 48.18.298 shall be terminated by cancellation by the insurer during the period of contract except for nonpayment of premium. This section shall not be deemed to affect the right of the insurer to rescind the policy as limited and defined in RCW 48.18.090. [1973 1st ex.s. c 188 § 2.]

**Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 188:** See note following RCW 48.18.298.

**48.18.300 Cancellation by insured.** (1) Cancellation by the insured of any policy which by its terms is cancellable at the insured's option or of any binder based on such policy may be effected by written notice thereof to the insurer or surrender of the policy or binder for cancellation prior to or on the effective date of such cancellation. In [the] event the policy or binder has been lost or destroyed and cannot be so surrendered, the insurer may in lieu of such surrender accept and in good faith rely upon the insured's written statement setting forth the fact of such loss or destruction.

(2) As soon as possible, and no later than thirty days after the receipt of the notice of cancellation from the policyholder for homeowners', dwelling fire, and private passenger auto insurance, the insurer shall pay to the insured or to the person entitled thereto as shown by the insurer's records, any unearned portion of any premium paid on the policy as computed on the customary short rate or as otherwise specified in the policy: PROVIDED, That the refund of any unearned portion of any premium paid on a contract of dwelling fire insurance, homeowners' insurance, or insurance predicated upon the use of a private passenger automobile (as defined in RCW 48.18.297 and excluding contracts of insurance and policies enumerated in RCW

48.18.296) shall be computed on a pro rata basis and the insurer shall refund not less than ninety percent of any unearned portion not exceeding one hundred dollars, plus ninety-five percent of any unearned portion over one hundred dollars but not exceeding five hundred dollars, and not less than ninety-seven percent of the amount of any unearned portion in excess of five hundred dollars. If the amount of any refund is less than two dollars, no refund need be made. If no premium has been paid on the policy, the insured shall be liable to the insurer for premium for the period during which the policy was in force.

(3) The surrender of a policy to the insurer for any cause by any person named therein as having an interest insured thereunder shall create a presumption that such surrender is concurred in by all persons so named.

(4) This section shall not apply to life insurance policies or to annuity contracts. [1980 c 102 § 8; 1979 ex.s. c 199 § 8; 1955 c 303 § 16; 1947 c 79 § .18.30; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.30.]

**48.18.310 Cancellation by commissioner.** The commissioner may order the immediate cancellation of any policy the procuring or effectuation of which was accomplished through or accompanied by a violation of this code, except in cases where the policy by its terms is not cancellable by the insurer and the insured did not knowingly participate in any such violation. [1947 c 79 § .18.31; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.31.]

**48.18.320 Annulment of liability policies.** No insurance contract insuring against loss or damage through legal liability for the bodily injury or death by accident of any individual, or for damage to the property of any person, shall be retroactively annulled by any agreement between the insurer and insured after the occurrence of any such injury, death, or damage for which the insured may be liable, and any such annulment attempted shall be void. [1947 c 79 § .18.32; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.32.]

**48.18.340 Dividends payable to real party in interest.** (1) Every insurer issuing participating policies, shall pay dividends, unused premium refunds or savings distributed on account of any such policy, only to the real party in interest entitled thereto as shown by the insurer's records, or to any person to whom the right thereto has been assigned in writing of record with the insurer, or given in the policy by such real party in interest.

(2) Any person who is shown by the insurer's records to have paid for his own account, or to have been ultimately charged for, the premium for insurance provided by a policy in which another person is the nominal insured, shall be deemed such real party in interest proportionate to premium so paid or so charged. This subsection shall not apply as to any such dividend, refund, or distribution which would amount to less than one dollar.

(3) This section shall not apply to contracts of group life insurance, group annuities, or group disability insurance. [1947 c 79 § .18.34; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.34.]

**48.18.350 Breach of warranty prior to loss—Effect.** If any breach of a warranty or condition in any insurance contract occurs prior to a loss under the contract, such breach shall not avoid the contract nor avail the insurer to avoid liability, unless the breach exists at the time of the loss. [1947 c 79 § .18.35; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.35.]

**48.18.360 Assignment of policies—Life and disability.** Subject to the terms of the policy relating to its assignment, life insurance policies, other than industrial or group life insurance policies, and disability policies providing benefits for accidental death, whether such policies were heretofore or are hereafter issued, and under the terms of which the beneficiary may be changed upon the sole request of the insured, may be assigned either by pledge or transfer of title, by an assignment executed by the insured alone and delivered to the insurer, whether or not the pledgee or assignee is the insurer. Industrial life insurance policies may be made assignable only to a bank or trust company. Any such assignment shall entitle the insurer to deal with the assignee as the owner or pledgee of the policy in accordance with the terms of the assignment, until the insurer has received at its home office written notice of termination of the assignment or pledge, or written notice by or on behalf of some other person claiming some interest in the policy in conflict with the assignment. [1947 c 79 § .18.36; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.36.]

**48.18.370 Payment discharges insurer—Life and disability.** Whenever the proceeds of, or payments under a life or disability insurance policy, heretofore or hereafter issued, become payable and the insurer makes payment thereof in accordance with the terms of the policy, or in accordance with any written assignment thereof pursuant to RCW 48.18.360, the person then designated in the policy or by such assignment as being entitled thereto, shall be entitled to receive such proceeds or payments and to give full acquittance therefor, and such payment shall fully discharge the insurer from all claims under the policy unless, before payment is made, the insurer has received at its home office, written notice by or on behalf of some other person that such other person claims to be entitled to such payment or some interest in the policy. [1947 c 79 § .18.37; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.37.]

**48.18.375 Assignment of interests under group insurance policy.** A person whose life is insured under a group insurance policy may, subject and pursuant to the terms of the policy, or pursuant to an arrangement between the insured, the group policyholder and the insurer, assign to any or all his spouse, children, parents, or a trust for the benefit of any or all of them, all or any part of his incidents of ownership, rights, title, and interests, both present and future, under such policy including specifically, but not by way of limitation, the right to designate a beneficiary or beneficiaries thereunder and the right to have an individual policy issued to him in case of termination of employment or of said group insurance policy. Such an assignment by the insured, made either before or after July 16, 1973, is valid for the purpose of vesting in the assignee, in accordance with any provisions included therein as to the time at

which it is to be effective, all of such incidents of ownership, rights, title, and interests so assigned, but without prejudice to the insurer on account of any payment it may make or individual policy it may issue prior to receipt of notice of the assignment. This section acknowledges, declares, and codifies the existing right of assignment of interests under group insurance policies. [1973 1st ex.s. c 163 § 3.]

**48.18.390 Simultaneous deaths—Payment of proceeds—Life insurance.** Where the individual insured and the beneficiary designated in a life insurance policy or policy insuring against accidental death have died and there is not sufficient evidence that they have died otherwise than simultaneously, the proceeds of the policy shall be distributed as if the insured had survived the beneficiary, unless otherwise expressly provided in the policy. [1947 c 79 § .18.39; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.39.]

*Distribution of proceeds of insurance policy when insured and beneficiary die simultaneously: RCW 11.05.040.*

**48.18.400 Exemption of proceeds—Disability.** The proceeds or avails of all contracts of disability insurance and of provisions providing benefits on account of the insured's disability which are supplemental to life insurance or annuity contracts heretofore or hereafter effected shall be exempt from all liability for any debt of the insured, and from any debt of the beneficiary existing at the time the proceeds are made available for his use. [1947 c 79 § .18.40; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.40.]

**48.18.410 Exemption of proceeds—Life.** (1) The lawful beneficiary, assignee, or payee of a life insurance policy, other than an annuity, heretofore or hereafter effected by any person on his own life, or on the life of another, in favor of a person other than himself, shall be entitled to the proceeds and avails of the policy against the creditors and representatives of the insured and of the person effecting the insurance, and such proceeds and avails shall also be exempt from all liability for any debt of such beneficiary, existing at the time the proceeds or avails are made available for his own use.

(2) The provisions of subsection (1) of this section shall apply

(a) whether or not the right to change the beneficiary is reserved or permitted in the policy; or

(b) whether or not the policy is made payable to the person whose life is insured or to his estate if the beneficiary, assignee or payee shall predecease such person; except, that this subsection shall not be construed so as to defeat any policy provision which provides for disposition of proceeds in the event the beneficiary shall predecease the insured.

(3) The exemptions provided by subsection (1) of this section, subject to the statute of limitations, shall not apply

(a) to any claim to or interest in such proceeds or avails by or on behalf of the insured, or the person so effecting the insurance, or their administrators or executors, in whatever capacity such claim is made or such interest is asserted; or

(b) to any claim to or interest in such proceeds or avails by or on behalf of any person to whom rights thereto have been transferred with intent to defraud creditors; but an

insurer shall be liable to all such creditors only as to amounts aggregating not to exceed the amount of such proceeds or avails remaining in the insurer's possession at the time the insurer receives at its home office written notice by or on behalf of such creditors, of claims to recover for such transfer, with specification of the amounts claimed; or

(c) to so much of such proceeds or avails as equals the amount of any premiums or portion thereof paid for the insurance with intent to defraud creditors, with interest thereon, and if prior to the payment of such proceeds or avails the insurer has received at its home office written notice by or on behalf of the creditor, of a claim to recover for premiums paid with intent to defraud creditors, with specification of the amount claimed.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (1) of this section a policy shall also be deemed to be payable to a person other than the insured if and to the extent that a facility-of-payment clause or similar clause in the policy permits the insurer to discharge its obligation after the death of the individual insured by paying the death benefits to a person as permitted by such clause.

(5) No person shall be compelled to exercise any rights, powers, options or privileges under any such policy. [1947 c 79 § .18.41; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.41.]

**48.18.420 Exemption of proceeds—Group life.** (1) A policy of group life insurance or the proceeds thereof payable to the individual insured or to the beneficiary thereunder, shall not be liable, either before or after payment, to be applied to any legal or equitable process to pay any liability of any person having a right under the policy. The proceeds thereof, when not made payable to a named beneficiary or to a third person pursuant to a facility-of-payment clause, shall not constitute a part of the estate of the individual insured for the payment of his debts.

(2) This section shall not apply to group life insurance policies issued under RCW 48.24.040 (debtor groups) to the extent that such proceeds are applied to payment of the obligation for the purpose of which the insurance was so issued. [1947 c 79 § .18.42; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.42.]

**48.18.430 Exemption of proceeds, commutation—Annuities.** (1) The benefits, rights, privileges and options which under any annuity contract heretofore or hereafter issued are due or prospectively due the annuitant who paid the consideration for the annuity contract, shall not be subject to execution nor shall the annuitant be compelled to exercise any such rights, powers or options, nor shall creditors be allowed to interfere with or terminate the contract, except:

(a) As to amounts paid for or as premium on any such annuity with intent to defraud creditors, with interest thereon, and of which the creditor has given the insurer written notice at its home office prior to the making of the payments to the annuitant out of which the creditor seeks to recover. Any such notice shall specify the amount claimed or such facts as will enable the insurer to ascertain such amount, and shall set forth such facts as will enable the insurer to ascertain the insurance or annuity contract, the person insured or annuitant and the payments sought to be avoided on the ground of fraud.

(b) The total exemption of benefits presently due and payable to any annuitant periodically or at stated times under all annuity contracts under which he is an annuitant, shall not at any time exceed two hundred and fifty dollars per month for the length of time represented by such installments, and that such periodic payment in excess of two hundred and fifty dollars per month shall be subject to garnishee execution to the same extent as are wages and salaries.

(c) If the total benefits presently due and payable to any annuitant under all annuity contracts under which he is an annuitant, shall at any time exceed payment at the rate of two hundred and fifty dollars per month, then the court may order such annuitant to pay to a judgment creditor or apply on the judgment, in installments, such portion of such excess benefits as to the court may appear just and proper, after due regard for the reasonable requirements of the judgment debtor and his family, if dependent upon him, as well as any payments required to be made by the annuitant to other creditors under prior court orders.

(2) The benefits, rights, privileges or options accruing under such contract to a beneficiary or assignee shall not be transferable nor subject to commutation, and if the benefits are payable periodically or at stated times, the same exemptions and exceptions contained herein for the annuitant, shall apply with respect to such beneficiary or assignee.

(3) An annuity contract within the meaning of this section shall be any obligation to pay certain sums at stated times, during life or lives, or for a specified term or terms, issued for a valuable consideration, regardless of whether or not such sums are payable to one or more persons, jointly or otherwise, but does not include payments under life insurance contracts at stated times during life or lives, or for a specified term or terms. [1949 c 190 § 25; 1947 c 79 § .18.43; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 45.18.43.]

**48.18.440 Spouse's rights in life insurance policy.** (1) Every life insurance policy heretofore or hereafter made payable to or for the benefit of the spouse of the insured, and every life insurance policy heretofore or hereafter assigned, transferred, or in any way made payable to a spouse or to a trustee for the benefit of a spouse, regardless of how such assignment or transfer is procured, shall, unless contrary to the terms of the policy, inure to the separate use and benefit of such spouse: PROVIDED, That the beneficial interest of a spouse in a policy upon the life of a child of the spouses, however such interest is created, shall be deemed to be a community interest and not a separate interest, unless expressly otherwise provided by the policy.

(2) In any life insurance policy heretofore or hereafter issued upon the life of a spouse the designation heretofore or hereafter made by such spouse of a beneficiary in accordance with the terms of the policy, shall create a presumption that such beneficiary was so designated with the consent of the other spouse, but only as to any beneficiary who is the child, parent, brother, or sister of either of the spouses. The insurer may in good faith rely upon the representations made by the insured as to the relationship to him of any such beneficiary. [1947 c 79 § .18.44; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.44.]



**48.18.450 Life insurance payable to trustee named as beneficiary in the policy.** Life insurance may be made payable to a trustee to be named as beneficiary in the policy and the proceeds of such insurance paid to such trustee shall be held and disposed of by the trustee as provided in a trust agreement or declaration of trust made by the insured during his lifetime. It shall not be necessary to the validity of any such trust agreement or declaration of trust that it have a trust corpus other than the right of the trustee to receive such insurance proceeds as beneficiary, and any such trustee may also receive assets, other than insurance proceeds, by testamentary disposition and administer them according to the terms of the trust agreement or declaration of trust as they exist at the death of the testator. [1963 c 227 § 1.]

**48.18.452 Life insurance designating as beneficiary a trustee named by will.** A policy of life insurance may designate as beneficiary a trustee or trustees named or to be named by will, if the designation is made in accordance with the provisions of the policy and the requirements of the insurance company. Immediately after the proving of the will the proceeds of such insurance shall be paid to the trustee or trustees named therein to be held and disposed of under the terms of the will as they exist at the death of the testator, but if no qualified trustee makes claim to the proceeds from the insurance company within one year after the death of the insured, or if satisfactory evidence is furnished the insurance company within such one-year period showing that no trustee can qualify to receive the proceeds, payment shall be made by the insurance company to those thereafter entitled. The proceeds of the insurance as collected by the trustee or trustees shall not be subject to debts of the insured and inheritance tax to any greater extent than if such proceeds were payable to any other named beneficiary other than the estate of the insured. Enactment of this section shall not invalidate previous life insurance policy beneficiary designations naming trustees of trusts established by will. [1963 c 227 § 2.]

**48.18.460 Proof of loss—Furnishing forms—May require oath.** An insurer shall furnish, upon request of any person claiming to have a loss under any insurance contract, forms of proof of loss for completion by such person. But such insurer shall not, by reason of the requirement so to furnish forms, have any responsibility for or with reference to the completion of such proof or the manner of any such completion or attempted completion. If a person makes a claim under a policy of insurance, the insurer may require that the person be examined under an oath administered by a person authorized by state or federal law to administer oaths. [1995 c 285 § 17; 1949 c 190 § 26; 1947 c 79 § 18.46; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 45.18.46.]

**Effective date—1995 c 285:** See RCW 48.30A.900.

**48.18.470 Claims administration—Not waiver.** None of the following acts by or on behalf of an insurer shall be deemed to constitute a waiver of any provision of a policy or of any defense of the insurer thereunder:

(a) Acknowledgment of the receipt of notice of loss or of claim under the policy.

(b) Furnishing forms for reporting a loss or claim, for giving information relative thereto, or for making proof of loss, or receiving or acknowledging receipt of any such forms or proofs completed or uncompleted.

(c) Investigating any loss or claim under any policy or engaging in negotiations looking toward a possible settlement of any such loss or claim. [1947 c 79 § 18.47; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.47.]

**48.18.480 Discrimination prohibited.** No insurer shall make or permit any unfair discrimination between insureds or subjects of insurance having substantially like insuring, risk, and exposure factors, and expense elements, in the terms or conditions of any insurance contract, or in the rate or amount of premium charged therefor, or in the benefits payable or in any other rights or privileges accruing thereunder. This provision shall not prohibit fair discrimination by a life insurer as between individuals having unequal expectation of life. [1957 c 193 § 12; 1947 c 79 § 18.48; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.480.]

**48.18.510 Validity of noncomplying forms.** Any insurance policy, rider, or endorsement hereafter issued and otherwise valid, which contains any condition or provision not in compliance with the requirements of this code, shall not be rendered invalid thereby, but shall be construed and applied in accordance with such conditions and provisions as would have applied had such policy, rider, or endorsement been in full compliance with this code. [1947 c 79 § 18.51; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.51.]

**48.18.520 Construction of policies.** Every insurance contract shall be construed according to the entirety of its terms and conditions as set forth in the policy, and as amplified, extended, or modified by any rider, endorsement, or application attached to and made a part of the policy. [1947 c 79 § 18.52; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.18.52.]

**48.18.540 Cancellations, denials, refusals to renew—Written notification.** Every insurer upon canceling, denying, or refusing to renew any disability policy, shall, upon written request, directly notify in writing the applicant or insured, as the case may be, of the reasons for the action by the insurer and to any person covered under a group contract. Any benefits, terms, rates, or conditions of such a contract that are restricted, excluded, modified, increased, or reduced shall, upon written request, be set forth in writing and supplied to the insured and to any person covered under a group contract. The written communications required by this section shall be phrased in simple language that is readily understandable to a person of average intelligence, education, and reading ability. [1993 c 492 § 281.]

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

**Short title—Severability—Savings—Captions not law—Reservation of legislative power—Effective dates—1993 c 492:** See RCW 43.72.910 through 43.72.915.

## Chapter 48.18A

## VARIABLE CONTRACT ACT

## Sections

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**Reviser's note:** Powers, duties, and functions of the department of licensing relating to securities were transferred to the department of financial institutions by 1993 c 472, effective October 1, 1993. See RCW 43.320.011.

**48.18A.010 Short title—Intent.** This chapter shall be known as the "Variable Contract Act" and is intended to authorize the sale of both individual and group variable contracts. [1969 c 104 § 1.]

**48.18A.020 Separate accounts authorized—Allocations—Benefits—Limitations—Valuation—Sale, transfer, or exchange of assets.** A domestic life insurer may, by or pursuant to resolution of its board of directors, establish one or more separate accounts, and may allocate thereto amounts (including without limitation proceeds applied under optional modes of settlement or under dividend options) to provide for life insurance or annuities (and other benefits incidental thereto), payable in fixed or variable amounts or both, subject to the following:

(1) The income, gains, and losses, realized or unrealized, from assets allocated to a separate account shall be credited to or charged against the account, without regard to other income, gains, or losses of the insurer.

(2)(a) Except as hereinafter provided, amounts allocated to any separate account and accumulations thereon may be invested and reinvested without regard to any requirements or limitations prescribed by the laws of this state governing the investments of life insurers: PROVIDED, That to the extent that the insurer's reserve liability with regard to (i) benefits guaranteed as to dollar amount and duration, and (ii) funds guaranteed as to principal amount or stated rate of interest is maintained in any separate account, a portion of the assets of such separate account at least equal to such reserve liability shall be invested under such conditions as the commissioner may prescribe. The investments in such separate account or accounts shall not be taken into account in applying the investment limitations applicable to the investments of the insurer.

(b) With respect to seventy-five percent of the market value of the total assets in a separate account no insurer shall purchase or otherwise acquire the securities of any issuer, other than securities issued or guaranteed as to principal or interest by the United States, if immediately after such purchase or acquisition the market value of such investment,

together with prior investments of such separate account in such security taken at market value, would exceed ten percent of the market value of the assets of such separate account: PROVIDED, That the commissioner may waive such limitation if, in his opinion, such waiver will not render the operation of such separate account hazardous to the public or the policyholders in this state.

(c) Unless otherwise permitted by law or approved by the commissioner, no insurer shall purchase or otherwise acquire for its separate accounts the voting securities of any issuer if as a result of such acquisition the insurer and its separate accounts, in the aggregate, will own more than ten percent of the total issued and outstanding voting securities of such issuer: PROVIDED, That the foregoing shall not apply with respect to securities held in separate accounts, the voting rights in which are exercisable only in accordance with instructions from persons having interests in such accounts.

(d) The limitations provided in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this subsection shall not apply to the investment with respect to a separate account in the securities of an investment company registered under the United States Investment Company Act of 1940: PROVIDED, That the investments of such investment company shall comply in substance therewith.

(3) Unless otherwise approved by the commissioner, assets allocated to a separate account shall be valued at their market value on the date of valuation, or if there is no readily available market, then as provided under the terms of the contract or the rules or other written agreement applicable to such separate account: PROVIDED, That unless otherwise approved by the commissioner, the portion, if any, of the assets of such separate account equal to the insurer's reserve liability with regard to the guaranteed benefits and funds referred to in subsection (2) of this section shall be valued in accordance with the rules otherwise applicable to the insurer's assets.

(4) Amounts allocated to a separate account in the exercise of the power granted by this chapter shall be owned by the insurer and the insurer shall not be, nor hold itself out to be, a trustee with respect to such amounts. If and to the extent so provided under the applicable contracts, that portion of the assets of any such separate account equal to the reserves and other contract liabilities with respect to such account shall not be chargeable with liabilities arising out of any other business the insurer may conduct.

(5) No sale, exchange or other transfer of assets may be made by an insurer between any of its separate accounts or between any other investment account and one or more of its separate accounts unless, in case of a transfer into a separate account, such transfer is made solely to establish the account or to support the operation of the contracts with respect to the separate account to which the transfer is made, and unless such transfer, whether into or from a separate account, is made (a) by a transfer of cash, or (b) by a transfer of securities having a readily determinable market value: PROVIDED, That such transfer of securities is approved by the commissioner. The commissioner may approve other transfers among such accounts, if, in his opinion, such transfers would not be inequitable.

(6) To the extent such insurer deems it necessary to comply with any applicable federal or state law, such

insurer, with respect to any separate account, including without limitation any separate account which is a management investment company or a unit investment trust, may provide for persons having interest therein, as may be appropriate, voting and other rights and special procedures for the conduct of the business of such account, including without limitation, special rights and procedures relating to investment policy, investment advisory services, selection of independent public accountants, and the selection of a committee, the members of which need not be otherwise affiliated with such insurer, to manage the business of such account. [1973 1st ex.s. c 163 § 4; 1969 c 104 § 2.]

**48.18A.030 Statements required in contracts—Payment on death, incidental benefit provision.** (1) Every variable contract providing benefits payable in variable amounts delivered or issued for delivery in this state shall contain a statement of the essential features of the procedures to be followed by the insurer in determining the dollar amount of such variable benefits. Any such contract under which the benefits vary to reflect investment experience, including a group contract and any certificate in evidence of variable benefits issued thereunder, shall state that such dollar amount will so vary and shall contain on its first page a statement to the effect that the benefits thereunder are on a variable basis.

(2) Variable annuity contracts delivered or issued for delivery in this state may include as an incidental benefit provision for payment on death during the deferred period of an amount not in excess of the greater of the sum of the premiums or stipulated payments paid under the contract or the value of the contract at time of death. For this purpose such benefit shall not be deemed to be life insurance and therefore not subject to any statutory provisions governing life insurance contracts. A provision for any other benefits on death during the deferred period will be subject to such insurance law provisions. [1973 1st ex.s. c 163 § 5; 1969 c 104 § 3.]

**48.18A.035 Return of policy and refund of premium—Notice required—Effect of return.** Every individual variable contract issued shall have printed on its face or attached thereto a notice stating in substance that the policy owner shall be permitted to return the policy within ten days after it is received by the policy owner and to have the market value of the assets purchased by its premium, less taxes and investment brokerage commissions, if any, refunded, if, after examination of the policy, the policy owner is not satisfied with it for any reason. An additional ten percent penalty shall be added to any premium refund due which is not paid within thirty days of return of the policy to the insurer or agent. If a policy owner pursuant to such notice returns the policy to the insurer at its home or branch office or to the agent through whom it was purchased, it shall be void from the beginning and the parties shall be in the same position as if no policy had been issued. [1983 1st ex.s. c 32 § 7; 1982 c 181 § 15.]

**Effective date—1982 c 181 § 15:** "RCW 48.18A.035 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 May 1, 1982." [1982 c 181 § 26.]

**Severability—1982 c 181:** See note following RCW 48.03.010.

**48.18A.040 Requirements for operation under this chapter—Considerations—Authorization of subsidiary or affiliate—Exceptions.** No insurer shall deliver or issue, for delivery within this state, contracts under this chapter unless it is licensed or organized to do a life insurance or annuity business in this state, and unless the commissioner is satisfied that its condition or method of operation in connection with the issuance of such contracts will not render its operation hazardous to the public or its policyholders in this state. In this connection, the commissioner shall consider among other things:

- (1) The history and financial condition of the insurer;
- (2) The character, responsibility and fitness of the officers and directors of the insurer; and
- (3) The law and regulation under which the insurer is authorized in the state of domicile to issue variable contracts.

An insurer which issues variable contracts and which is a subsidiary of, or affiliated through common management or ownership with, another life insurer authorized to do business in this state may be deemed to have met the provisions of this section if either it or the parent or affiliated company meets the requirements hereof: PROVIDED, That no insurer may provide variable benefits in its contracts unless it is an admitted insurer having and continually maintaining a combined capital and surplus of at least five million dollars. [1982 c 181 § 10; 1969 c 104 § 4.]

**Severability—1982 c 181:** See note following RCW 48.03.010.

**48.18A.050 Applicability of other code provisions—Contract requirements.** The provisions of RCW 48.23.020, 48.23.030, 48.23.080 through 48.23.120, 48.23.140, 48.23.150, 48.23.200 through 48.23.240, 48.23.310, \*48.23.350, and 48.23.360, and the provisions of chapter 48.24 RCW shall be inapplicable to variable contracts; nor shall any provision in the code requiring contracts to be participating be deemed applicable to variable contracts. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, all pertinent provisions of the insurance code shall apply to separate accounts and contracts relating thereto. Any individual variable life insurance or individual variable annuity contract delivered or issued for delivery in this state shall contain grace, reinstatement, and nonforfeiture provisions appropriate to such contracts, and any such variable life insurance contract shall provide that the investment experience of the separate account shall in no event operate to reduce the death benefit below an amount equal to the face amount of the contract at the time the contract was issued. Any individual variable life insurance contract may contain a provision for deduction from the death proceeds of amounts of due and unpaid premiums or of indebtedness which are appropriate to such contracts. The reserve liability for variable annuities shall be established in accordance with actuarial procedures that recognize the variable nature of the benefits provided and any mortality guarantees. [1983 c 3 § 150; 1979 c 157 § 2; 1973 1st ex.s. c 163 § 6; 1969 c 104 § 5.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 48.23.350 was repealed by 1982 1st ex.s. c 9 § 36(2); later enactment, see chapter 48.76 RCW.

**48.18A.060 Licensing requirement.** No person shall be or act as an agent for the solicitation or sale of variable

contracts except while duly appointed and licensed under the insurance code as a life insurance agent with respect to the insurer, and while duly licensed as a security salesman or securities broker under a license issued by the director of financial institutions pursuant to the securities act of this state; except that any person who participates only in the sale or offering for sale of variable contracts which fund corporate plans meeting the requirements for qualification under sections 401 or 403 of the United States internal revenue code need not be licensed pursuant to the securities act of this state. [1994 c 92 § 502; 1973 1st ex.s. c 163 § 7; 1969 c 104 § 6.]

**48.18A.070 Authority of commissioner.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the commissioner shall have sole and exclusive authority to regulate the issuance and sale of variable contracts; except for the examination, issuance or renewal, suspension or revocation, of a security salesman's license issued to persons selling variable contracts. To carry out the purposes and provisions of this chapter he or she may independently; and in concert with the director of financial institutions, issue such reasonable rules and regulations as may be appropriate. [1994 c 92 § 503; 1969 c 104 § 7.]

**48.18A.900 Effective date—1969 c 104.** This 1969 act shall take effect July 1, 1969. [1969 c 104 § 10.]

## Chapter 48.19 RATES

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*Anti-compact law:* RCW 48.30.020.

*Discrimination prohibited:* RCW 48.18.480.

*Rate wars prohibited:* RCW 48.30.240.

**48.19.010 Scope of chapter.** (1) Except as is otherwise expressly provided the provisions of this chapter apply to all insurances upon subjects located, resident or to be performed in this state except:

- (a) Life insurance;
- (b) disability insurance;
- (c) reinsurance except as to joint reinsurance as provided in RCW 48.19.360;
- (d) insurance against loss of or damage to aircraft, their hulls, accessories, and equipment, or against liability, other than workers' compensation and employers' liability, arising out of the ownership, maintenance or use of aircraft;
- (e) insurance of vessels or craft, their cargoes, marine builders' risks, marine protection and indemnity; and such other risks commonly insured under marine, as distinguished from inland marine, insurance contracts as may be defined by ruling of the commissioner for the purposes of this provision;
- (f) title insurance.

(2) Except, that every insurer shall, as to disability insurance, before using file with the commissioner its manual of classification, manual of rules and rates, and any modifications thereof. [1987 c 185 § 24; 1947 c 79 § .19.01; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.01.]

**Intent—Severability—1987 c 185:** See notes following RCW 51.12.130.

**48.19.020 Rate standard.** Premium rates for insurance shall not be excessive, inadequate, or unfairly discriminatory. [1983 1st ex.s. c 32 § 13; 1947 c 79 § .19.02; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.02.]

**48.19.030 Making of rates—Criteria.** Rates shall be used, subject to the other provisions of this chapter, only if made in accordance with the following provisions:

(1) In the case of insurances under standard fire policies and that part of marine and transportation insurances not exempted under RCW 48.19.010, manual, minimum, class or classification rates, rating schedules or rating plans, shall be made and adopted; except as to specific rates on inland marine risks individually rated, which risks are not reasonably susceptible to manual or schedule rating, and which

risks by general custom of the business are not written according to manual rates or rating plans.

(2) In the case of casualty and surety insurances:

(a) The systems of expense provisions included in the rates for use by any insurer or group of insurers may differ from those of other insurers or groups of insurers to reflect the requirements of the operating methods of any such insurer or group with respect to any kind of insurance, or with respect to any subdivision or combination thereof for which subdivision or combination separate expense provisions are applicable.

(b) Risks may be grouped by classifications for the establishment of rates and minimum premiums. Classification rates may be modified to produce rates for individual risks in accordance with rating plans which establish standards for measuring variations in hazards or expense provisions, or both. Such standards may measure any differences among risks that can be demonstrated to have a probable effect upon losses or expenses.

(3) Due consideration in making rates for all insurances shall be given to:

(a) Past and prospective loss experience within this state for experience periods acceptable to the commissioner. If the information is not available or is not statistically credible, an insurer may use loss experience in those states which are likely to produce loss experience similar to that in this state.

(b) Conflagration and catastrophe hazards, where present.

(c) A reasonable margin for underwriting profit and contingencies.

(d) Dividends, savings and unabsorbed premium deposits allowed or returned by insurers to their policyholders, members, or subscribers.

(e) Past and prospective operating expenses.

(f) Past and prospective investment income.

(g) All other relevant factors within and outside this state.

(4) In addition to other factors required by this section, rates filed by an insurer on its own behalf may also be related to the insurer's plan of operation and plan of risk classification.

(5) Except to the extent necessary to comply with RCW 48.19.020 uniformity among insurers in any matter within the scope of this section is neither required nor prohibited. [1989 c 25 § 3; 1947 c 79 § .19.03; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.03.]

**Effective date—1989 c 25:** See note following RCW 48.18.100.

**48.19.040 Filing required—Contents.** (1) Every insurer or rating organization shall, before using, file with the commissioner every classifications manual, manual of rules and rates, rating plan, rating schedule, minimum rate, class rate, and rating rule, and every modification of any of the foregoing which it proposes. The insurer need not so file any rate on individually rated risks as described in subdivision (1) of RCW 48.19.030; except that any such specific rate made by a rating organization shall be filed.

(2) Every such filing shall indicate the type and extent of the coverage contemplated and must be accompanied by sufficient information to permit the commissioner to determine whether it meets the requirements of this chapter. An

insurer or rating organization shall offer in support of any filing:

(a) The experience or judgment of the insurer or rating organization making the filing;

(b) An exhibit detailing the major elements of operating expense for the types of insurance affected by the filing;

(c) An explanation of how investment income has been taken into account in the proposed rates; and

(d) Any other information which the insurer or rating organization deems relevant.

(3) If an insurer has insufficient loss experience to support its proposed rates, it may submit loss experience for similar exposures of other insurers or of a rating organization.

(4) Every such filing shall state its proposed effective date.

(5) A filing made pursuant to this chapter shall be exempt from the provisions of RCW 48.02.120(3). However, the filing and all supporting information accompanying it shall be open to public inspection only after the filing becomes effective.

(6) Where a filing is required no insurer shall make or issue an insurance contract or policy except in accordance with its filing then in effect, except as is provided by RCW 48.19.090. [1994 c 131 § 8; 1989 c 25 § 4; 1983 1st ex.s. c 32 § 14; 1947 c 79 § .19.04; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.04.]

**Effective date—1989 c 25:** See note following RCW 48.18.100.

**48.19.050 Filings by rating bureau.** (1) If so authorized by an insurer, the commissioner shall accept, in lieu of filings by the insurer, filings on its behalf made by a rating organization then licensed as provided in this chapter.

(2) As to fire insurance under a standard form fire policy, and the following insurances (other than vehicle insurance coverages) when issued as part of a standard form fire policy, an insurer may so authorize a rating organization to make all its filings only, and may not make a portion of such filings upon its own behalf and authorize a rating organization to make other such filings:

(a) Additional property insurance coverages, or

(b) Coverages including any kind of insurance in addition to fire for a single undivided premium.

(3) Except, that notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (2) an insurer which prior to the first day of January, 1947, made its own filings in this state as to a particular class of fire risks, and its filings in this state as to other classes of fire risks were made by a rating organization authorized by the insurer so to do, may:

(a) Continue to make all its own filings as to such specific class of risks or authorize a rating organization to make its filings as to such specific class of risks or any part thereof, and

(b) authorize a different rating organization to make all only of its filings as to all other classes of risks insured by it in this state against fire under the standard form fire policy; or

(c) make all its own filings as to all classes of risks insured by it against fire under the standard form fire policy, or make all its own such filings except as to any which may relate to any such specific class of risks, which filings so

excepted the insurer may authorize a rating organization to make; or

(d) authorize a rating organization to make all only of its filings as to all classes or risks insured by it against fire in this state under the standard form fire policy. [1957 c 193 § 13; 1947 c 79 § .19.05; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.05.]

**48.19.060 Filings—Review, waiting period, disapproval.** (1) The commissioner shall review a filing as soon as reasonably possible after made, to determine whether it meets the requirements of this chapter.

(2) Except as provided in RCW 48.19.070:

(a) No such filing shall become effective within thirty days after the date of filing with the commissioner, which period may be extended by the commissioner for an additional period not to exceed fifteen days if he gives notice within such waiting period to the insurer or rating organization which made the filing that he needs such additional time for the consideration of the filing. The commissioner may, upon application and for cause shown, waive such waiting period or part thereof as to a filing that he has not disapproved.

(b) A filing shall be deemed to meet the requirements of this chapter unless disapproved by the commissioner within the waiting period or any extension thereof. [1989 c 25 § 5; 1947 c 79 § .19.06; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.06.]

**Effective date—1989 c 25:** See note following RCW 48.18.100.

**48.19.070 Special filings.** The following special filings, when not covered by a previous filing, shall become effective when filed and shall be deemed to meet the requirements of this chapter until such time as the commissioner reviews the filing and for so long thereafter as the filing remains in effect:

(1) Special filings with respect to surety or guaranty bonds required by law or by court or executive order or by order, rule or regulation of a public body.

(2) Specific rates on inland marine risks individually rated by a rating organization, which risks are not reasonably susceptible to manual or schedule rating, and which risks by general custom of the business are not written according to manual rates or rating plans. [1947 c 79 § .19.07; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.07.]

**48.19.080 Waiver of filing.** Under such rules and regulations as he shall adopt the commissioner may, by order, suspend or modify the requirement of filing as to any kind of insurance. Such orders, rules and regulations shall be made known to insurers and rating organizations affected thereby. The commissioner may make such examination as he may deem advisable to ascertain whether any rates affected by such order meet the standard prescribed in RCW 48.19.020. [1981 c 339 § 18; 1947 c 79 § .19.08; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.08.]

**48.19.090 Excess rates on specific risks.** Upon written application of the insured, stating his reasons therefor, filed with and approved by the commissioner, a rate in excess of that provided by a filing otherwise applicable may be used on any specific risk. [1947 c 79 § .19.09; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.09.]

**48.19.100 Disapproval of filing.** If within the waiting period or any extension thereof as provided in RCW 48.19.060, the commissioner finds that a filing does not meet the requirements of this chapter, he shall disapprove such filing, and shall give notice of such disapproval, specifying the respect in which he finds the filing fails to meet such requirements, and stating that the filing shall not become effective, to the insurer or rating organization which made the filing. [1989 c 25 § 6; 1947 c 79 § .19.10; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.10.]

**Effective date—1989 c 25:** See note following RCW 48.18.100.

**48.19.110 Disapproval of special filing.** (1) If within thirty days after a special filing subject to RCW 48.19.070 has become effective, the commissioner finds that the filing does not meet the requirements of this chapter, he shall disapprove the filing and shall give notice to the insurer or rating organization which made the filing, specifying in what respects he finds that the filing fails to meet such requirements and stating when, within a reasonable period thereafter, the filing shall be deemed no longer effective.

(2) Such disapproval shall not affect any contract made or issued prior to the expiration of the period set forth in the notice of disapproval. [1947 c 79 § .19.11; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.11.]

**48.19.120 Subsequent disapproval.** (1) If at any time subsequent to the applicable review period provided in RCW 48.19.060 or 48.19.110, the commissioner finds that a filing does not meet the requirements of this chapter, he shall, after a hearing, notice of which was given to every insurer and rating organization which made such filing, issue his order specifying in what respect he finds that such filing fails to meet the requirements of this chapter, and stating when, within a reasonable period thereafter, the filings shall be deemed no longer effective.

(2) Such order shall not affect any contract or policy made or issued prior to the expiration of the period set forth in the order.

(3) Any person aggrieved with respect to any filing then in effect, other than the insurer or rating organization which made the filing, may make written application to the commissioner for a hearing thereon. The application shall specify the grounds to be relied upon by the applicant. If the commissioner finds that the application is made in good faith, that the applicant would be so aggrieved if his grounds are established, and that such grounds otherwise justify holding the hearing, he shall, within thirty days after receipt of the application, hold a hearing as required in subsection (1) of this section. [1989 c 25 § 7; 1983 1st ex.s. c 32 § 15; 1947 c 79 § .19.12; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.12.]

**Effective date—1989 c 25:** See note following RCW 48.18.100.

**48.19.140 Rating organizations—Discrimination—"Subscriber" defined.** (1) Every rating organization operating in this state shall furnish its services without discrimination as between its subscribers.

(2) "Subscriber," for the purposes of this chapter and where the context does not otherwise specify, means any insurer which employs the services of a rating organization

for the purpose of making filings, whether or not the insurer is a "member" of such rating organization.

(3) This chapter is not intended to and does not govern or affect the "membership" relation as such between a rating organization and insurers who are its "members." [1947 c 79 § .19.14; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.14.]

**48.19.150 Subscribership not required.** No provision of this code shall require, or be deemed to require, any insurer to be a subscriber of, or in any other respect affiliated with, any rating organization. [1947 c 79 § .19.15; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.15.]

**48.19.160 Rating organization license.** No rating organization shall do business in this state or make filings with the commissioner unless then licensed by the commissioner as a rating organization. [1947 c 79 § .19.16; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.16.]

**48.19.170 Application for license.** (1) Any person, whether domiciled within or outside this state, except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, may make application to the commissioner for a license as a rating organization for such kinds of insurance or subdivisions thereof, if for casualty or surety insurances, or for such subdivision, class of risks or a part or combination thereof, if for other insurances, as are specified in its application, and shall file therewith:

(a) A copy of its constitution, its articles of agreement or association, or its certificate of incorporation, or trust agreement, and of its bylaws, rules and regulations governing the conduct of its business;

(b) A list of its members and a list of its subscribers;

(c) The name and address of a resident of this state upon whom notices or orders of the commissioner or process affecting such rating organization may be served, and

(d) A statement of its qualifications as a rating organization.

(2) Any rating organization proposing to act as such as to insurance under standard form fire policies, shall be licensed only if all the following conditions are complied with:

(a) The applicant and the operators of such rating organization shall be domiciled in and shall actually reside in this state.

(b) The ownership of such rating organization shall be vested in trustees for all its subscribers under such trust agreement as is approved by the commissioner, and the rating organization shall be and shall be conducted as a non-profit public service institution.

(c) Such rating organization shall not be connected with any insurer or insurers except to the extent that any such insurer may be a subscriber to its services. [1947 c 79 § .19.17; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.17.]

**48.19.180 Issuance of license.** (1) If the commissioner finds that the applicant for a license as a rating organization is competent, trustworthy and otherwise qualified so to act, and that its constitution, articles of agreement or association or certificate of incorporation or trust agreement, and its bylaws, rules and regulations governing the conduct

of its business conform to the requirements of law, he shall, upon payment of a license fee of twenty-five dollars, issue a license specifying the kinds of insurance, or subdivisions or class of risk or part or combination thereof for which the applicant is authorized to act as a rating organization.

(2) The commissioner shall grant or deny in whole or in part every such application within sixty days of the date of its filing with him.

(3) A license issued pursuant to this section shall remain in effect for three years unless sooner suspended or revoked by the commissioner. [1947 c 79 § .19.18; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.18.]

**48.19.190 Suspension or revocation of license.** (1) The commissioner may, after a hearing, suspend or revoke the license issued to a rating organization for any of the following causes:

(a) If he finds that the licensee no longer meets the qualifications for the license.

(b) For failure to comply with an order of the commissioner within the time limited by the order, or any extension thereof which the commissioner may grant.

(2) The commissioner shall not so suspend or revoke a license for failure to comply with an order until the time prescribed by this code for an appeal from such order to the superior court has expired or if such appeal has been taken, until such order has been affirmed.

(3) The commissioner may determine when a suspension or revocation of license shall become effective. A suspension of license shall remain in effect for the period fixed by him, unless he modifies or rescinds the suspension, or until the order, failure to comply with which constituted grounds for the suspension, is modified, rescinded or reversed. [1947 c 79 § .19.19; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.19.]

**48.19.200 Notice of changes.** Every rating organization shall notify the commissioner promptly of every change in

(1) its constitution, its articles of agreement or association, or its certificate of incorporation, or trust agreement, and its bylaws, rules and regulations governing the conduct of its business;

(2) its list of members and subscribers;

(3) the name and address of the resident of this state designated by it upon whom notices or orders of the commissioner or process affecting such rating organization may be served. [1947 c 79 § .19.20; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.20.]

**48.19.210 Subscribers—Rights, limitations.** (1) Subject to rules and regulations which have been approved by the commissioner as reasonable, each rating organization shall permit any insurer to subscribe to its rating services for any kind of insurance or subdivision thereof, for which it is authorized to act as a rating organization, subject to subsection (2) of RCW 48.19.050.

(2) Notice of proposed changes in such rules and regulations shall be given to each subscriber.

(3) An insurer shall not concurrently be a subscriber to the services of more than one rating organization as to the

same subdivision, class of risk or part or combination of a kind of insurance.

(4) As to fire insurance under standard form fire policies, an insurer may not concurrently be a subscriber to the services of more than one rating organization except as provided in subsection (2) of RCW 48.19.050. [1947 c 79 § .19.21; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.21.]

**48.19.220 Review of rules and refusal to admit insurers.** (1) The reasonableness of any rule or regulation in its application to subscribers, or the refusal of any rating organization to admit an insurer as a subscriber, shall, at the request of any subscriber or any such insurer, be reviewed by the commissioner at a hearing held upon notice to the rating organization, and to the subscriber or insurer.

(2) If the commissioner finds that such rule or regulation is unreasonable in its application to subscribers, he shall order that such rule or regulation shall not be applicable to subscribers who are not members of the rating organization.

(3) If a rating organization fails to grant or reject an insurer's application for subscribership within thirty days after it was made, the insurer may request a review by the commissioner as if the application had been rejected. If the commissioner finds that the insurer has been refused admittance to the rating organization as a subscriber without justification, he shall order the rating organization to admit the insurer as a subscriber. If he finds that the action of the rating organization was justified, he shall make an order affirming its action. [1947 c 79 § .19.22; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.22.]

**48.19.230 Subscriber committees.** The subscribers of any rating organization may, from time to time, individually or through committees representing various subscribers, consult with the rating organization with respect to matters within this chapter which affect such subscribers. [1947 c 79 § .19.23; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.23.]

**48.19.240 Rules cannot affect dividends.** No rating organization shall adopt any rule the effect of which would be to prohibit or regulate the payment of dividends, savings or unabsorbed premium deposits allowed or returned by insurers to their policyholders, members or subscribers. [1947 c 79 § .19.24; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.24.]

**48.19.250 Cooperative activities.** (1) Cooperation among rating organizations or among rating organizations and insurers in rate making or in other matters within the scope of this chapter is hereby authorized, if the filings resulting from such cooperation are subject to all the provisions of this chapter which are applicable to filings generally.

(2) The commissioner may review such cooperative activities and practices and if, after a hearing, he finds that any such activity or practice is unfair or unreasonable or otherwise inconsistent with the provisions of this code, he may issue a written order specifying in what respect such activity or practice is so unfair, unreasonable, or inconsistent, and requiring the discontinuance of such activity or practice. [1947 c 79 § .19.25; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.25.]

**48.19.260 Technical services.** Any rating organization may subscribe for or purchase actuarial, technical or other services, and such services shall be available to all subscribers without discrimination. [1947 c 79 § .19.26; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.26.]

**48.19.270 Records—Examinations.** Each rating organization shall keep an accurate and complete record of all work performed by it, and of all its receipts and disbursements. Such rating organization and its records shall be examined by the commissioner at such times and in such manner as is provided in chapter 48.03 RCW of this code. [1947 c 79 § .19.27; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.27.]

**48.19.280 Deviations.** (1) Every member or subscriber to a rating organization shall adhere to the filings made on its behalf by such organization. Deviations from the organization's filings are permitted only when filed with the commissioner in accordance with this chapter.

(2) Every such deviation shall terminate upon a material change of the basic rate from which the deviation is made. The commissioner shall determine whether a change of the basic rate is so material as to require such termination of deviations. [1989 c 25 § 8; 1957 c 193 § 14; 1947 c 79 § .19.28; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.28.]

**Effective date—1989 c 25:** See note following RCW 48.18.100.

**48.19.290 Appeal from rating organization's action.** (1) Any subscriber to a rating organization may appeal to the commissioner from the rating organization's action or decision in approving or rejecting any proposed change in or addition to the rating organization's filings. The commissioner shall, after a hearing on the appeal:

(a) Issue an order approving the rating organization's action or decision or directing it to give further consideration to such proposal; or

(b) If the appeal is from the rating organization's action or decision in rejecting a proposed addition to its filings, he may, in event he finds that the action or decision was unreasonable, issue an order directing the rating organization to make an addition to its filings, on behalf of its subscribers, in a manner consistent with his findings, within a reasonable time after the issuance of such order.

(2) If such appeal is based upon the rating organization's failure to make a filing on behalf of such subscriber which is based on a system of expense provisions which differs, in accordance with the right granted in subdivision (2) of RCW 48.19.030, from the system of expense provisions included in a filing made by the rating organization, the commissioner shall, if he grants the appeal, order the rating organization to make the requested filing for use by the appellant. In deciding the appeal the commissioner shall apply the standards set forth in RCW 48.19.020 and 48.19.030. [1947 c 79 § .19.29; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.29.]

**48.19.300 Service to insureds.** Every rating organization and every insurer which makes its own rates shall, within a reasonable time after receiving written request therefor and upon payment of such reasonable charge as it may make, furnish to any insured affected by a rate made by



it, or to the authorized representative of such insured, all pertinent information as to such rate. [1947 c 79 § .19.30; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.30.]

**48.19.310 Complaints of insureds.** Every rating organization and every insurer which makes its own rates shall provide within this state reasonable means whereby any person aggrieved by the application of its rating system may be heard, in person or by his authorized representative, on his written request to review the manner in which such rating system has been applied in connection with the insurance afforded him. If the rating organization or insurer fails to grant or reject such request within thirty days after it is made, the applicant may proceed in the same manner as if his application had been rejected. Any party affected by the action of such rating organization or such insurer on such request may, within thirty days after written notice of such action, appeal to the commissioner, who, after a hearing held upon notice to the appellant and to the rating organization or insurer, may affirm or reverse such action. [1947 c 79 § .19.31; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.31.]

**48.19.320 Advisory organizations—Definition.** (1) Every group, association or other organization of insurers, whether located within or outside this state, which assists insurers which make their own filings or rating organizations in rate making, by the collection and furnishing of loss or expense statistics, or by the submission of recommendations, but which does not make filings under this chapter, shall be known as an advisory organization.

(2) This section does not apply to subscribers' committees provided for in RCW 48.19.230. [1947 c 79 § .19.32; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.32.]

**48.19.330 Requisites of advisory organization.** Every advisory organization before serving as such to any rating organization or independently filing insurer doing business in this state, shall file with the commissioner:

(1) A copy of its constitution, its articles of agreement or association or its certificate of incorporation and of its bylaws, rules and regulations governing its activities;

(2) A list of its members;

(3) The name and address of a resident of this state upon whom notices or orders of the commissioner or process issued at his direction may be served; and

(4) An agreement that the commissioner may examine such advisory organization in accordance with the provisions of RCW 48.03.010. [1947 c 79 § .19.33; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.33.]

**48.19.340 Desist orders.** If, after a hearing, the commissioner finds that the furnishing of information or assistance by an advisory organization, as referred to in RCW 48.19.320, involves any act or practice which is unfair or unreasonable or otherwise inconsistent with the provisions of this code, he may issue a written order specifying in what respect such act or practice is unfair or unreasonable or so otherwise inconsistent, and requiring the discontinuance of such act or practice. [1947 c 79 § .19.34; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.34.]

**48.19.350 Disqualification of data.** No insurer which makes its own filing nor any rating organization shall support its filings by statistics or adopt rate making recommendations, furnished to it by an advisory organization which has not complied with this chapter or with any order of the commissioner involving such statistics or recommendations issued under RCW 48.19.340. If the commissioner finds such insurer or rating organization to be in violation of this section he may issue an order requiring the discontinuance of the violation. [1947 c 79 § .19.35; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.35.]

**48.19.360 Joint underwriting or joint reinsurance.** (1) Every group, association or other organization of insurers which engages in joint underwriting or joint reinsurance, shall be subject to regulation with respect thereto as is provided in this section, subject, however, with respect to joint underwriting, to all other provisions of this chapter, and, with respect to joint reinsurance, to RCW 48.19.270, 48.01.080 and 48.19.430; and to chapter 48.03 RCW of this code.

(2) If, after a hearing, the commissioner finds that any activity or practice of any such group, association or other organization is unfair or unreasonable or otherwise inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter, he may issue a written order specifying in what respects such activity or practice is unfair, or unreasonable or so inconsistent, and requiring the discontinuance of the activity or practice. [1947 c 79 § .19.36; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.36.]

**48.19.370 Recording and reporting of loss and expense experience.** (1) The commissioner shall promulgate reasonable rules and statistical plans, reasonably adapted to each of the rating systems on file with him, which may be modified from time to time and which shall be used thereafter by each insurer in the recording and reporting of its loss and countrywide expense experience, in order that the experience of all insurers may be made available at least annually in such form and detail as may be necessary to aid him in determining whether rating systems comply with the standards set forth in RCW 48.19.020 and 48.19.030. Such rules and plans may also provide for the recording and reporting of expense experience items which are specially applicable to this state and are not susceptible of determination by a prorating of countrywide expense experience.

(2) In promulgating such rules and plans, the commissioner shall give due consideration to the rating systems on file with him and, in order that such rules and plans may be as uniform as is practicable among the several states, to the rules and to the form of the plans used for such rating systems in other states.

(3) No insurer shall be required to record or report its loss experience on a classification basis that is inconsistent with the rating system filed by it.

(4) The commissioner may designate one or more rating organizations or other agencies to assist him in gathering such experience and making compilations thereof, and such compilations shall be made available, subject to reasonable rules promulgated by the commissioner, to insurers and rating organizations.

(5) Reasonable rules and plans may be promulgated by the commissioner for the interchange of data necessary for the application of rating plans. [1947 c 79 § .19.37; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.37.]

**48.19.380 Exchange of information.** Every rating organization and insurer may exchange information and experience data with insurers and rating organizations in this and other states and may consult with them with respect to rate making and the application of rating systems. [1947 c 79 § .19.38; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.38.]

**48.19.390 False or misleading information.** No person shall wilfully withhold information from, or knowingly give false or misleading information to, the commissioner, any statistical agency designated by the commissioner, any rating organization, or any insurer, which will affect the rates or premiums chargeable under this chapter. [1947 c 79 § .19.39; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.39.]

**48.19.400 Assigned risks.** Agreements may be made among casualty insurers with respect to the equitable apportionment among them of insurance which may be afforded applicants who are in good faith entitled to but who are unable to procure such insurance through ordinary methods and such insurers may agree among themselves on the use of reasonable rate modifications for such insurance, such agreements and rate modifications to be subject to the approval of the commissioner. [1947 c 79 § .19.40; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.40.]

**48.19.410 Examination of contracts.** (1) The commissioner may permit the organization and operation of examining bureaus for the examination of policies, daily reports, binders, renewal certificates, endorsements, and other evidences of insurance or of the cancellation thereof, for the purpose of ascertaining that lawful rates are being charged.

(2) A bureau shall examine documents with regard to such kinds of insurance as the commissioner may, after hearing, reasonably require to be submitted for examination. A bureau may examine documents as to such other kinds of insurance as the issuing insurers may voluntarily submit for examination. Upon request of the commissioner, a bureau shall also examine affidavits filed pursuant to RCW 48.15.040, surplus lines contracts and related documents, and shall make recommendations to the commissioner to assist the commissioner in determining whether surplus lines have been procured in accordance with chapter 48.15 RCW and rules issued thereunder.

(3) No bureau shall operate unless licensed by the commissioner as to the kinds of insurance as to which it is permitted so to examine. To qualify for a license a bureau shall:

(a) Be owned in trust for the benefit of all the insurers regularly using its services, under a trust agreement approved by the commissioner.

(b) Make its services available without discrimination to all authorized insurers applying therefor, subject to such reasonable rules and regulations as to the obligations of insurers using its services, as to the conduct of its affairs,

and as to the correction of errors and omissions in documents examined by it as are approved by the commissioner.

(c) Have no manager or other employee who is an employee of an insurer other than to the extent that he is an employee of the bureau owned by insurers through such trust agreement.

(d) Pay to the commissioner a fee of ten dollars for issuance of its license.

(4) Such license shall be of indefinite duration and shall remain in force until revoked by the commissioner or terminated at the request of the bureau. The commissioner may revoke the license, after hearing,

(a) if the bureau is no longer qualified therefor;

(b) if the bureau fails to comply with a proper order of the commissioner;

(c) if the bureau violates or knowingly participates in the violation of any provision of this code.

(5) Any person aggrieved by any rule, regulation, act or omission of a bureau may appeal to the commissioner therefrom. The commissioner shall hold a hearing upon such appeal, and shall make such order upon the hearing as he deems to be proper.

(6) Every such bureau operating in this state shall be subject to the supervision of the commissioner, and the commissioner shall examine it as provided in chapter 48.03 RCW of this code.

(7) Every examining bureau shall keep adequate records of the outstanding errors and omissions found in coverages examined by it and of its receipts and disbursements, and shall hold as confidential all information contained in documents submitted to it for examination.

(8) The commissioner shall not license an additional bureau for the examination of documents relative to a kind of insurance if such documents are being examined by a then existing licensed bureau. Any examining bureau operating in this state immediately prior to the effective date of this code under any law of this state repealed as of such date, shall have prior right to apply for and secure a license under this section. [1983 1st ex.s. c 32 § 8; 1947 c 79 § .19.41; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.41.]

**48.19.420 Rate agreements.** Two or more insurers mutually may agree to adhere to rates, rating plans, rating systems or underwriting practices or uniform modifications thereof, all subject to the following conditions:

(1) All of the terms of the agreements shall be in writing executed on behalf of each such insurer.

(2) An executed copy of every such written agreement and of every modification thereof shall be filed with the commissioner.

(3) Within a reasonable length of time after every such filing, the commissioner shall either approve or disapprove such agreement or modification. No such agreement or modification shall be effective unless and until approved by the commissioner.

(4) The commissioner shall not approve any such agreement or modification which:

(a) Constitutes or would tend to result in an unreasonable restraint upon free competition;

(b) contains terms otherwise tending to injure the public interest.

(5) No cause of action shall lie in favor of any insurer which is party to any such agreement against any other insurer party thereto on account of any breach thereof.

(6) All rate filings covered by such agreement shall be subject to the provisions of this chapter or of other applicable law.

(7) The commissioner may after a hearing thereon and for cause withdraw any approval previously given any such agreement or modification. [1947 c 79 § .19.42; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.42.]

**48.19.430 Penalties.** Any person violating any provision of this chapter shall be subject to a penalty of not more than fifty dollars for each such violation, but if such violation is found to be wilful a penalty of not more than five hundred dollars for each such violation may be imposed. Such penalties may be in addition to any other penalty provided by law. [1947 c 79 § .19.43; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.19.43.]

**48.19.450 Casualty rate filing—Credit.** The commissioner shall, in reviewing a casualty rate filing, determine in accordance with sound and reliable actuarial principles whether \*this act requires an insurer to grant its policyholders a credit in such casualty rate filing. Upon determining that data in support of such a credit is actuarially credible, the commissioner shall approve or disapprove such casualty rate filing in accordance therewith. The commissioner shall not approve any casualty rate that is inadequate, excessive, or unfairly discriminatory. [1986 c 305 § 907.]

**\*Reviser's note:** "This act" consists of the enactment of RCW 4.22.070, 4.24.005, 4.24.264, 4.24.268, 4.24.420, 4.56.250, 4.56.260, 5.40.050, 5.40.060, 7.70.090, 48.19.450, and 48.22.050, the amendments to RCW 4.16.160, 4.16.300, 4.16.310, 4.16.350, 4.22.030, 4.24.115, 5.60.060, and 51.24.060, and the repeal of RCW 4.56.240 by 1986 c 305.

**Preamble—Report to legislature—Applicability—Severability—1986 c 305:** See notes following RCW 4.16.160.

**48.19.460 Automobile insurance—Premium reductions for older insureds completing accident prevention course.** Any schedule of rates or rating plan for automobile liability and physical damage insurance submitted to or filed with the commissioner shall provide for an appropriate reduction in premium charges except for underinsured motorist coverage for those insureds who are fifty-five years of age and older, for a two-year period after successfully completing a motor vehicle accident prevention course meeting the criteria of the department of licensing with a minimum of eight hours, or additional hours as determined by rule of the department of licensing. An eight-hour program-learning self-instruction course shall be made available in areas in which a classroom course meeting the criteria of this section is not offered. The classroom course may be conducted by a public or private agency approved by the department. The self-instruction course shall be conducted by an agency approved by the department to conduct classroom courses under this section. [1987 c 377 § 1; 1986 c 235 § 1.]

**48.19.470 Automobile insurance—Premium reductions for persons eligible under RCW 48.19.460.** All insurance companies writing automobile liability and

physical damage insurance in this state shall allow an appropriate reduction in premium charges except for underinsured motorist coverage to all eligible persons subject to RCW 48.19.460. [1986 c 235 § 2.]

**48.19.480 Automobile insurance—Completion of accident prevention course, certificate.** Upon successfully completing the approved course, each participant shall be issued by the course's sponsoring agency, a certificate that shall be the basis of qualification for the discount on insurance. [1986 c 235 § 3.]

**48.19.490 Automobile insurance—Continued eligibility for discount.** Each participant shall take an approved course every two years to continue to be eligible for the discount on insurance. [1986 c 235 § 4.]

**48.19.500 Motor vehicle insurance—Seat belts, etc.** Due consideration in making rates for motor vehicle insurance shall be given to any anticipated change in losses that may be attributable to the use of seat belts, child restraints, and other lifesaving devices. An exhibit detailing these changes and any credits or discounts resulting from any such changes shall be included in each filing pertaining to private passenger automobile (or motor vehicle) insurance. [1989 c 11 § 20; 1987 c 310 § 1.]

**Severability—1989 c 11:** See note following RCW 9A.56.220.

**48.19.501 Motor vehicle insurance—Anti-theft devices—Lights—Multiple vehicles.** Due consideration in making rates for motor vehicle insurance shall be given to:

(1) Any anticipated change in losses that may be attributable to the use of properly installed and maintained anti-theft devices in the insured private passenger automobile. An exhibit detailing these losses and any credits or discounts resulting from any such changes shall be included in each filing pertaining to private passenger automobile (or motor vehicle) insurance.

(2) Any anticipated change in losses that may be attributable to the use of lights and lighting devices that have been proven effective in increasing the visibility of motor vehicles during daytime or in poor visibility conditions and to the use of rear stop lights that have been proven effective in reducing rear-end collisions. An exhibit detailing these losses and any credits or discounts resulting from any such changes shall be included in each filing pertaining to private passenger automobile (or motor vehicle) insurance.

(3) Any anticipated change in losses per vehicle covered that may be attributable to the fact that the insured has more vehicles covered under the policy than there are insured drivers in the same household. An exhibit detailing these changes and any credits or discounts resulting from any such changes shall be included in each filing pertaining to private passenger automobile (or motor vehicle) insurance. [1989 c 11 § 21; 1987 c 320 § 1.]

**Severability—1989 c 11:** See note following RCW 9A.56.220.

**Effective date—1987 c 320:** "This act shall take effect on January 1, 1988." [1987 c 320 § 2.]

**Chapter 48.20**  
**DISABILITY INSURANCE**

## Sections

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**48.20.002 Scope of chapter.** Nothing in this chapter shall apply to or affect (1) any policy of workers' compensation insurance or any policy of liability insurance with or without supplementary expense coverage therein; or (2) any policy or contract of reinsurance; or (3) any blanket or group policy of insurance; or (4) life insurance, endowment or annuity contracts, or contracts supplemental thereto which contain only such provisions relating to accident and sickness insurance as (a) provide additional benefits in case of death or dismemberment or loss of sight by accident, or as (b) operate to safeguard such contracts against lapse, or to give a special surrender value or special benefit or an annuity in the event that the insured or annuitant shall become totally and permanently disabled, as defined by the contract or supplemental contract. [1987 c 185 § 25; 1951 c 229 § 1.]

**Reviser's note:** For prior laws governing standard provision requirements for individual accident or health insurance policies see 1947 c 79 §§ .20.01 through .20.33 and .20.37 and Rem. Supp. 1947 §§ 45.20.01 through 45.20.33 and 45.20.37.

Many of the sections enacted in 1951 c 229 are in substance amendatory of sections previously appearing in chapter 48.20 RCW, although they appear in 1951 c 229 as new sections. To assist those using the code, the prior enactment on the same subject is shown in the history note following the new section wherever practical.

**Intent—Severability—1987 c 185:** See notes following RCW 51.12.130.

**48.20.012 Format of disability policies.** No disability policy shall be delivered or issued for delivery to any person in this state unless it otherwise complies with this code, and complies with the following:

(1) It shall purport to insure only one person, except as to family expense insurance written pursuant to RCW 48.20.340.

(2) The style, arrangement and over-all appearance of the policy shall give no undue prominence to any portion of

the text, and every printed portion of the text of the policy and of any endorsements or attached papers shall be plainly printed in light-faced type of a style in general use, the size of which shall be uniform and not less than ten-point with a lower-case unspaced alphabet length not less than one hundred and twenty-point (the "text" shall include all printed matter except the name and address of the insurer, name or title of the policy, the brief description if any, and caption and subcaptions).

(3) The exceptions and reductions of indemnity shall be set forth in the policy and, other than those contained in RCW 48.20.042 to 48.20.272, inclusive, shall be printed, at the insurer's option, either included with the benefit provision to which they apply, or under an appropriate caption such as "Exceptions," or "Exceptions and reductions," except that if an exception or reduction specifically applies only to a particular benefit of the policy, a statement of such exception or reduction shall be included with the benefit provision to which it applies.

(4) Each such form, including riders and endorsements, shall be identified by a form number in the lower left hand corner of the first page thereof.

(5) It shall contain no provision purporting to make any portion of the insurer's charter, rules, constitution, or bylaws a part of the policy unless such portion is set forth in full in the policy, except in the case of the incorporation of, or reference to, a statement of rates or classification of risks, or short-rate table filed with the commissioner. [1951 c 229 § 2; 1947 c 79 § .20.02; formerly Rem. Supp. 1949 § 45.20.02.]

**48.20.013 Return of policy and refund of premium—Notice required—Effect of return.** Every individual disability insurance policy issued after January 1, 1968, except single premium nonrenewable policies, shall have printed on its face or attached thereto a notice stating in substance that the person to whom the policy is issued shall be permitted to return the policy within ten days of its delivery to the purchaser and to have the premium paid refunded if, after examination of the policy, the purchaser is not satisfied with it for any reason. An additional ten percent penalty shall be added to any premium refund due which is not paid within thirty days of return of the policy to the insurer or agent. If a policy holder or purchaser pursuant to such notice, returns the policy to the insurer at its home or branch office or to the agent through whom it was purchased, it shall be void from the beginning and the parties shall be in the same position as if no policy had been issued. [1983 1st ex.s. c 32 § 9; 1967 c 150 § 26.]

**48.20.015 Endorsements.** If a contract is issued on any basis other than as applied for, an endorsement setting forth such modification(s) must accompany and be attached to the policy; and no endorsement shall be effective unless signed by the policyowner, and a signed copy thereof returned to the insurer. [1975 1st ex.s. c 266 § 9.]

**Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 266:** See note following RCW 48.01.010.

**48.20.022 Policies issued by domestic insurer for delivery in another state.** If any policy is issued by a

domestic insurer for delivery to a person residing in another state, and if the insurance commissioner or corresponding public official of such other state has advised the commissioner that any such policy is not subject to approval or disapproval by such official, the commissioner may by ruling require that such policy meet the applicable standards set forth in this chapter and in chapter 48.18 RCW. [1951 c 229 § 3.]

**48.20.028 Mandatory offering to individuals providing basic health plan benefits—Exemption from statutory requirements—Premium rates—Definitions.**

(1)(a) An insurer offering any health benefit plan to any individual shall offer and actively market to all individuals a health benefit plan providing benefits identical to the schedule of covered health services that are required to be delivered to an individual enrolled in the basic health plan. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude an insurer from offering, or an individual from purchasing, other health benefit plans that may have more or less comprehensive benefits than the basic health plan, provided such plans are in accordance with this chapter. An insurer offering a health benefit plan that does not include benefits provided in the basic health plan shall clearly disclose these differences to the individual in a brochure approved by the commissioner.

(b) A health benefit plan shall provide coverage for hospital expenses and services rendered by a physician licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW but is not subject to the requirements of RCW 48.20.390, 48.20.393, 48.20.395, 48.20.397, 48.20.410, 48.20.411, 48.20.412, 48.20.416, and 48.20.420 if the health benefit plan is the mandatory offering under (a) of this subsection that provides benefits identical to the basic health plan, to the extent these requirements differ from the basic health plan.

(2) Premiums for health benefit plans for individuals shall be calculated using the adjusted community rating method that spreads financial risk across the carrier's entire individual product population. All such rates shall conform to the following:

(a) The insurer shall develop its rates based on an adjusted community rate and may only vary the adjusted community rate for:

- (i) Geographic area;
- (ii) Family size;
- (iii) Age; and
- (iv) Wellness activities.

(b) The adjustment for age in (a)(iii) of this subsection may not use age brackets smaller than five-year increments which shall begin with age twenty and end with age sixty-five. Individuals under the age of twenty shall be treated as those age twenty.

(c) The insurer shall be permitted to develop separate rates for individuals age sixty-five or older for coverage for which medicare is the primary payer and coverage for which medicare is not the primary payer. Both rates shall be subject to the requirements of this subsection.

(d) The permitted rates for any age group shall be no more than four hundred twenty-five percent of the lowest rate for all age groups on January 1, 1996, four hundred percent on January 1, 1997, and three hundred seventy-five percent on January 1, 2000, and thereafter.

(e) A discount for wellness activities shall be permitted to reflect actuarially justified differences in utilization or cost attributed to such programs not to exceed twenty percent.

(f) The rate charged for a health benefit plan offered under this section may not be adjusted more frequently than annually except that the premium may be changed to reflect:

- (i) Changes to the family composition;
- (ii) Changes to the health benefit plan requested by the individual; or
- (iii) Changes in government requirements affecting the health benefit plan.

(g) For the purposes of this section, a health benefit plan that contains a restricted network provision shall not be considered similar coverage to a health benefit plan that does not contain such a provision, provided that the restrictions of benefits to network providers result in substantial differences in claims costs. This subsection does not restrict or enhance the portability of benefits as provided in RCW 48.43.015.

(3) Adjusted community rates established under this section shall pool the medical experience of all individuals purchasing coverage, and shall not be required to be pooled with the medical experience of health benefit plans offered to small employers under RCW 48.21.045.

(4) As used in this section, "health benefit plan," "basic health plan," "adjusted community rate," and "wellness activities" mean the same as defined in RCW 48.43.005. [1995 c 265 § 13.]

**Captions not law—Effective dates—Savings—Severability—1995 c 265:** See notes following RCW 70.47.015.

**48.20.032 Standard provisions required—Substitutions—Captions.** Except as provided in RCW 48.18.130, each such policy delivered or issued for delivery to any person in this state shall contain the provisions as specified in RCW 48.20.042 to 48.20.152, inclusive, in the words in which the same appear; except, that the insurer may, at its option, substitute for one or more of such provisions corresponding provisions of different wording approved by the commissioner which are in each instance not less favorable in any respect to the insured or the beneficiary. Each such provision shall be preceded by the applicable caption shown or, at the insurer's option, by such appropriate individual or group caption or subcaption as the commissioner may approve. [1951 c 229 § 4; 1947 c 79 § .20.03; formerly Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.20.03.]

**48.20.042 Standard provision No. 1—Entire contract; changes.** There shall be a provision as follows:

**ENTIRE CONTRACTS; CHANGES:** This policy, including the endorsements and attached papers, if any, constitutes the entire contract of insurance. No change in this policy shall be valid until approved by an executive officer of the insurer and unless such approval be endorsed hereon or attached hereto. No agent has authority to change this policy or to waive any of its provisions. [1951 c 229 § 5. Prior law: (i) 1947 c 79 § .20.05; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.20.05. (ii) 1947 c 79 § .20.06; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.20.06.]

**48.20.050 Standard provision No. 2—Misstatement of age or sex.** There shall be a provision as follows:

**"MISSTATEMENT OF AGE OR SEX:** If the age or sex of the insured has been misstated, all amounts payable under this policy shall be such as the premium paid would have purchased at the correct age or sex."

The amount of any underpayments which may have been made on account of any such misstatement under a disability income policy shall be paid the insured along with the current payment and the amount of any overpayment may be charged against the current or succeeding payments to be made by the insurer. Interest may be applied to such underpayments or overpayments as specified in the insurance policy form but not exceeding six percent per annum. [1983 1st ex.s. c 32 § 16.]

**48.20.052 Standard provision No. 3—Time limit on certain defenses.** There shall be a provision as follows:

**"TIME LIMIT ON CERTAIN DEFENSES:** (a) After two years from the date of issue of this policy no misstatements except fraudulent misstatements, made by the applicant in the application for such policy shall be used to void the policy or to deny a claim for loss incurred or disability (as defined in the policy) commencing after the expiration of such two year period."

(The foregoing policy provision shall not be so construed as to affect any legal requirement for avoidance of a policy or denial of a claim during such initial two year period, nor to limit the application of RCW 48.20.050, 48.20.172, 48.20.192, 48.20.202, and 48.20.212 in the event of misstatement with respect to age or occupation or other insurance.)

(A policy which the insured has the right to continue in force subject to its terms by the timely payment of premium (1) until at least age 50 or, (2) in the case of a policy issued after age 44, for at least five years from its date of issue, may contain in lieu of the foregoing the following provision (from which the clause in parentheses may be omitted at the insurer's option) under the caption "INCONTESTABLE":

"After this policy has been in force for a period of two years during the lifetime of the insured (excluding any period during which the insured is disabled), it shall become incontestable as to the statements contained in the application.")

"(b) No claim for loss incurred or disability (as defined in the policy) commencing after two years from the date of issue of this policy shall be reduced or denied on the ground that a disease or physical condition not excluded from coverage by name or specific description effective on the date of loss had existed prior to the effective date of coverage of this policy."

(More stringent provisions may be required by the commissioner in connection with individual disability policies sold without any application or with minimal applications.) [1983 1st ex.s. c 32 § 17; 1975 1st ex.s. c 266 § 12; 1973 1st ex.s. c 152 § 4; 1969 ex.s. c 241 § 12; 1951 c 229 § 6.]

**Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 266:** See note following RCW 48.01.010.

**Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 152:** See note following RCW 48.05.140.

**48.20.062 Standard provision No. 4—Grace period.**

There shall be a provision as follows:

**GRACE PERIOD:** A grace period of . . . . (insert a number not less than "7" for weekly premium policies, "10" for monthly premium policies, and "31" for all other policies) days will be granted for the payment of each premium falling due after the first premium, during which grace period the policy shall continue in force.

(A policy which contains a cancellation provision may add, at the end of the above provision: "subject to the right of the insurer to cancel in accordance with the cancellation provision hereof.")

A policy in which the insurer reserves the right to refuse any renewal shall have, at the beginning of the above provision: "Unless not less than five days prior to the premium due date the insurer has delivered to the insured or has mailed to his last address as shown by the records of the insurer written notice of its intention not to renew this policy beyond the period for which the premium has been accepted." [1951 c 229 § 7.]

**48.20.072 Standard provision No. 5—Reinstatement.**

There shall be a provision as follows:

**REINSTATEMENT:** If any renewal premium be not paid within the time granted the insured for payment, a subsequent acceptance of premium by the insurer or by any agent duly authorized by the insurer to accept such premium, without requiring in connection therewith an application for reinstatement, shall reinstate the policy: **PROVIDED, HOWEVER,** That if the insurer or such agent requires an application for reinstatement and issues a conditional receipt for the premium tendered, the policy will be reinstated upon approval of such application by the insurer or, lacking such approval, upon the forty-fifth day following the date of such conditional receipt unless the insurer has previously notified the insured in writing of its disapproval of such application. The reinstated policy shall cover only loss resulting from such accidental injury as may be sustained after the date of reinstatement and loss due to such sickness as may begin more than ten days after such date. In all other respects the insured and insurer shall have the same rights thereunder as they had under the policy immediately before the due date of the defaulted premium, subject to any provisions endorsed hereon or attached hereto in connection with the reinstatement. Any premium accepted in connection with a reinstatement shall be applied to a period for which premium has not been previously paid, but not to any period more than sixty days prior to the date of reinstatement.

(The last sentence of the above provision may be omitted from any policy which the insured has the right to continue in force subject to its terms by the timely payment of premiums (1) until at least age 50 or, (2) in the case of a policy issued after age 44, for at least five years from its date of issue.) [1951 c 229 § 8; 1947 c 79 § .20.07; formerly Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.20.07.]

**48.20.082 Standard provision No. 6—Notice of claim.** There shall be a provision as follows:

**NOTICE OF CLAIM:** Written notice of claim must be given to the insurer within twenty days after the occurrence or commencement of any loss covered by the policy, or as

soon thereafter as is reasonably possible. Notice given by or on behalf of the insured or the beneficiary to the insurer at . . . . . (insert the location of such office as the insurer may designate for the purpose), or to any authorized agent of the insurer, with information sufficient to identify the insured, shall be deemed notice to the insurer.

(In a policy providing a loss-of-time benefit which may be payable for at least two years, an insurer may at its option insert the following between the first and second sentences of the above provision:

"Subject to the qualifications set forth below, if the insured suffers loss of time on account of disability for which indemnity may be payable for at least two years, he shall at least once in every six months after having given notice of claim, give to the insurer notice of continuance of said disability, except in the event of legal incapacity. The period of six months following any filing of proof by the insured or any payment by the insurer on account of such claim or any denial of liability in whole or in part by the insurer shall be excluded in applying this provision. Delay in the giving of such notice shall not impair the insured's right to any indemnity which would otherwise have accrued during the period of six months preceding the date on which such notice is actually given.") [1951 c 229 § 9. Prior law: 1947 c 79 § .20.08; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.20.08.]

**48.20.092 Standard provision No. 7—Claim forms.**

There shall be a provision as follows:

**CLAIM FORMS:** The insurer, upon receipt of a notice of claim, will furnish to the claimant such forms as are usually furnished by it for filing proofs of loss. If such forms are not furnished within fifteen days after the giving of such notice the claimant shall be deemed to have complied with the requirements of this policy as to proof of loss upon submitting, within the time fixed in the policy for filing proofs of loss written proof covering the occurrence, the character and the extent of the loss for which claim is made. [1951 c 229 § 10; 1947 c 79 § .20.10; formerly Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.20.10.]

*Furnishing claim forms does not constitute waiver of any defense by insurer: RCW 48.18.470.*

*Insurer has no responsibility as to completion of claim forms: RCW 48.18.460.*

**48.20.102 Standard provision No. 8—Proofs of loss.**

There shall be a provision as follows:

**PROOFS OF LOSS:** Written proof of loss must be furnished to the insurer at its said office in case of claim for loss for which this policy provides any periodic payment contingent upon continuing loss within ninety days after the termination of the period for which the insurer is liable and in case of claim for any other loss within ninety days after the date of such loss. Failure to furnish such proof within the time required shall not invalidate nor reduce any claim if it was not reasonably possible to give proof within such time, provided such proof is furnished as soon as reasonably possible and in no event, except in the absence of legal capacity, later than one year from the time proof is otherwise required. [1951 c 229 § 11. Prior: (i) 1947 c 79 § .20.11; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.20.11. (ii) 1947 c 79 § .20.09, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.20.09, part.]

**48.20.112 Standard provision No. 9—Time of payment of claims.** There shall be a provision as follows:

**TIME OF PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:** Indemnities payable under this policy for any loss other than loss for which this policy provides any periodic payment will be paid immediately upon receipt of due written proof of such loss. Subject to due written proof of loss, all accrued indemnities for loss for which this policy provides periodic payment will be paid . . . . . (insert period for payment which must not be less frequently than monthly) and any balance remaining unpaid upon the termination of liability will be paid immediately upon receipt of due written proof. [1951 c 229 § 12. Prior: (i) 1947 c 79 § .20.13; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.20.13. (ii) 1947 c 79 § .20.14; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.20.14.]

**48.20.122 Standard provision No. 10—Payment of claims.** (1) There shall be a provision as follows:

**PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:** Indemnity for loss of life will be payable in accordance with the beneficiary designation and the provisions respecting such payment which may be prescribed herein and effective at the time of payment. If no such designation or provision is then effective, such indemnity shall be payable to the estate of the insured. Any other accrued indemnities unpaid at the insured's death may, at the option of the insurer, be paid either to such beneficiary or to such estate. All other indemnities will be payable to the insured.

(2) The following provisions, or either of them, may be included with the foregoing provision at the option of the insurer:

"If any indemnity of this policy shall be payable to the estate of the insured, or to an insured or beneficiary who is a minor or otherwise not competent to give a valid release, the insurer may pay such indemnity, up to an amount not exceeding \$. . . . . (insert an amount which shall not exceed \$1000), to any relative by blood or connection by marriage of the insured or beneficiary who is deemed by the insurer to be equitably entitled thereto. Any payment made by the insurer in good faith pursuant to this provision shall fully discharge the insurer to the extent of such payment."

"Subject to any written direction of the insured in the application or otherwise all or a portion of any indemnities provided by this policy on account of hospital, nursing, medical, or surgical services may, at the insurer's option and unless the insured requests otherwise in writing not later than the time of filing proofs of such loss, be paid directly to the hospital or person rendering such services; but it is not required that the service be rendered by a particular hospital or person." [1951 c 229 § 13. Prior: 1947 c 79 § .20.15; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.20.15.]

*Proceeds of disability policy are exempt from creditors: RCW 48.18.400.*

**48.20.132 Standard provision No. 11—Physical examination and autopsy.** There shall be a provision as follows:

**PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS AND AUTOPSY:** The insurer at its own expense shall have the right and opportunity to examine the person of the insured when and as often as it may reasonably require during the pendency of a claim hereunder and to make an autopsy in case of death where it

is not forbidden by law. [1951 c 229 § 14. Prior: 1947 c 79 § .20.12; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.20.12.]

**48.20.142 Standard provision No. 12—Legal actions.** There shall be a provision as follows:

**LEGAL ACTIONS:** No action at law or in equity shall be brought to recover on this policy prior to the expiration of sixty days after written proof of loss has been furnished in accordance with the requirements of this policy. No such action shall be brought after the expiration of three years after the time written proof of loss is required to be furnished. [1951 c 229 § 15. Prior: 1947 c 79 § .20.18; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.20.18.]

**48.20.152 Standard provision No. 13—Change of beneficiary.** There shall be a provision as follows:

**CHANGE OF BENEFICIARY:** Unless the insured makes an irrevocable designation of beneficiary, the right to change of beneficiary is reserved to the insured and the consent of the beneficiary or beneficiaries shall not be requisite to surrender or assignment of this policy or to any change of beneficiary or beneficiaries, or to any other changes in this policy.

(The first clause of this provision, relating to the irrevocable designation of beneficiary, may be omitted at the insurer's option.) [1951 c 229 § 16. Prior: 1947 c 79 § .20.17; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.20.17.]

**48.20.162 Optional standard provisions.** Except as provided in RCW 48.18.130, no such policy delivered or issued for delivery to any person in this state shall contain provisions respecting the matters set forth in RCW 48.20.172 to 48.20.272, inclusive, unless such provisions are in the words in which the same appear in the applicable section; except, that the insurer may, at its option, use in lieu of any such provision a corresponding provision of different wording approved by the commissioner which is not less favorable in any respect to the insured or the beneficiary. Any such provision contained in the policy shall be preceded individually by the appropriate caption or, at the insurer's option, by such appropriate individual or group caption or subcaption as the commissioner may approve. [1951 c 229 § 17. Prior: 1947 c 79 § .20.20; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.20.20.]

**48.20.172 Optional standard provision No. 14—Change of occupation.** There may be a provision as follows:

**CHANGE OF OCCUPATION:** If the insured be injured or contract sickness after having changed his occupation to one classified by the insurer as more hazardous than that stated in this policy or while doing for compensation anything pertaining to an occupation so classified, the insurer will pay only such portion of the indemnities provided in this policy as the premium paid would have purchased at the rates and within the limits fixed by the insurer for such more hazardous occupation. If the insured changes his occupation to one classified by the insurer as less hazardous than that stated in this policy, the insurer, upon receipt of proof of such change of occupation, will reduce the premium rate accordingly, and will return the excess pro rata unearned



premium from the date of change of occupation or from the policy anniversary date immediately preceding receipt of such proof, whichever is the more recent. In applying this provision, the classification of occupational risk and the premium rates shall be such as have been last filed by the insurer prior to the occurrence of the loss for which the insurer is liable or prior to date of proof of change in occupation with the state official having supervision of insurance in the state where the insured resided at the time this policy was issued; but if such filing was not required, then the classification of occupational risk and the premium rates shall be those last made effective by the insurer in such state prior to the occurrence of the loss or prior to the date of proof of change in occupation. [1951 c 229 § 18.]

**48.20.192 Optional standard provision No. 15—Other insurance in this insurer.** There may be a provision as follows:

**OTHER INSURANCE IN THIS INSURER:** If an accident or sickness or accident and sickness policy or policies previously issued by the insurer to the insured be in force concurrently herewith, making the aggregate indemnity for . . . . . (insert type of coverage or coverages) in excess of \$. . . . . (insert maximum limit of indemnity or indemnities) the excess insurance shall be void and all premiums paid for such excess shall be returned to the insured or to his estate.

Or, in lieu thereof:

Insurance effective at any one time on the insured under a like policy or policies in this insurer is limited to the one such policy elected by the insured, his beneficiary or his estate, as the case may be, and the insurer will return all premiums paid for all other such policies. [1951 c 229 § 20. Prior: 1947 c 79 § .20.24; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.20.24.]

**48.20.202 Optional standard provision No. 16—Insurance with other insurers (Provision of service or expense incurred basis).** (1) There may be a provision as follows:

**INSURANCE WITH OTHER INSURERS:** If there be other valid coverage, not with this insurer, providing benefits for the same loss on a provision of service basis or on an expense incurred basis and of which this insurer has not been given written notice prior to the occurrence or commencement of loss, the only liability under any expense incurred coverage of this policy shall be for such proportion of the loss as the amount which would otherwise have been payable hereunder plus the total of the like amounts under all such other valid coverages for the same loss of which this insurer had notice bears to the total like amounts under all valid coverages for such loss, and for the return of such portion of the premiums paid as shall exceed the pro rata portion for the amount so determined. For the purpose of applying this provision when other coverage is on a provision of service basis, the "like amount" of such other coverage shall be taken as the amount which the services rendered would have cost in the absence of such coverage.

(2) If the foregoing policy provision is included in a policy which also contains the policy provision set out in RCW 48.20.212, there shall be added to the caption of the foregoing provision the phrase ". . . . . expense incurred

benefits." The insurer may, at its option, include in this provision a definition of "other valid coverage," approved as to form by the commissioner, which definition shall be limited in subject matter to coverage provided by organizations subject to regulation by insurance law or by insurance authorities of this or any other state of the United States or any province of Canada, and by hospital or medical service organizations, and to any other coverage the inclusion of which may be approved by the commissioner. In the absence of such definition such term shall not include group insurance, automobile medical payments insurance, or coverage provided by hospital or medical service organizations or by union welfare plans or employer or employee benefit organizations. For the purpose of applying the foregoing policy provision with respect to any insured, any amount of benefit provided for such insured pursuant to any compulsory benefit statute (including any workers' compensation or employer's liability statute) whether provided by a governmental agency or otherwise shall in all cases be deemed to be "other valid coverage" of which the insurer has had notice. In applying the foregoing policy provision no third party liability coverage shall be included as "other valid coverage." [1987 c 185 § 26; 1951 c 229 § 21. Prior: 1947 c 79 § .20.22; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.20.22.]

**Intent—Severability—1987 c 185:** See notes following RCW 51.12.130.

**48.20.212 Optional standard provision No. 17—Insurance with other insurers.** (1) There may be a provision as follows:

**INSURANCE WITH OTHER INSURERS:** If there be other valid coverage, not with this insurer, providing benefits for the same loss on other than an expense incurred basis and of which this insurer has not been given written notice prior to the occurrence or commencement of loss, the only liability for such benefits under this policy shall be for such proportion of the indemnities otherwise provided hereunder for such loss as the like indemnities of which the insurer had notice (including the indemnities under this policy) bear to the total amount of all like indemnities for such loss, and for the return of such portion of the premium paid as shall exceed the pro rata portion for the indemnities thus determined.

(2) If the foregoing policy provision is included in a policy which also contains the policy provision set out in RCW 48.20.202, there shall be added to the caption of the foregoing provision the phrase ". . . . . other benefits." The insurer may, at its option, include in this provision a definition of "other valid coverage," approved as to form by the commissioner, which definition shall be limited in subject matter to coverage provided by organizations subject to regulation by insurance law or by insurance authorities of this or any other state of the United States or any province of Canada, and to any other coverage the inclusion of which may be approved by the commissioner. In the absence of such definition such term shall not include group insurance, or benefits provided by union welfare plans or by employer or employee benefit organizations. For the purpose of applying the foregoing policy provision with respect to any insured, any amount of benefit provided for such insured pursuant to any compulsory benefit statute (including any workers' compensation or employer's liability statute)

whether provided by a governmental agency or otherwise shall in all cases be deemed to be "other valid coverage" of which the insurer has had notice. In applying the foregoing policy provision no third party liability coverage shall be included as "other valid coverage." [1987 c 185 § 27; 1951 c 229 § 22. Prior: 1947 c 79 § .20.22; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.20.22.]

**Intent—Severability—1987 c 185:** See notes following RCW 51.12.130.

**48.20.222 Optional standard provision No. 18—Relation of earnings to insurance.** (1) There may be a provision as follows:

**RELATION OF EARNINGS TO INSURANCE:** If the total monthly amount of loss of time benefits promised for the same loss under all valid loss of time coverage upon the insured, whether payable on a weekly or monthly basis, shall exceed the monthly earnings of the insured at the time disability commenced or his average monthly earnings for the period of two years immediately preceding a disability for which claim is made, whichever is the greater, the insurer will be liable only for such proportionate amount of such benefits under this policy as the amount of such monthly earnings of the insured bears to the total amount of monthly benefits for the same loss under all such coverage upon the insured at the time such disability commences and for the return of such part of the premiums paid during such two years as shall exceed the pro rata amount of the premiums for the benefits actually paid hereunder; but this shall not operate to reduce the total monthly amount of benefits payable under all such coverage upon the insured below the sum of two hundred dollars or the sum of the monthly benefits specified in such coverages, whichever is the lesser, nor shall it operate to reduce benefits other than those payable for loss of time.

(2) The foregoing policy provision may be inserted only in a policy which the insured has the right to continue in force subject to its terms by the timely payment of premiums (a) until at least age 50 or, (b) in the case of a policy issued after age 44, for at least five years from its date of issue. The insurer may, at its option, include in this provision a definition of "valid loss of time coverage," approved as to form by the commissioner, which definition shall be limited in subject matter to coverage provided by governmental agencies or by organizations subject to regulation by insurance law or by insurance authorities of this or any other state of the United States or any province of Canada, or to any other coverage the inclusion of which may be approved by the commissioner or any combination of such coverages. In the absence of such definition such term shall not include any coverage provided for such insured pursuant to any compulsory benefit statute (including any workers' compensation or employer's liability statute), or benefits provided by union welfare plans or by employer or employee benefit organizations. [1987 c 185 § 28; 1951 c 229 § 23.]

**Intent—Severability—1987 c 185:** See notes following RCW 51.12.130.

**48.20.232 Optional standard provision No. 19—Unpaid premium.** There may be a provision as follows:

**UNPAID PREMIUM:** Upon the payment of a claim under this policy, any premium then due and unpaid or covered by any note or written order may be deducted therefrom. [1951 c 229 § 24. Prior: 1947 c 79 § .20.23; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.20.23.]

**48.20.242 Optional standard provision No. 20—Cancellation.** There may be a provision as follows:

**CANCELLATION:** The insurer may cancel this policy at any time by written notice delivered to the insured, or mailed to his last address as shown by the records of the insurer, stating when, not less than five days thereafter, such cancellation shall be effective; and after the policy has been continued beyond its original term the insured may cancel this policy at any time by written notice delivered or mailed to the insurer, effective upon receipt or on such later date as may be specified in such notice. In the event of cancellation, the insurer will return promptly the unearned portion of any premium paid. If the insured cancels, the earned premium shall be computed by the use of the short-rate table last filed with the state official having supervision of insurance in the state where the insured resided when the policy was issued. If the insurer cancels, the earned premium shall be computed pro rata. Cancellation shall be without prejudice to any claim originating prior to the effective date of cancellation. [1951 c 229 § 25. Prior: 1947 c 79 § .20.21; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.20.21.]

**48.20.252 Optional standard provision No. 21—Conformity with state statutes.** There may be a provision as follows:

**CONFORMITY WITH STATE STATUTES:** Any provision of this policy which, on its effective date, is in conflict with the statutes of the state in which the insured resides on such date is hereby amended to conform to the minimum requirements of such statutes. [1951 c 229 § 26.]

**48.20.262 Optional standard provision No. 22—Illegal occupation.** There may be a provision as follows:

**ILLEGAL OCCUPATION:** The insurer shall not be liable for any loss to which a contributing cause was the insured's commission of or attempt to commit a felony or to which a contributing cause was the insured's being engaged in an illegal occupation. [1951 c 229 § 27. Prior: 1947 c 79 § .20.26; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.20.26.]

**48.20.272 Optional standard provision No. 23—Intoxicants and narcotics.** There may be a provision as follows:

**INTOXICANTS AND NARCOTICS:** The insurer shall not be liable for any loss sustained or contracted in consequence of the insured's being intoxicated or under the influence of any narcotic unless administered on the advice of a physician. [1951 c 229 § 28. Prior: 1947 c 79 § .20.27; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.20.27.]

**48.20.282 Order of certain policy provisions.** The provisions which are the subject of RCW 48.20.042 to 48.20.272, inclusive, or any corresponding provisions which are used in lieu thereof in accordance with such sections, shall be printed in the consecutive order of the provisions in

such sections or, at the insurer's option, any such provision may appear as a unit in any part of the policy, with other provisions to which it may be logically related, provided the resulting policy shall not be in whole or in part unintelligible, uncertain, ambiguous, abstruse, or likely to mislead a person to whom the policy is offered, delivered or issued. [1951 c 229 § 29.]

**48.20.292 Third party ownership.** The word "insured," as used in this chapter, shall not be construed as preventing a person other than the insured with a proper insurable interest from making application for and owning a policy covering the insured or from being entitled under such a policy to any indemnities, benefits and rights provided therein. [1951 c 229 § 30.]

*Insurable interest defined, personal insurance, nonprofit organizations: RCW 48.18.030.*

**48.20.302 Requirements of other jurisdictions.** (1) Any policy of a foreign or alien insurer, when delivered or issued for delivery to any person in this state, may contain any provision which is not less favorable to the insured or to the beneficiary than the provisions of this chapter and which is prescribed or required by the laws of the state under which the insurer is organized.

(2) Any policy of a domestic insurer may, when issued for delivery in any other state or country, contain any provision permitted or required by the laws of such other state or country. [1951 c 229 § 31.]

*Domestic insurer may transact insurance in other state as permitted by laws thereof: RCW 48.07.140.*

**48.20.312 Age limit.** If any such policy contains a provision establishing, as an age limit or otherwise, a date after which the coverage provided by the policy will not be effective, and if such date falls within a period for which premium is accepted by the insurer or if the insurer accepts a premium after such date, the coverage provided by the policy will continue in force subject to any right of cancellation until the end of the period for which premium has been accepted. In the event the age of the insured has been misstated and if, according to the correct age of the insured, the coverage provided by the policy would not have become effective, or would have ceased prior to the acceptance of such premium or premiums, then the liability of the insurer shall be limited to the refund, upon request, of all premiums paid for the period not covered by the policy. [1951 c 229 § 32. Prior: 1947 c 79 § .20.25; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.20.25.]

**48.20.322 Effective date of standard provision and certain other sections—Five year period.** The provisions contained in RCW 48.20.002 to 48.20.322, inclusive, shall take effect on September 1, 1951. A policy, rider or endorsement, which could have been lawfully used or delivered or issued for delivery to any person in this state immediately before such effective date may be used or delivered or issued for delivery to any such person during five years after such effective date. [1951 c 229 § 33.]

**48.20.340 "Family expense disability insurance" defined.** (1) Family expense disability insurance is that covering members of any one family including one or both spouses and dependents provided under a master policy issued to the head of the family.

(2) Any authorized disability insurer may issue family expense disability insurance.

(3) A disability policy providing such family expense coverage, in addition to other provisions required to be contained in disability policies under this chapter, shall contain the following provisions:

(a) A provision that the policy and the application of the head of the family shall constitute the entire contract between the parties.

(b) A provision that to the family group originally insured shall, on notice to the insurer, be added from time to time all new members of the family as they become eligible for insurance in such family group, and on the payment of such additional premium as may be required therefor. [1961 c 194 § 5; 1947 c 79 § .20.34; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.20.34.]

**48.20.350 "Franchise plan" defined.** (1) Disability insurance on a franchise plan is that issued to

(a) five or more employees of a common employer, or to

(b) ten or more members of any bona fide trade or professional association or labor union, which association or union was formed and exists for purposes other than that of obtaining insurance, and under which such employees or members, with or without their dependents, are issued individual policies which may vary as to amounts and kinds of coverage as applied for, under an arrangement whereby the premiums on the policies are to be paid to the insurer periodically by the employer, with or without payroll deductions, or by the association, or by some designated employee or officer of the association acting on behalf of the employer or association members.

(2) An insurer may charge different rates, provide different benefits, or employ different underwriting procedure for individuals insured under a franchise plan, if such rates, benefits, or procedures as used do not discriminate as between franchise plans, and do not discriminate unfairly as between individuals insured under franchise plans and individuals otherwise insured under similar policies. [1947 c 79 § .20.35; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.20.35.]

**48.20.360 Extended disability benefit.** A disability insurance contract which provides a reasonable amount of disability indemnity for both accidental injuries and sickness, other than a contract of group or blanket insurance, may provide a benefit in amount not exceeding two hundred dollars payable in event of death from any causes. Such benefit shall be deemed to constitute the payment of disability benefits beyond the period for which otherwise payable, and shall not be deemed to constitute life insurance. [1947 c 79 § .20.36; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.20.36.]

**48.20.380 Incontestability after reinstatement.** The reinstatement of any policy of noncancellable disability insurance hereafter delivered or issued for delivery in this

state shall be contestable only on account of fraud or misrepresentation of facts material to the reinstatement and only for the same period following reinstatement as is provided in the policy with respect to the contestability thereof after the original issuance of the policy. [1947 c 79 § .20.38; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.20.38.]

**48.20.390 Chiroprody.** Notwithstanding any provision of any disability insurance contract, benefits shall not be denied thereunder for any medical or surgical service performed by a holder of a license issued pursuant to chapter 18.22 RCW provided that (1) the service performed was within the lawful scope of such person's license, and (2) such contract would have provided benefits if such service had been performed by a holder of a license issued pursuant to chapter 18.71 RCW. [1963 c 87 § 1.]

**Application—1963 c 87:** "This act shall apply to all contracts issued on or after the effective date of this act." [1963 c 87 § 3.] The effective date of this act was June 13, 1963 (midnight June 12), see preface, 1963 session laws.

**48.20.393 Mammograms—Insurance coverage.** Each disability insurance policy issued or renewed after January 1, 1990, that provides coverage for hospital or medical expenses shall provide coverage for screening or diagnostic mammography services, provided that such services are delivered upon the recommendation of the patient's physician or advanced registered nurse practitioner as authorized by the nursing care quality assurance commission pursuant to chapter 18.79 RCW or physician assistant pursuant to chapter 18.71A RCW.

This section shall not be construed to prevent the application of standard policy provisions applicable to other benefits such as deductible or copayment provisions. This section does not limit the authority of an insurer to negotiate rates and contract with specific providers for the delivery of mammography services. This section shall not apply to medicare supplement policies or supplemental contracts covering a specified disease or other limited benefits. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 728; 1989 c 338 § 1.]

**Severability—Headings and captions not law—Effective date—1994 sp.s. c 9:** See RCW 18.79.900 through 18.79.902.

**48.20.395 Reconstructive breast surgery.** (1) Any disability insurance contract providing hospital and medical expenses and health care services delivered or issued in this state after July 24, 1983, shall provide coverage for reconstructive breast surgery resulting from a mastectomy which resulted from disease, illness, or injury.

(2) Any disability insurance contract providing hospital and medical expenses and health care services delivered or issued in this state after January 1, 1986, shall provide coverage for all stages of one reconstructive breast reduction on the nondiseased breast to make it equal in size with the diseased breast after definitive reconstructive surgery on the diseased breast has been performed. [1985 c 54 § 5; 1983 c 113 § 1.]

**Effective date—1985 c 54:** See note following RCW 48.20.397.

**48.20.397 Mastectomy, lumpectomy.** No person engaged in the business of insurance under this chapter may

refuse to issue any contract of insurance or cancel or decline to renew the contract solely because of a mastectomy or lumpectomy performed on the insured or prospective insured more than five years previously. The amount of benefits payable, or any term, rate, condition, or type of coverage shall not be restricted, modified, excluded, increased, or reduced solely on the basis of a mastectomy or lumpectomy performed on the insured or prospective insured more than five years previously. [1985 c 54 § 1.]

**Effective date—1985 c 54:** "This act shall take effect January 1, 1986." [1985 c 54 § 9.]

**48.20.410 Optometry.** Notwithstanding any provision of any disability insurance contract, benefits shall not be denied thereunder for any eye care service rendered by a holder of a license issued pursuant to chapter 18.53 RCW, provided, that (1) the service rendered was within the lawful scope of such person's license, and (2) such contract would have provided the benefits for such service if rendered by a holder of a license issued pursuant to chapter 18.71 RCW. [1965 c 149 § 2.]

**Construction—1965 c 149:** "Sections 1 through 3 of this act shall not apply to contracts in force prior to the effective date of this 1965 act, nor to any renewal of such contracts where there has been no change in any provisions thereof." [1965 c 149 § 4.] The effective date of this 1965 act was June 10, 1965.

**48.20.411 Registered nurses or advanced registered nurses.** Notwithstanding any provision of any disability insurance contract as provided for in this chapter, benefits shall not be denied thereunder for any health care service performed by a holder of a license for registered nursing practice or advanced registered nursing practice issued pursuant to chapter 18.79 RCW if (1) the service performed was within the lawful scope of such person's license, and (2) such contract would have provided benefits if such service had been performed by a holder of a license issued pursuant to chapter 18.71 RCW: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That no provision of chapter 18.71 RCW shall be asserted to deny benefits under this section.

The provisions of this section are intended to be remedial and procedural to the extent they do not impair the obligation of any existing contract. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 729; 1973 1st ex.s. c 188 § 3.]

**Severability—Headings and captions not law—Effective date—1994 sp.s. c 9:** See RCW 18.79.900 through 18.79.902.

**Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 188:** See note following RCW 48.18.298.

**48.20.412 Chiropractic.** Notwithstanding any provision of any disability insurance contract as provided for in this chapter, benefits shall not be denied thereunder for any health care service performed by a holder of a license issued pursuant to chapter 18.25 RCW if (1) the service performed was within the lawful scope of such person's license, and (2) such contract would have provided benefits if such service had been performed by a holder of a license issued pursuant to chapter 18.71 RCW: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That no provision of chapter 18.71 RCW shall be asserted to deny benefits under this section.

The provisions of this section are intended to be remedial and procedural to the extent they do not impair the obligation of any existing contract. [1971 ex.s. c 13 § 1.]

**48.20.414 Psychological services.** Notwithstanding any provision of any disability insurance contract, benefits shall not be denied thereunder for any psychological service rendered by a holder of a license issued pursuant to chapter 18.83 RCW: PROVIDED, That (1) the service rendered was within the lawful scope of such person's license, and (2) such contract would have provided the benefits for such service if rendered by a holder of a license issued pursuant to chapter 18.71 RCW. [1971 ex.s. c 197 § 1.]

**Application—1971 ex.s. c 197:** "Sections 1 and 2 of this act shall not apply to any contract in force prior to the effective date of this 1971 act, nor to any renewal of such contract where there has been no change in any provision thereof." [1971 ex.s. c 197 § 3.]

**48.20.416 Dentistry.** Notwithstanding any provision of any disability insurance contract as provided for in this chapter, benefits shall not be denied thereunder for any health care service performed by a holder of a license issued pursuant to chapter 18.32 RCW if (1) the service performed was within the lawful scope of such person's license, and (2) such contract would have provided benefits if such service has [had] been performed by a holder of a license issued [pursuant] to chapter 18.71 RCW: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That no provision of chapter 18.71 RCW shall be asserted to deny benefits under this section.

The provisions of this section are intended to be remedial and procedural to the extent they do not impair the obligation of any existing contract. [1974 ex.s. c 42 § 1.]

**48.20.418 Denturist services.** Notwithstanding any provision of any disability insurance contract covering dental care as provided for in this chapter, effective January 1, 1995, benefits shall not be denied thereunder for any service performed by a denturist licensed under chapter 18.30 RCW if (1) the service performed was within the lawful scope of such person's license, and (2) such contract would have provided benefits if such service had been performed by a dentist licensed under chapter 18.32 RCW. [1995 c 1 § 21 (Initiative Measure No. 607, approved November 8, 1994).]

**Short title—Severability—1995 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 607):** See RCW 18.30.900 and 18.30.901.

**48.20.420 Dependent child coverage—Continuation for incapacity.** Any disability insurance contract providing health care services, delivered or issued for delivery in this state more than one hundred twenty days after August 11, 1969, which provides that coverage of a dependent child shall terminate upon attainment of the limiting age for dependent children specified in the contract, shall also provide in substance that attainment of such limiting age shall not operate to terminate the coverage of such child while the child is and continues to be both (1) incapable of self-sustaining employment by reason of developmental disability or physical handicap and (2) chiefly dependent upon the subscriber for support and maintenance, provided proof of such incapacity and dependency is furnished to the insurer by the subscriber within thirty-one days of the child's

attainment of the limiting age and subsequently as may be required by the insurer but not more frequently than annually after the two year period following the child's attainment of the limiting age. [1985 c 264 § 10; 1969 ex.s. c 128 § 3.]

**48.20.430 Dependent child coverage—From moment of birth—Congenital anomalies—Notification of birth.**

(1) Any disability insurance contract providing hospital and medical expenses and health care services, delivered or issued for delivery in this state more than one hundred twenty days after February 16, 1974, which provides coverage for dependent children of the insured, shall provide coverage for newborn infants of the insured from and after the moment of birth. Coverage provided in accord with this section shall include, but not be limited to, coverage for congenital anomalies of such infant children from the moment of birth.

(2) If payment of an additional premium is required to provide coverage for a child, the contract may require that notification of birth of a newly born child and payment of the required premium must be furnished to the insurer. The notification period shall be no less than sixty days from the date of birth. This subsection applies to policies issued or renewed on or after January 1, 1984. [1983 1st ex.s. c 32 § 18; 1974 ex.s. c 139 § 1.]

**48.20.450 Standardization and simplification of terms and coverages—Disclosure requirements.** The commissioner shall issue regulations to establish specific standards, including standards of full and fair disclosure, that set forth the manner, content, and required disclosure for the sale of individual policies of disability insurance which shall be in addition to and in accordance with applicable laws of this state, including RCW 48.20.450 through 48.20.480, which may cover but shall not be limited to:

- (1) Terms of renewability;
- (2) Initial and subsequent conditions of eligibility;
- (3) Nonduplication of coverage provisions;
- (4) Coverage of dependents;
- (5) Preexisting conditions;
- (6) Termination of insurance;
- (7) Probationary periods;
- (8) Limitations;
- (9) Exceptions;
- (10) Reductions;
- (11) Elimination periods;
- (12) Requirements for replacement;
- (13) Recurrent conditions; and
- (14) The definition of terms including but not limited to the following: Hospital, accident, sickness, injury, physician, accidental means, total disability, partial disability, nervous disorder, guaranteed renewable, and noncancellable. [1985 c 264 § 11; 1975 1st ex.s. c 266 § 16.]

**Purpose—1975 1st ex.s. c 266:** "The purpose of \*sections 14 through 18 of this 1975 amendatory act is to provide reasonable standardization and simplification of terms and coverages of individual disability insurance policies to facilitate public understanding and comparison, to eliminate provisions contained in individual disability insurance policies which may be misleading or unreasonably confusing in connection either with the purchase of such coverages or with the settlement of claims, and to provide for full disclosure in the sale of disability coverages." [1975 1st ex.s. c 266 § 15.]

**\*Reviser's note:** During the course of passage of 1975 1st ex.s. c 266 [Substitute House Bill No. 198], the section numbering was changed, but the internal references were not changed accordingly. Thus the reference "sections 14 through 18 of this 1975 amendatory act" appears to be erroneous. Reference to "sections 15 through 19," codified herein as this section and RCW 48.20.450 through 48.20.480, was apparently intended.

**Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 266:** See note following RCW 48.01.010.

**48.20.460 Standardization and simplification—Minimum standards for benefits and coverages.** (1) The commissioner shall issue regulations to establish minimum standards for benefits under each of the following categories of coverage in individual policies, other than conversion policies issued pursuant to a contractual conversion privilege under a group policy, of disability insurance:

- (a) Basic hospital expense coverage;
- (b) Basic medical-surgical expense coverage;
- (c) Hospital confinement indemnity coverage;
- (d) Major medical expense coverage;
- (e) Disability income protection coverage;
- (f) Accident only coverage;
- (g) Specified disease or specified accident coverage;
- (h) Medicare supplemental coverage; and
- (i) Limited benefit coverage.

(2) Nothing in this section shall preclude the issuance of any policy which combines two or more of the categories of coverage enumerated in items (a) through (f) of subsection (1) of this section.

(3) No policy shall be delivered or issued for delivery in this state which does not meet the prescribed minimum standards for the categories of coverage listed in items (a) through (i) of subsection (1) of this section, unless the commissioner finds such policy will be in the public interest and such policy meets the requirements set forth in RCW 48.18.110.

(4) The commissioner shall prescribe the method of identification of policies based upon coverages provided. [1981 c 339 § 19; 1975 1st ex.s. c 266 § 17.]

**Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 266:** See note following RCW 48.01.010.

**48.20.470 Standardization and simplification—Outline of coverage—Format and contents.** (1) No policy of individual disability insurance shall be delivered or issued for delivery in this state unless an outline of coverage described in subsection (2) of this section is furnished to the applicant in accord with such rules or regulations as the commissioner shall prescribe.

(2) The commissioner shall prescribe the format and content of the outline of coverage required by subsection (1) of this section. "Format" means style, arrangement, and overall appearance, including such items as the size, color, and prominence of type and the arrangement of text and captions. Such outline of coverage shall include:

(a) A statement identifying the applicable category or categories of coverage provided by the policy as prescribed in RCW 48.20.450;

(b) A description of the principal benefits and coverage provided in the policy;

(c) A statement of the exceptions, reductions and limitations contained in the policy;

(d) A statement of the renewal provisions including any reservation by the insurer of a right to change premiums; and

(e) A statement that the outline is a summary of the policy issued or applied for and that the policy should be consulted to determine governing contractual provisions. [1985 c 264 § 12; 1975 1st ex.s. c 266 § 18.]

**Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 266:** See note following RCW 48.01.010.

**48.20.480 Standardization and simplification—Simplified application form—Coverage of loss from preexisting health condition.** Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 48.20.052, if an insurer elects to use a simplified application form, with or without a question as to the applicant's health at the time of application, but without any questions concerning the insured's health history or medical treatment history, the policy must cover any loss occurring after twelve months from any preexisting condition not specifically excluded from coverage by terms of the policy, and, except as so provided, the policy shall not include wording that would permit a defense based upon preexisting conditions. [1975 1st ex.s. c 266 § 19.]

**Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 266:** See note following RCW 48.01.010.

**48.20.490 Continuation of coverage by former spouse and dependents.** Every policy of disability insurance issued, amended, or renewed after June 12, 1980, for an individual and his/her dependents shall contain provisions to assure that the covered spouse and/or dependents, in the event that any cease to be a qualified family member by reason of termination of marriage or death of the principal insured, shall have the right to continue the policy coverage without a physical examination, statement of health, or other proof of insurability. [1980 c 10 § 1.]

**48.20.500 Coverage for adopted children.** (1) Any disability insurance contract providing hospital and medical expenses and health care services, delivered or issued for delivery in this state, which provides coverage for dependent children, as defined in the contract of the insured, shall cover adoptive children placed with the insured on the same basis as other dependents, as provided in RCW 48.01.180.

(2) If payment of an additional premium is required to provide coverage for a child, the contract may require that notification of placement of a child for adoption and payment of the required premium must be furnished to the insurer. The notification period shall be no less than sixty days from the date of placement. [1986 c 140 § 2.]

**Effective date, application—Severability—1986 c 140:** See notes following RCW 48.01.180.

**48.20.510 Cancellation of rider.** Upon application by an insured, a rider shall be canceled if at least five years after its issuance, no health care services have been received by the insured during that time for the condition specified in the rider, and a physician, selected by the carrier for that purpose, agrees in writing to the full medical recovery of the insured from that condition, such agreement not to be unreasonably withheld. The option of the insured to apply

for cancellation shall be disclosed on the face of the rider in clear and conspicuous language.

For purposes of this section, a rider is a legal document that modifies a contract to exclude, limit, or reduce coverage or benefits for specifically named or described preexisting diseases or physical conditions. [1987 c 37 § 1.]

**48.20.520 Phenylketonuria.** (1) The legislature finds that:

(a) Phenylketonuria is a rare inherited genetic disorder.

(b) Children with phenylketonuria are unable to metabolize an essential amino acid, phenylalanine, which is found in the proteins of most food.

(c) To remain healthy, children with phenylketonuria must maintain a strict diet and ingest a mineral and vitamin-enriched formula.

(d) Children who do not maintain their diets with the formula acquire severe mental and physical difficulties.

(e) Originally, the formulas were listed as prescription drugs but were reclassified as medical foods to increase their availability.

(2) Subject to requirements and exceptions which may be established by rules adopted by the commissioner, any disability insurance contract delivered or issued for delivery or renewed in this state on or after September 1, 1988, that insures for hospital or medical expenses shall provide coverage for the formulas necessary for the treatment of phenylketonuria. [1988 c 173 § 1.]

**48.20.525 Prescriptions—Preapproval of individual claims—Subsequent rejection prohibited—Written record required.** Disability insurance companies who through an authorized representative have first approved, by any means, an individual prescription claim as eligible may not reject that claim at some later date. Pharmacists or drug dispensing outlets who obtain preapproval of claims shall keep a written record of the preapproval that consists of identification by name and telephone number of the person who approved the claim. [1993 c 253 § 2.]

**Findings—1993 c 253:** "The legislature finds that many health care insurance entities are initially approving claims as eligible under an identified program, over the telephone, but denying those same claims when they are submitted for payment. The legislature finds this to be an untenable situation for the providers." [1993 c 253 § 1.]

**Effective date—1993 c 253:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately [May 7, 1993]." [1993 c 253 § 6.]

**48.20.530 Nonresident pharmacies.** For the purposes of this chapter, a nonresident pharmacy is defined as any pharmacy located outside this state that ships, mails, or delivers, in any manner, except when delivered in person to an enrolled participant or his/her representative, controlled substances, legend drugs, or devices into this state.

After October 1, 1991, an insurer providing coverage of prescription drugs from nonresident pharmacies may only provide coverage from licensed nonresident pharmacies. The insurers shall obtain proof of current licensure in conformity with this section and RCW 18.64.350 through 18.64.400 from the nonresident pharmacy and keep that proof of licensure on file.

The department of health may request from the insurer the proof of current licensure for all nonresident pharmacies through which the insurer is providing coverage for prescription drugs to residents of the state of Washington. This information, which may constitute a full or partial customer list, shall be confidential and exempt from public disclosure, and from the requirements of chapter 42.17 RCW. The board or the department shall not be restricted in the disclosure of the name of a nonresident pharmacy that is or has been licensed under RCW 18.64.360 or 18.64.370 or of the identity of a nonresident pharmacy disciplined under RCW 18.64.350 through 18.64.400. [1991 c 87 § 7.]

**Effective date—1991 c 87:** See note following RCW 18.64.350.

## Chapter 48.21

### GROUP AND BLANKET DISABILITY INSURANCE

#### Sections

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- 48.21.015 "Group stop loss insurance" defined—Exemptions to application.
- 48.21.020 "Employees," "employer" defined.
- 48.21.030 Health care groups.
- 48.21.040 "Blanket disability insurance" defined.
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#### 48.21.010 "Group disability insurance" defined.

Group disability insurance is that form of disability insurance, including stop loss insurance as defined in RCW 48.11.030, provided by a master policy issued to an employer, to a trustee appointed by an employer or employers, or to an association of employers formed for purposes other than obtaining such insurance, covering, with or without their dependents, the employees, or specified categories of the employees, of such employers or their subsidiaries or affiliates, or issued to a labor union, or to an association of employees formed for purposes other than obtaining such insurance, covering, with or without their dependents, the members, or specified categories of the members, of the labor union or association, or issued pursuant to RCW 48.21.030. Group disability insurance shall also include such other groups as qualify for group life insurance under the provisions of this code. [1992 c 226 § 2; 1949 c 190 § 27; 1947 c 79 § .21.01; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 45.21.01.]

*Application—1992 c 226: See note following RCW 48.11.030.*

#### 48.21.015 "Group stop loss insurance" defined—

**Exemptions to application.** Group stop loss insurance is exempt from all sections of this chapter, chapter 48.32A RCW, and chapter 48.41 RCW except for RCW 48.21.010 and this section. For [the] purpose of this exemption, group stop loss is further defined as follows:

- (1) The policy must be issued to and insure the employer, the trustee or other sponsor of the plan, or the plan itself, but not the employees, members, or participants;
- (2) Payment by the insurer must be made to the employer, the trustee, or other sponsor of the plan or the plan itself, but not to the employees, members, participants, or health care providers;
- (3) The policy must contain a provision that establishes an aggregate attaching point or retention that is at the minimum one hundred twenty percent of the expected claims; and

(4) The policy may provide for an individual attaching point or retention that is not less than five percent of the expected claims or one hundred thousand dollars, whichever is less. [1992 c 226 § 3.]

*Application—1992 c 226: See note following RCW 48.11.030.*

**48.21.020 "Employees," "employer" defined.** The term "employees" as used in this chapter shall be deemed to include as employees of a single employer, the compensated officers, managers, and employees of the employer and of subsidiary or affiliated corporations of a corporation employer, and the individual proprietors, partners, and employees of individuals and firms of which the business is controlled by the insured employer through stock ownership, contract or otherwise. The term "employer" as used in this chapter shall be deemed to include any municipal corporation or governmental unit, agency or department thereof as well as private individuals, firms, corporations and other persons. [1947 c 79 § .21.02; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.21.02.]

**48.21.030 Health care groups.** A policy of group disability insurance may be issued to a corporation, as policyholder, existing primarily for the purpose of assisting individuals who are its subscribers in securing medical, hospital, dental, and other health care services for themselves and their dependents, covering all and not less than five hundred such subscribers and dependents, with respect only to medical, hospital, dental, and other health care services. [1947 c 79 § .21.03; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.21.03.]

#### 48.21.040 "Blanket disability insurance" defined.

(1) Any policy or contract of disability insurance which conforms with the description and complies with the requirements contained in one of the following six paragraphs shall be deemed a blanket disability insurance policy:

(a) A policy issued to any common carrier of passengers, which carrier shall be deemed the policyholder, covering a group defined as all persons who may become such passengers, and whereby such passengers shall be insured against loss or damage resulting from death or bodily injury either while, or as a result of, being such passengers.

(b) A policy issued in the name of any volunteer fire department, first aid or ambulance squad or volunteer police organization, which shall be deemed the policyholder, and covering all the members of any such organization against loss from accidents resulting from hazards incidental to duties in connection with such organizations.

(c) A policy issued in the name of any established organization whether incorporated or not, having community recognition and operated for the welfare of the community and its members and not for profit, which shall be deemed the policyholder, and covering all volunteer workers who serve without pecuniary compensation and the members of the organization, against loss from accidents occurring while engaged in the actual performance of duties on behalf of such organization or in the activities thereof.

(d) A policy issued to an employer, who shall be deemed the policyholder, covering any group of employees defined by reference to exceptional hazards incident to such employment, insuring such employees against death or



bodily injury resulting while, or from, being exposed to such exceptional hazards.

(e) A policy covering students or employees issued to a college, school, or other institution of learning or to the head or principal thereof, who or which shall be deemed the policyholder.

(f) A policy or contract issued to any other substantially similar group, which, in the commissioner's discretion, may be subject to the insurance of a blanket disability policy or contract.

(2) Nothing contained in this section shall be deemed to affect the liability of policyholders for the death of, or injury to, any such members of such group.

(3) Individual applications shall not be required from individuals covered under a blanket disability insurance contract. [1959 c 225 § 7; 1947 c 79 § .21.04; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.21.04.]

**48.21.045 Mandatory offering providing basic health plan benefits for employers with fewer than twenty-five employees—Exemption from statutory requirements—Premium rates—Requirements for providing coverage for small employers—Definitions.**

(1)(a) An insurer offering any health benefit plan to a small employer shall offer and actively market to the small employer a health benefit plan providing benefits identical to the schedule of covered health services that are required to be delivered to an individual enrolled in the basic health plan. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude an insurer from offering, or a small employer from purchasing, other health benefit plans that may have more or less comprehensive benefits than the basic health plan, provided such plans are in accordance with this chapter. An insurer offering a health benefit plan that does not include benefits in the basic health plan shall clearly disclose these differences to the small employer in a brochure approved by the commissioner.

(b) A health benefit plan shall provide coverage for hospital expenses and services rendered by a physician licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW but is not subject to the requirements of RCW 48.21.130, 48.21.140, 48.21.141, 48.21.142, 48.21.144, 48.21.146, 48.21.160 through 48.21.197, 48.21.200, 48.21.220, 48.21.225, 48.21.230, 48.21.235, 48.21.240, 48.21.244, 48.21.250, 48.21.300, 48.21.310, or 48.21.320 if: (i) The health benefit plan is the mandatory offering under (a) of this subsection that provides benefits identical to the basic health plan, to the extent these requirements differ from the basic health plan; or (ii) the health benefit plan is offered to employers with not more than twenty-five employees.

(2) Nothing in this section shall prohibit an insurer from offering, or a purchaser from seeking, benefits in excess of the basic health plan services. All forms, policies, and contracts shall be submitted for approval to the commissioner, and the rates of any plan offered under this section shall be reasonable in relation to the benefits thereto.

(3) Premium rates for health benefit plans for small employers as defined in this section shall be subject to the following provisions:

(a) The insurer shall develop its rates based on an adjusted community rate and may only vary the adjusted community rate for:

(i) Geographic area;

(ii) Family size;

(iii) Age; and

(iv) Wellness activities.

(b) The adjustment for age in (a)(iii) of this subsection may not use age brackets smaller than five-year increments, which shall begin with age twenty and end with age sixty-five. Employees under the age of twenty shall be treated as those age twenty.

(c) The insurer shall be permitted to develop separate rates for individuals age sixty-five or older for coverage for which medicare is the primary payer and coverage for which medicare is not the primary payer. Both rates shall be subject to the requirements of this subsection (3).

(d) The permitted rates for any age group shall be no more than four hundred twenty-five percent of the lowest rate for all age groups on January 1, 1996, four hundred percent on January 1, 1997, and three hundred seventy-five percent on January 1, 2000, and thereafter.

(e) A discount for wellness activities shall be permitted to reflect actuarially justified differences in utilization or cost attributed to such programs not to exceed twenty percent.

(f) The rate charged for a health benefit plan offered under this section may not be adjusted more frequently than annually except that the premium may be changed to reflect:

(i) Changes to the enrollment of the small employer;

(ii) Changes to the family composition of the employee;

(iii) Changes to the health benefit plan requested by the small employer; or

(iv) Changes in government requirements affecting the health benefit plan.

(g) Rating factors shall produce premiums for identical groups that differ only by the amounts attributable to plan design, with the exception of discounts for health improvement programs.

(h) For the purposes of this section, a health benefit plan that contains a restricted network provision shall not be considered similar coverage to a health benefit plan that does not contain such a provision, provided that the restrictions of benefits to network providers result in substantial differences in claims costs. This subsection does not restrict or enhance the portability of benefits as provided in RCW 48.43.015.

(i) Adjusted community rates established under this section shall pool the medical experience of all small groups purchasing coverage.

(4) The health benefit plans authorized by this section that are lower than the required offering shall not supplant or supersede any existing policy for the benefit of employees in this state. Nothing in this section shall restrict the right of employees to collectively bargain for insurance providing benefits in excess of those provided herein.

(5)(a) Except as provided in this subsection, requirements used by an insurer in determining whether to provide coverage to a small employer shall be applied uniformly among all small employers applying for coverage or receiving coverage from the carrier.

(b) An insurer shall not require a minimum participation level greater than:

(i) One hundred percent of eligible employees working for groups with three or less employees; and

(ii) Seventy-five percent of eligible employees working for groups with more than three employees.

(c) In applying minimum participation requirements with respect to a small employer, a small employer shall not consider employees or dependents who have similar existing coverage in determining whether the applicable percentage of participation is met.

(d) An insurer may not increase any requirement for minimum employee participation or modify any requirement for minimum employer contribution applicable to a small employer at any time after the small employer has been accepted for coverage.

(6) An insurer must offer coverage to all eligible employees of a small employer and their dependents. An insurer may not offer coverage to only certain individuals or dependents in a small employer group or to only part of the group. An insurer may not modify a health plan with respect to a small employer or any eligible employee or dependent, through riders, endorsements or otherwise, to restrict or exclude coverage or benefits for specific diseases, medical conditions, or services otherwise covered by the plan.

(7) As used in this section, "health benefit plan," "small employer," "basic health plan," "adjusted community rate," and "wellness activities" mean the same as defined in RCW 48.43.005. [1995 c 265 § 14; 1990 c 187 § 2.]

**Captions not law—Effective dates—Savings—Severability—1995 c 265:** See notes following RCW 70.47.015.

**Finding—Intent—1990 c 187:** "The legislature finds that the rising cost of comprehensive group health coverage is exceeding the affordability of many small businesses and their employees. The legislature further finds that certain public policies have an adverse impact on the cost of such coverage. It is therefore the intent of the legislature to reduce costs by authorizing the development of basic hospital and medical coverage for small groups." [1990 c 187 § 1.]

**Severability—1990 c 187:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1990 c 187 § 6.]

**48.21.047 Requirements for plans offered to small employers—Definitions.** (1) No insurer shall offer any health benefit plan to any small employer without complying with the provisions of \*RCW 48.21.045(5).

(2) Employers purchasing health plans provided through associations or through member-governed groups formed specifically for the purpose of purchasing health care shall not be considered small employers and such plans shall not be subject to the provisions of \*RCW 48.21.045(5).

(3) For purposes of this section, "health benefit plan," "health plan," and "small employer" mean the same as defined in RCW 48.43.005. [1995 c 265 § 22.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Reference was inadvertently changed during the bill drafting process. The correct reference should be RCW 48.21.045(3).

**Captions not law—Effective dates—Savings—Severability—1995 c 265:** See notes following RCW 70.47.015.

**48.21.050 Standard provisions required.** Every policy of group or blanket disability insurance shall contain in substance the provisions as set forth in RCW 48.21.060 to 48.21.090, inclusive, or provisions which in the opinion of the commissioner are more favorable to the individuals insured, or at least as favorable to such individuals and more favorable to the policyholder. No such policy of group or blanket disability insurance shall contain any provision

relative to notice or proof of loss, or to the time for paying benefits, or to the time within which suit may be brought upon the policy, which in the opinion of the commissioner is less favorable to the individuals insured than would be permitted by the standard provisions required for individual disability insurance policies. [1947 c 79 § .21.05; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.21.05.]

**48.21.060 The contract—Representations.** There shall be a provision that a copy of the application, if any, of the policyholder shall be attached to the policy when issued; that all statements made by the policyholder or by the individuals insured shall in the absence of fraud be deemed representations and not warranties, and that no statement made by any individual insured shall be used in any contest unless a copy of the instrument containing the statement is or has been furnished to such individual or to his beneficiary, if any. [1947 c 79 § .21.06; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.21.06.]

**48.21.070 Payment of premiums.** There shall be a provision that all premiums due under the policy shall be remitted by the employer or employers of the persons insured, by the policyholder, or by some other designated person acting on behalf of the association or group insured, to the insurer on or before the due date thereof with such period of grace as may be specified therein. [1947 c 79 § .21.07; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.21.07.]

**48.21.075 Payment of premiums by employee in event of suspension of compensation due to labor dispute.** Any employee whose compensation includes group disability or blanket disability insurance providing health care services, the premiums for which are paid in full or in part by an employer including the state of Washington, its political subdivisions, or municipal corporations, or paid by payroll deduction, may pay the premiums as they become due directly to the policyholder whenever the employee's compensation is suspended or terminated directly or indirectly as the result of a strike, lockout, or other labor dispute, for a period not exceeding six months and at the rate and coverages as the policy provides. During that period of time the policy may not be altered or changed. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to impair the right of the insurer to make normal decreases or increases of the premium rate upon expiration and renewal of the policy, in accordance with the provisions of the policy. Thereafter, if such insurance coverage is no longer available, then the employee shall be given the opportunity to purchase an individual policy at a rate consistent with rates filed by the insurer with the commissioner. When the employee's compensation is so suspended or terminated, the employee shall be notified immediately by the policyholder in writing, by mail addressed to the address last on record with the policyholder, that the employee may pay the premiums to the policyholder as they become due as provided in this section.

Payment of the premiums must be made when due or the insurance coverage may be terminated by the insurer.

The provisions of any insurance policy contrary to provisions of this section are void and unenforceable after May 29, 1975. [1975 1st ex.s. c 117 § 1.]

**Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 117:** "If any provision of this 1975 act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1975 1st ex.s. c 117 § 4.]

**48.21.080 Certificates of coverage.** In group disability insurance policies there shall be a provision that the insurer shall issue to the employer, the policyholder, or other person or association in whose name such policy is issued, for delivery to each insured employee or member, a certificate setting forth in summary form a statement of the essential features of the insurance coverage, and to whom the benefits thereunder are payable described by name, relationship, or reference to the insurance records of the policyholder or insurer. If family members are insured, only one certificate need be issued for each family. This section shall not apply to blanket disability insurance policies. [1961 c 194 § 6; 1947 c 79 § .21.08; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.21.08.]

**48.21.090 Age limitations.** There shall be a provision specifying the ages, if any there be, to which the insurance provided therein shall be limited; and the ages, if any there be, for which additional restrictions are placed on benefits, and the additional restrictions placed on the benefits at such ages. [1947 c 79 § .21.09; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.21.09.]

**48.21.100 Examination and autopsy.** There may be a provision that the insurer shall have the right and opportunity to examine the person of the insured employee, member or dependent when and so often as it may reasonably require during the pendency of claim under the policy and also the right and opportunity to make an autopsy in case of death where it is not prohibited by law. [1947 c 79 § .21.10; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.21.10.]

**48.21.110 Payment of benefits.** The benefits payable under any policy or contract of group or blanket disability insurance shall be payable to the employee or other insured member of the group or to the beneficiary designated by him, other than the policyholder, employer or the association or any officer thereof as such, subject to provisions of the policy in the event there is no designated beneficiary as to all or any part of any sum payable at the death of the individual insured.

The policy may provide that any hospital, medical, or surgical benefits thereunder may be made payable jointly to the insured employee or member and the person furnishing such hospital, medical, or surgical services. [1955 c 303 § 17; 1947 c 79 § .21.11; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.21.11.]

**48.21.120 Readjustment of premiums—Dividends.** Any contract of group disability insurance may provide for the readjustment of the rate of premium based on the experience thereunder at the end of the first year or of any subsequent year of insurance thereunder, and such readjustment may be made retroactive only for such policy year. Any refund under any plan for readjustment of the rate of premium based on the experience under group policies heretofore or hereafter issued, and any dividend paid under such policies may be used to reduce the employer's share of

the cost of the coverage, except that if the aggregate refunds or dividends under such group policy and any other group policy or contract issued to the policyholder exceed the aggregate contributions of the employer toward the cost of the coverages, such excess shall be applied by the policyholder for the sole benefit of insured employees. [1947 c 79 § .21.12; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.21.12.]

**48.21.130 Chiroprody.** Notwithstanding any provision of any group disability insurance contract or blanket disability insurance contract, benefits shall not be denied thereunder for any medical or surgical service performed by a holder of a license issued pursuant to chapter 18.22 RCW provided that (1) the service performed was within the lawful scope of such person's license, and (2) such contract would have provided benefits if such service had been performed by a holder of a license issued pursuant to chapter 18.71 RCW. [1963 c 87 § 2.]

**Application—1963 c 87:** Nonapplicability to prior contracts and certain renewals, see note following RCW 48.20.390.

**48.21.140 Optometry.** Notwithstanding any provision of any group disability insurance contract or blanket disability insurance contract, benefits shall not be denied thereunder for any eye care service rendered by a holder of a license issued pursuant to chapter 18.53 RCW, provided, that (1) the service rendered was within the lawful scope of such person's license, and (2) such contract would have provided the benefits for such service if rendered by a holder of a license issued pursuant to chapter 18.71 RCW. [1965 c 149 § 3.]

**Construction—1965 c 149:** Nonapplicability to prior contracts and certain renewals, see note following RCW 48.20.410.

**48.21.141 Registered nurses or advanced registered nurses.** Notwithstanding any provision of any group disability insurance contract or blanket disability insurance contract as provided for in this chapter, benefits shall not be denied thereunder for any health service performed by a holder of a license for registered nursing practice or advanced registered nursing practice issued pursuant to chapter 18.79 RCW if (1) the service performed was within the lawful scope of such person's license, and (2) such contract would have provided benefits if such service had been performed by a holder of a license issued pursuant to chapter 18.71 RCW: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That no provision of chapter 18.71 RCW shall be asserted to deny benefits under this section.

The provisions of this section are intended to be remedial and procedural to the extent they do not impair the obligation of any existing contract. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 730; 1973 1st ex.s. c 188 § 4.]

**Severability—Headings and captions not law—Effective date—1994 sp.s. c 9:** See RCW 18.79.900 through 18.79.902.

**Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 188:** See note following RCW 48.18.298.

**48.21.142 Chiropractic.** Notwithstanding any provision of any group disability insurance contract or blanket disability insurance contract as provided for in this chapter, benefits shall not be denied thereunder for any

health service performed by a holder of a license issued pursuant to chapter 18.25 RCW if (1) the service performed was within the lawful scope of such person's license, and (2) such contract would have provided benefits if such service had been performed by a holder of a license issued pursuant to chapter 18.71 RCW: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That no provision of chapter 18.71 RCW shall be asserted to deny benefits under this section.

The provisions of this section are intended to be remedial and procedural to the extent they do not impair the obligation of any existing contract. [1971 ex.s. c 13 § 2.]

**48.21.144 Psychological services.** Notwithstanding any provision of any group disability insurance contract or blanket disability insurance contract, benefits shall not be denied thereunder for any psychological service rendered by a holder of a license issued pursuant to chapter 18.83 RCW: PROVIDED, That (1) the service rendered was within the lawful scope of such person's license, and (2) such contract would have provided the benefits for such service if rendered by a holder of a license issued pursuant to chapter 18.71 RCW. [1971 ex.s. c 197 § 2.]

**Application—1971 ex.s. c 197:** See note following RCW 48.20.414.

**48.21.146 Dentistry.** Notwithstanding any provision of any group disability insurance contract or blanket disability insurance contract as provided for in this chapter, benefits shall not be denied thereunder for any health service performed by a holder of a license issued pursuant to chapter 18.32 RCW if (1) the service performed was within the lawful scope of such person's license, and (2) such contract would have provided benefits if such service had been performed by a holder of a license issued pursuant to chapter 18.71 RCW: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That no provision of chapter 18.71 RCW shall be asserted to deny benefits under this section.

The provisions of this section are intended to be remedial and procedural to the extent they do not impair the obligation of any existing contract. [1974 ex.s. c 42 § 2.]

**48.21.148 Denturist services.** Notwithstanding any provision of any group disability insurance contract or blanket disability insurance contract covering dental care as provided for in this chapter, effective January 1, 1995, benefits shall not be denied thereunder for any service performed by a denturist licensed under chapter 18.30 RCW if (1) the service performed was within the lawful scope of such person's license, and (2) such contract would have provided benefits if such service had been performed by a dentist licensed under chapter 18.32 RCW. [1995 c 1 § 22 (Initiative Measure No. 607, approved November 8, 1994).]

**Short title—Severability—1995 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 607):** See RCW 18.30.900 and 18.30.901.

**48.21.150 Dependent child coverage—Continuation for incapacity.** Any group disability insurance contract or blanket disability insurance contract, providing health care services, delivered or issued for delivery in this state more than one hundred twenty days after August 11, 1969, which provides that coverage of a dependent child of an employee or other member of the covered group shall terminate upon

attainment of the limiting age for dependent children specified in the contract shall also provide in substance that attainment of such limiting age shall not operate to terminate the coverage of such child while the child is and continues to be both (1) incapable of self-sustaining employment by reason of developmental disability or physical handicap and (2) chiefly dependent upon the employee or member for support and maintenance, provided proof of such incapacity and dependency is furnished to the insurer by the employee or member within thirty-one days of the child's attainment of the limiting age and subsequently as may be required by the insurer, but not more frequently than annually after the two year period following the child's attainment of the limiting age. [1977 ex.s. c 80 § 32; 1969 ex.s. c 128 § 4.]

**Purpose—Intent—Severability—1977 ex.s. c 80:** See notes following RCW 4.16.190.

**48.21.155 Dependent child coverage—From moment of birth—Congenital anomalies—Notification of birth.**

(1) Any group disability insurance contract except blanket disability insurance contract, providing hospital and medical expenses and health care services, renewed, delivered or issued for delivery in this state more than one hundred twenty days after February 16, 1974, which provides coverage for the dependent children of persons in the insured group, shall provide coverage for newborn infant children of persons in the insured group from and after the moment of birth. Coverage provided in accord with this section shall include, but not be limited to, coverage for congenital anomalies of such infant children from the moment of birth.

(2) If payment of an additional premium is required to provide coverage for a child, the contract may require that notification of birth of a newly born child and payment of the required premium must be furnished to the insurer. The notification period shall be no less than sixty days from the date of birth. This subsection applies to policies issued or renewed on or after January 1, 1984. [1983 1st ex.s. c 32 § 20; 1974 ex.s. c 139 § 2.]

**48.21.160 Chemical dependency benefits—Legislative declaration.** The legislature recognizes that chemical dependency is a disease and, as such, warrants the same attention from the health care industry as other similarly serious diseases warrant; the legislature further recognizes that health insurance contracts and contracts for health care services include inconsistent provisions providing benefits for the treatment of chemical dependency. In order to assist the many citizens of this state who suffer from the disease of chemical dependency, and who are presently effectively precluded from obtaining adequate coverage for medical assistance under the terms of their health insurance contract or health care service contract, the legislature hereby declares that provisions providing benefits for the treatment of chemical dependency shall be included in new contracts and that this section, RCW 48.21.180, 48.21.190, 48.44.240, 48.46.350, and RCW 48.21.195, 48.44.245, and 48.46.355 are necessary for the protection of the public health and safety. Nothing in this section, RCW 48.21.180, 48.21.190, 48.44.240, 48.46.350, and RCW 48.21.195, 48.44.245, and 48.46.355 shall be construed to relieve any person of any civil or criminal liability for any act or omission that is the

result of a chemical dependency or to grant any person with a chemical dependency any special right, privilege, or status under the law against discrimination, chapter 49.60 RCW. [1987 c 458 § 13; 1974 ex.s. c 119 § 1.]

**Effective date—1987 c 458 §§ 13-20:** "Sections 13 through 20 of this act shall take effect on January 1, 1988." [1987 c 458 § 24.] Sections 13 through 20 of this act [1987 c 458] consist of the enactment of RCW 48.21.195, 48.44.245, and 48.46.355, the amendment of RCW 48.21.160, 48.21.180, 48.44.240, and 48.46.350, and the repeal of RCW 48.21.170.

**Severability—1987 c 458:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1987 c 458 § 25.]

**48.21.180 Chemical dependency benefits—Contracts issued or renewed after January 1, 1988.** Each group disability insurance contract which is delivered or issued for delivery or renewed, on or after January 1, 1988, and which insures for hospital or medical care shall contain provisions providing benefits for the treatment of chemical dependency rendered to the insured by a provider which is an "approved treatment facility or program" under \*RCW 70.96A.020(3). [1990 1st ex.s. c 3 § 7; 1987 c 458 § 14; 1974 ex.s. c 119 § 3.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 70.96A.020(3) defines "approved treatment program."

**Effective date—Severability—1987 c 458:** See notes following RCW 48.21.160.

**48.21.190 Chemical dependency benefits—RCW 48.21.160 through 48.21.190, 48.44.240 inapplicable, when.** RCW 48.21.160 through 48.21.190 and 48.44.240 as now or hereafter amended shall not apply to the renewal of a contract in force prior to the pertinent date provided for such contract under RCW 48.21.160 through 48.21.190 and 48.44.240 as now or hereafter amended where there exists a right of renewal on the part of the insured or subscriber without any change in any provision of the contract: PROVIDED FURTHER, That RCW 48.21.160 through 48.21.190 and 48.44.240 as now or hereafter amended shall not apply to contracts which provide only accident coverage, nor to any contract written as supplemental coverage to any federal or state programs of health care including, but not limited to, Title XVIII health insurance for the aged (commonly referred to as Medicare, Parts A and B), and amendments thereto. [1975 1st ex.s. c 266 § 10; 1974 ex.s. c 119 § 5.]

**Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 266:** See note following RCW 48.01.010.

**48.21.195 "Chemical dependency" defined.** For the purposes of RCW 48.21.160 and 48.21.180 "chemical dependency" means an illness characterized by a physiological or psychological dependency, or both, on a controlled substance regulated under chapter 69.50 RCW and/or alcoholic beverages. It is further characterized by a frequent or intense pattern of pathological use to the extent the user exhibits a loss of self-control over the amount and circumstances of use; develops symptoms of tolerance or physiological and/or psychological withdrawal if use of the controlled substance or alcoholic beverage is reduced or discontinued; and the user's health is substantially impaired or endangered

or his or her social or economic function is substantially disrupted. [1987 c 458 § 15.]

**Effective date—Severability—1987 c 458:** See notes following RCW 48.21.160.

**48.21.197 Chemical dependency benefits—Rules.** By September 1, 1987, the insurance commissioner shall adopt rules governing benefits for treatment of chemical dependency under medical plans issued under chapters 48.21, 48.44, and 48.46 RCW. These rules shall recognize that many persons are dependent on both alcohol and drugs; they shall prohibit the stacking of benefits and shall require that benefits for chemical dependency be equivalent to benefits previously required for alcoholism. [1987 c 458 § 21.]

**Severability—1987 c 458:** See note following RCW 48.21.160.

**48.21.200 Group disability, health care service contract, health maintenance agreement—Reduction or refusal of benefits on basis of other existing coverages.** (1) No individual or group disability insurance policy, health care service contract, or health maintenance agreement which provides benefits for hospital, medical, or surgical expenses shall be delivered or issued for delivery in this state which contains any provision whereby the insurer, contractor, or health maintenance organization may reduce or refuse to pay such benefits otherwise payable thereunder solely on account of the existence of similar benefits provided under any disability insurance policy, health care service contract, or health maintenance agreement.

(2) No individual or group disability insurance policy, health care service contract, or health maintenance agreement providing hospital, medical or surgical expense benefits and which contains a provision for the reduction of benefits otherwise payable or available thereunder on the basis of other existing coverages, shall provide that such reduction will operate to reduce total benefits payable below an amount equal to one hundred percent of total allowable expenses exclusive of copayments, deductibles, and other similar cost-sharing arrangements.

(3) The commissioner shall by rule establish guidelines for the application of this section, including:

(a) The procedures by which persons covered under such policies, contracts, and agreements are to be made aware of the existence of such a provision;

(b) The benefits which may be subject to such a provision;

(c) The effect of such a provision on the benefits provided;

(d) Establishment of the order of benefit determination;

(e) Exceptions necessary to preserve policy, contract, or agreement requirements for use of particular health care facilities or providers; and

(f) Reasonable claim administration procedures to expedite claim payments and prevent duplication of payments or benefits under such a provision. [1993 c 492 § 282. Prior: 1983 c 202 § 16; 1983 c 106 § 24; 1975 1st ex.s. c 266 § 20.]

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

**Short title—Severability—Savings—Captions not law—Reservation of legislative power—Effective dates—1993 c 492:** See RCW 43.72.910 through 43.72.915.

**Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 266:** See note following RCW 48.01.010.

**48.21.220 Home health care, hospice care, optional coverage required—Standards, limitations, restrictions—Rules—Medicare supplemental contracts excluded.** (1) Every insurer entering into or renewing group or blanket disability insurance policies governed by this chapter shall offer optional coverage for home health care and hospice care for persons who are homebound and would otherwise require hospitalization. Such optional coverage need only be offered in conjunction with a policy that provides payment for hospitalization as a part of health care coverage.

(2) Home health care and hospice care coverage offered under subsection (1) of this section shall conform to the following standards, limitations, and restrictions in addition to those set forth in chapter 70.126 RCW:

(a) The coverage may include reasonable deductibles, coinsurance provisions, and internal maximums;

(b) The coverage should be structured to create incentives for the use of home health care and hospice care as an alternative to hospitalization;

(c) The coverage may contain provisions for utilization review and quality assurance;

(d) The coverage may require that home health agencies and hospices have written treatment plans approved by a physician licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW, and may require such treatment plans to be reviewed at designated intervals;

(e) The coverage shall provide benefits for, and restrict benefits to, services rendered by home health and hospice agencies licensed by the department of social and health services;

(f) Hospice care coverage shall provide benefits for terminally ill patients for an initial period of care of not less than six months and may provide benefits for an additional six months of care in cases where the patient is facing imminent death or is entering remission if certified in writing by the attending physician;

(g) Home health care coverage shall provide benefits for a minimum of one hundred thirty health care visits per calendar year. However, a visit of any duration by an employee of a home health agency for the purpose of providing services under the plan of treatment constitutes one visit;

(h) The coverage may be structured so that services or supplies included in the primary contract are not duplicated in the optional home health and hospice coverage.

(3) The insurance commissioner shall adopt any rules necessary to implement this section.

(4) The requirements of this section shall not apply to contracts or policies governed by chapter 48.66 RCW.

(5) An insurer, as a condition of reimbursement, may require compliance with home health and hospice certification regulations established by the United States department of health and human services. [1988 c 245 § 31; 1984 c 22 § 1; 1983 c 249 § 1.]

**Effective date—Implementation—Severability—1988 c 245:** See RCW 70.127.900 and 70.127.902.

**Effective date—1984 c 22:** "This act shall take effect July 1, 1984." [1984 c 22 § 8.]

**Effective date—1983 c 249:** See note following RCW 70.126.001.

*Home health care, hospice care, rules: Chapter 70.126 RCW.*

**48.21.225 Mammograms—Insurance coverage.** Each group disability insurance policy issued or renewed after January 1, 1990, that provides coverage for hospital or medical expenses shall provide coverage for screening or diagnostic mammography services, provided that such services are delivered upon the recommendation of the patient's physician or advanced registered nurse practitioner as authorized by the nursing care quality assurance commission pursuant to chapter 18.79 RCW or physician assistant pursuant to chapter 18.71A RCW.

This section shall not be construed to prevent the application of standard policy provisions applicable to other benefits such as deductible or copayment provisions. This section does not limit the authority of an insurer to negotiate rates and contract with specific providers for the delivery of mammography services. This section shall not apply to medicare supplement policies or supplemental contracts covering a specified disease or other limited benefits. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 731; 1989 c 338 § 2.]

**Severability—Headings and captions not law—Effective date—1994 sp.s. c 9:** See RCW 18.79.900 through 18.79.902.

**48.21.230 Reconstructive breast surgery.** (1) Each group disability insurance contract issued or renewed after July 24, 1983, which insures for hospital or medical care shall provide coverage for reconstructive breast surgery resulting from a mastectomy which resulted from disease, illness, or injury.

(2) Each group disability insurance contract issued or renewed after January 1, 1986, which insures for hospital or medical care shall provide coverage for all stages of one reconstructive breast reduction on the nondiseased breast to make it equal in size with the diseased breast after definitive reconstructive surgery on the diseased breast has been performed. [1985 c 54 § 6; 1983 c 113 § 2.]

**Effective date—1985 c 54:** See note following RCW 48.20.397.

**48.21.235 Mastectomy, lumpectomy.** No person engaged in the business of insurance under this chapter may refuse to issue any contract of insurance or cancel or decline to renew the contract solely because of a mastectomy or lumpectomy performed on the insured or prospective insured more than five years previously. The amount of benefits payable, or any term, rate, condition, or type of coverage shall not be restricted, modified, excluded, increased, or reduced solely on the basis of a mastectomy or lumpectomy performed on the insured or prospective insured more than five years previously. [1985 c 54 § 2.]

**Effective date—1985 c 54:** See note following RCW 48.20.397.

**48.21.240 Mental health treatment, optional supplemental coverage—Waiver.** (1) Each group insurer providing disability insurance coverage in this state for hospital or medical care under contracts which are issued, delivered, or renewed in this state on or after July 1, 1986, shall offer optional supplemental coverage for mental health treatment for the insured and the insured's covered dependents.

(2) Benefits shall be provided under the optional supplemental coverage for mental health treatment whether

treatment is rendered by: (a) A physician licensed under chapter 18.71 or 18.57 RCW; (b) a psychologist licensed under chapter 18.83 RCW; (c) a community mental health agency licensed by the department of social and health services pursuant to chapter 71.24 RCW; or (d) a state hospital as defined in RCW 72.23.010. The treatment shall be covered at the usual and customary rates for such treatment. The insurer, health care service contractor, or health maintenance organization providing optional coverage under the provisions of this section for mental health services may establish separate usual and customary rates for services rendered by physicians licensed under chapter 18.71 or 18.57 RCW, psychologists licensed under chapter 18.83 RCW, and community mental health centers licensed under chapter 71.24 RCW and state hospitals as defined in RCW 72.23.010. However, the treatment may be subject to contract provisions with respect to reasonable deductible amounts or copayments. In order to qualify for coverage under this section, a licensed community mental health agency shall have in effect a plan for quality assurance and peer review, and the treatment shall be supervised by a physician licensed under chapter 18.71 or 18.57 RCW or by a psychologist licensed under chapter 18.83 RCW.

(3) The group disability insurance contract may provide that all the coverage for mental health treatment is waived for all covered members if the contract holder so states in advance in writing to the insurer.

(4) This section shall not apply to a group disability insurance contract that has been entered into in accordance with a collective bargaining agreement between management and labor representatives prior to March 1, 1987. [1987 c 283 § 3; 1986 c 184 § 2; 1983 c 35 § 1.]

**Severability—Savings—1987 c 283:** See notes following RCW 43.20A.020.

**Legislative intent—1986 c 184:** "It is the intent of the legislature that all insurers, health care service contractors, and health maintenance organizations that provide health care coverage in the state shall offer the option of including mental health treatment in their health benefit plans. Further it is the intent of the legislature that all mental health care benefit plans shall provide reimbursement for mental health treatment by every type of provider listed as follows: Physicians licensed under chapter 18.71 or 18.57 RCW, psychologists licensed under chapter 18.83 RCW, and community mental health agencies licensed under chapter 71.24 RCW." [1986 c 184 § 1.]

**Effective date—1986 c 184:** "This act shall take effect March 1, 1987." [1986 c 184 § 5.]

**Severability—1986 c 184:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1986 c 184 § 6.]

**Effective date—1983 c 35:** "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 July 1, 1983." [1983 c 35 § 5.]

**Severability—1983 c 35:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1983 c 35 § 4.]

**48.21.242 Mental health treatment—Waiver of preauthorization for persons involuntarily committed.** An insurer providing group disability insurance coverage for health care in this state shall waive a preauthorization requirement from the insurer before an insured or the insured's covered dependents receive mental health care and

treatment rendered by a state hospital if the insured or any of the insured's covered dependents are involuntarily committed to a state hospital as defined in RCW 72.23.010. [1993 c 272 § 3.]

**Savings—Severability—1993 c 272:** See notes following RCW 43.20B.347.

**48.21.244 Benefits for prenatal diagnosis of congenital disorders—Contracts entered into or renewed on or after January 1, 1990.** On or after January 1, 1990, every group disability contract entered into or renewed that covers hospital, medical, or surgical expenses on a group basis, and which provides benefits for pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions to enrollees of such groups, shall offer benefits for prenatal diagnosis of congenital disorders of the fetus by means of screening and diagnostic procedures during pregnancy to such enrollees when those services are determined to be medically necessary by the disability contractor in accord with standards set in rule by the board of health. Every group disability contractor shall communicate the availability of such coverage to all group disability contract holders and to all groups with whom they are negotiating. [1988 c 276 § 6.]

*Prenatal testing—Limitation on changes to coverage: RCW 48.42.090.*

**48.21.250 Continuation option to be offered.** Every insurer that issues policies providing group coverage for hospital or medical expense shall offer the policyholder an option to include a policy provision granting a person who becomes ineligible for coverage under the group policy, the right to continue the group benefits for a period of time and at a rate agreed upon. The policy provision shall provide that when such coverage terminates, the covered person may convert to a policy as provided in RCW 48.21.260. [1984 c 190 § 2.]

**Legislative intent—1984 c 190:** "The legislature recognizes that when people covered by a group health insurance policy lose their group insurance benefits because they are no longer eligible, they need time to obtain a suitable form of replacement coverage or time to complete a reasonable course of medical treatment for a health condition that existed when the group benefits ended.

Spouses and dependents can lose their group insurance and may not have any other health insurance when one spouse covered under a group policy dies, obtains a divorce, or becomes unemployed. Often the cost of an individual policy prevents these persons from obtaining any other health insurance.

The intent of \*this act is to require insurers, health care service contractors, and health maintenance organizations to:

(1) Offer to the contract holder the option to continue health and medical benefits for employees, members, spouses, or dependents whose eligibility for coverage under a group policy, contract, or agreement is terminated; and

(2) Provide a conversion policy, contract, or agreement to employees, members, spouses, or dependents whose eligibility for coverage under a group policy, contract, or agreement is terminated." [1984 c 190 § 1.] \*This act" consists of the enactment of RCW 48.21.250, 48.21.260, 48.21.270, 48.44.360, 48.44.370, 48.44.380, 48.46.440, 48.46.450, and 48.46.460 and the repeal of RCW 48.21.210, 48.44.280, and 48.46.065.

**Application—1984 c 190:** "RCW 48.21.250, 48.44.360, and 48.46.440 shall apply to any policy, contract, or agreement issued, renewed, or amended on or after January 1, 1985." [1984 c 190 § 12.]

**Severability—1984 c 190:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1984 c 190 § 13.]

**48.21.260 Conversion policy to be offered—Exceptions, conditions.** (1) Except as otherwise provided by this section, any group disability insurance policy issued, renewed, or amended on or after January 1, 1985, that provides benefits for hospital or medical expenses shall contain a provision granting a person covered by the group policy the right to obtain a conversion policy from the insurer upon termination of the person's eligibility for coverage under the group policy.

(2) An insurer need not offer a conversion policy to:

(a) A person whose coverage under the group policy ended when the person's employment or membership was terminated for misconduct: PROVIDED, That when a person's employment or membership is terminated for misconduct, a conversion policy shall be offered to the spouse and/or dependents of the terminated employee or member. The policy shall include in the conversion provisions the same conversion rights and conditions which are available to employees or members and their spouses and/or dependents who are terminated for reasons other than misconduct;

(b) A person who is eligible for federal Medicare coverage; or

(c) A person who is covered under another group plan, policy, contract, or agreement providing benefits for hospital or medical care.

(3) To obtain the conversion policy, a person must submit a written application and the first premium payment for the conversion policy not later than thirty-one days after the date the person's group coverage terminates. The conversion policy shall become effective, without lapse of coverage, immediately following termination of coverage under the group policy.

(4) If an insurer or group policyholder does not renew, cancels, or otherwise terminates the group policy, the insurer shall offer a conversion policy to any person who was covered under the terminated policy unless the person is eligible to obtain group hospital or medical expense coverage within thirty-one days after such nonrenewal, cancellation, or termination of the group policy.

(5) The insurer shall determine the premium for the conversion policy in accordance with the insurer's table of premium rates applicable to the age and class of risk of each person to be covered under the policy and the type and amount of benefits provided. [1984 c 190 § 3.]

**Legislative intent—Severability—1984 c 190:** See notes following RCW 48.21.250.

**48.21.270 Conversion policy—Restrictions and requirements.** (1) An insurer shall not require proof of insurability as a condition for issuance of the conversion policy.

(2) A conversion policy may not contain an exclusion for preexisting conditions except to the extent that a waiting period for a preexisting condition has not been satisfied under the group policy.

(3) An insurer must offer at least three policy benefit plans that comply with the following:

(a) A major medical plan with a five thousand dollar deductible and a lifetime benefit maximum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars per person;

(b) A comprehensive medical plan with a five hundred dollar deductible and a lifetime benefit maximum of five hundred thousand dollars per person; and

(c) A basic medical plan with a one thousand dollar deductible and a lifetime maximum of seventy-five thousand dollars per person.

(4) The insurance commissioner may revise the deductibles and lifetime benefit amounts in subsection (3) of this section from time to time to reflect changing health care costs.

(5) The insurance commissioner shall adopt rules to establish minimum benefit standards for conversion policies.

(6) The commissioner shall adopt rules to establish specific standards for conversion policy provisions. These rules may include but are not limited to:

(a) Terms of renewability;

(b) Nonduplication of coverage;

(c) Benefit limitations, exceptions, and reductions; and

(d) Definitions of terms. [1984 c 190 § 4.]

**Legislative Intent—Severability—1984 c 190:** See notes following RCW 48.21.250.

**48.21.280 Coverage for adopted children.** (1) Any group disability insurance contract, except a blanket disability insurance contract, providing hospital and medical expenses and health care services, delivered or issued for delivery in this state, which provides coverage for dependent children, as defined in the contract of the insured, shall cover adoptive children placed with the insured on the same basis as other dependents, as provided in RCW 48.01.180.

(2) If payment of an additional premium is required to provide coverage for a child, the contract may require that notification of placement of a child for adoption and payment of the required premium must be furnished to the insurer. The notification period shall be no less than sixty days from the date of placement. [1986 c 140 § 3.]

**Effective date, application—Severability—1986 c 140:** See notes following RCW 48.01.180.

**48.21.290 Cancellation of rider.** Upon application by an insured, a rider shall be canceled if at least five years after its issuance, no health care services have been received by the insured during that time for the condition specified in the rider, and a physician, selected by the carrier for that purpose, agrees in writing to the full medical recovery of the insured from that condition, such agreement not to be unreasonably withheld. The option of the insured to apply for cancellation shall be disclosed on the face of the rider in clear and conspicuous language.

For purposes of this section, a rider is a legal document that modifies a contract to exclude, limit, or reduce coverage or benefits for specifically named or described preexisting diseases or physical conditions. [1987 c 37 § 2.]

**48.21.300 Phenylketonuria.** (1) The legislature finds that:

(a) Phenylketonuria is a rare inherited genetic disorder.

(b) Children with phenylketonuria are unable to metabolize an essential amino acid, phenylalanine, which is found in the proteins of most food.



(c) To remain healthy, children with phenylketonuria must maintain a strict diet and ingest a mineral and vitamin-enriched formula.

(d) Children who do not maintain their diets with the formula acquire severe mental and physical difficulties.

(e) Originally, the formulas were listed as prescription drugs but were reclassified as medical foods to increase their availability.

(2) Subject to requirements and exceptions which may be established by rules adopted by the commissioner, any group disability insurance contract delivered or issued for delivery or renewed in this state on or after September 1, 1988, that insures for hospital or medical expenses shall provide coverage for the formulas necessary for the treatment of phenylketonuria. [1988 c 173 § 2.]

**48.21.310 Neurodevelopmental therapies—Employer-sponsored group contracts.** (1) Each employer-sponsored group policy for comprehensive health insurance which is entered into, or renewed, on or after twelve months after July 23, 1989, shall include coverage for neurodevelopmental therapies for covered individuals age six and under.

(2) Benefits provided under this section shall cover the services of those authorized to deliver occupational therapy, speech therapy, and physical therapy. Benefits shall be payable only where the services have been delivered pursuant to the referral and periodic review of a holder of a license issued pursuant to chapter 18.71 or 18.57 RCW or where covered services have been rendered by such licensee. Nothing in this section shall prohibit an insurer from negotiating rates with qualified providers.

(3) Benefits provided under this section shall be for medically necessary services as determined by the insurer. Benefits shall be payable for services for the maintenance of an insured in cases where significant deterioration in the patient's condition would result without the service. Benefits shall be payable to restore and improve function.

(4) It is the intent of this section that employers purchasing comprehensive health insurance, including the benefits required by this section, together with the insurer, retain authority to design and employ utilization and cost controls. Therefore, benefits delivered under this section may be subject to contractual provisions regarding deductible amounts and/or copayments established by the employer purchasing insurance and the insurer. Benefits provided under this section may be subject to standard waiting periods for preexisting conditions, and may be subject to the submission of written treatment plans.

(5) In recognition of the intent expressed in subsection (4) of this section, benefits provided under this section may be subject to contractual provisions establishing annual and/or lifetime benefit limits. Such limits may define the total dollar benefits available or may limit the number of services delivered as agreed by the employer purchasing insurance and the insurer. [1989 c 345 § 2.]

**48.21.320 Temporomandibular joint disorders—Insurance coverage.** (1) Except as provided in this section, a group disability policy entered into or renewed after De-

ember 31, 1989, shall offer optional coverage for the treatment of temporomandibular joint disorders.

(a) Insurers offering medical coverage only may limit benefits in such coverages to medical services related to treatment of temporomandibular joint disorders. Insurers offering dental coverage only may limit benefits in such coverage to dental services related to treatment of temporomandibular joint disorders. No insurer offering medical coverage only may define all temporomandibular joint disorders as purely dental in nature, and no insurer offering dental coverage only may define all temporomandibular joint disorders as purely medical in nature.

(b) Insurers offering optional temporomandibular joint disorder coverage as provided in this section may, but are not required to, offer lesser or no temporomandibular joint disorder coverage as part of their basic group disability contract.

(c) Benefits and coverage offered under this section may be subject to negotiation to promote broad flexibility in potential benefit coverage. This flexibility shall apply to services to be reimbursed, determination of treatments to be considered medically necessary, systems through which services are to be provided, including referral systems and use of other providers, and related issues.

(2) Unless otherwise directed by law, the insurance commissioner shall adopt rules, to be implemented on January 1, 1993, establishing minimum benefits, terms, definitions, conditions, limitations, and provisions for the use of reasonable deductibles and copayments.

(3) An insurer need not make the offer of coverage required by this section to an employer or other group that offers to its eligible enrollees a self-insured health plan not subject to mandated benefit statutes under Title 48 RCW that does not provide coverage for temporomandibular joint disorders. [1989 c 331 § 2.]

**Legislative finding—1989 c 331:** "The legislature finds that:

(1) Temporomandibular joint disorders are conditions for which treatment often is not covered in medical and dental group insurance contracts;

(2) Individuals with temporomandibular joint disorders experience substantial pain and financial hardship;

(3) Public awareness is needed concerning temporomandibular joint disorders and would be promoted by a mandated offering of temporomandibular joint disorders coverage to group purchasers; and

(4) A mandated offering of temporomandibular joint disorders coverage shall not prescribe minimum initial benefits so that the insurers and the purchasers are allowed broad flexibility in benefit design and application." [1989 c 331 § 1.]

**Effective date—1989 c 331:** "This act shall take effect January 1, 1990, but the insurance commissioner may immediately take such steps as are necessary to ensure that this act is fully implemented on its effective date." [1989 c 331 § 6.]

**48.21.325 Prescriptions—Preapproval of individual claims—Subsequent rejection prohibited—Written record required.** Group disability insurance companies who through an authorized representative have first approved, by any means, an individual prescription claim as eligible may not reject that claim at some later date. Pharmacists or drug dispensing outlets who obtain preapproval of claims shall keep a written record of the preapproval that consists of identification by name and telephone number of the person who approved the claim. [1993 c 253 § 3.]

**Findings—Effective date—1993 c 253:** See notes following RCW 48.20.525.

**48.21.330 Nonresident pharmacies.** For the purposes of this chapter, a nonresident pharmacy is defined as any pharmacy located outside this state that ships, mails, or delivers, in any manner, except when delivered in person to an enrolled participant or his/her representative, controlled substances, legend drugs, or devices into this state.

After October 1, 1991, an insurer providing coverage of prescription drugs from nonresident pharmacies may only provide coverage from licensed nonresident pharmacies. The insurers shall obtain proof of current licensure in conformity with this section and RCW 18.64.350 through 18.64.400 from the nonresident pharmacy and keep that proof of licensure on file.

The department may request from the insurer the proof of current licensure for all nonresident pharmacies through which the insurer is providing coverage for prescription drugs for residents of the state of Washington. This information, which may constitute a full or partial customer list, shall be confidential and exempt from public disclosure, and from the requirements of chapter 42.17 RCW. The board or the department shall not be restricted in the disclosure of the name of a nonresident pharmacy that is or has been licensed under RCW 18.64.360 or 18.64.370 or of the identity of a nonresident pharmacy disciplined under RCW 18.64.350 through 18.64.400. [1991 c 87 § 8.]

**Effective date—1991 c 87:** See note following RCW 18.64.350.

## Chapter 48.21A

### DISABILITY INSURANCE—EXTENDED HEALTH

#### Sections

- 48.21A.010 Declaration of purpose.
- 48.21A.020 Definitions.
- 48.21A.030 Insurers may join—Policyholder—Reduced benefit provision—Master group policy—Offering—Cancellation.
- 48.21A.040 Agents, brokers, and solicitors.
- 48.21A.050 Powers and duties of associations.
- 48.21A.060 Commissioner's powers—Forms—Rates—Standard provisions—Withdrawal of approval—Federal, state benefits—Annual reports.
- 48.21A.070 Documents to be filed—Deceptive name or advertising.
- 48.21A.080 Remedies.
- 48.21A.090 Home health care, hospice care, optional coverage required—Standards, limitations, restrictions—Rules—Medicare supplemental contracts excluded.

*Refusal to renew or cancellation of disability insurance:* RCW 48.18.298, 48.18.299.

**48.21A.010 Declaration of purpose.** It is the purpose of this chapter to provide a means of more adequately meeting the needs of persons who are sixty-five years of age or older and their spouses for insurance coverage against financial loss from accident or disease through the combined resources and experience of a number of insurers; to make possible the fullest extension of such coverage by encouraging insurers to combine their resources and experience and to exercise their collective efforts in the development and offering of policies of such insurance to all applicants; and to regulate the joint activities herein authorized in accordance with the intent of Congress as expressed in the Act of

Congress of March 9, 1945 (Public Law 15, 79th Congress), as amended. [1965 ex.s. c 70 § 27.]

**48.21A.020 Definitions.** Wherever used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings hereinafter set forth or indicated, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Association" means a voluntary unincorporated association of insurers formed for the purpose of enabling cooperative action to provide disability insurance in accordance with this chapter in this or any other state having legislation enabling the issuance of insurance of the type provided in this chapter.

(b) "Insurer" means any insurance company which is authorized to transact disability insurance in this state.

(c) "Extended health insurance" means hospital, surgical and medical expense insurance provided by a policy issued as provided by this chapter. [1965 ex.s. c 70 § 28.]

**48.21A.030 Insurers may join—Policyholder—Reduced benefit provision—Master group policy—Offering—Cancellation.** Notwithstanding any other provision of this code or any other law which may be inconsistent herewith, any insurer may join with one or more other insurers, to plan, develop, underwrite, and offer and provide to any person who is sixty-five years of age or older and to the spouse of such person, extended health insurance against financial loss from accident or disease, or both. Such insurance may be offered, issued and administered jointly by two or more insurers by a group policy issued to a policyholder through an association formed for the purpose of offering, selling, issuing and administering such insurance. The policyholder may be an association, a trustee, or any other person. Any such policy may provide, among other things, that the benefits payable thereunder are subject to reduction if the individual insured has any other coverage providing hospital, surgical or medical benefits whether on an indemnity basis or a provision of service basis resulting in such insured being eligible for more than one hundred percent of covered expenses which he is required to pay, and any insurer issuing individual policies providing extended hospital, surgical or medical benefits to persons sixty-five years of age and older and their spouses may also use such a policy provision. A master group policy issued to an association or to a trustee or any person appointed by an association for the purpose of providing the insurances described in this section shall be another form of group disability insurance.

Any form of policy approved by the commissioner for an association shall be offered throughout Washington to all persons sixty-five and older and their spouses, and the coverage of any person insured under such a form of policy shall not be cancellable except for nonpayment of premiums unless the coverage of all persons insured under such form of policy is also canceled. [1965 ex.s. c 70 § 29.]

**48.21A.040 Agents, brokers, and solicitors.** Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 48.17.200, any person licensed to transact disability insurance as an agent, broker or solicitor may transact extended health insurance and may be paid a commission thereon. [1965 ex.s. c 70 § 30.]

**48.21A.050 Powers and duties of associations.** Any association formed for the purposes of this chapter may hold title to property, may enter into contracts, and may limit the liability of its members to their respective pro rata shares of the liability of such association. Any such association may sue and be sued in its associate name and for such purpose only shall be treated as a domestic corporation. Service of process against such association, made upon a managing agent, any member thereof or any agent authorized by appointment to receive service of process, shall have the same force and effect as if such service had been made upon all members of the association. Such association's books and records shall also be subject to examination under the provisions of RCW 48.03.010 through 48.03.070, inclusive, either separately or concurrently with examination of any of its member insurers. [1983 c 3 § 151; 1965 ex.s. c 70 § 31.]

**48.21A.060 Commissioner's powers—Forms—Rates—Standard provisions—Withdrawal of approval—Federal, state benefits—Annual reports.** The forms of the policies, applications, certificates or other evidence of insurance coverage and applicable premium rates relating thereto shall be filed with the commissioner. No such policy, contract, or other evidence of insurance, application or other form shall be sold, issued or used and no endorsement shall be attached to or printed or stamped thereon unless the form thereof shall have been approved by the commissioner or thirty days shall have expired after such filing without written notice from the commissioner of disapproval thereof. The commissioner shall disapprove the forms of such insurance if he finds that they are unjust, unfair, inequitable, misleading or deceptive or that the rates are by reasonable assumption excessive in relation to the benefits provided. In determining whether such rates by reasonable assumptions are excessive in relation to the benefits provided, the commissioner shall give due consideration to past and prospective claim experience, within and outside this state, and to fluctuations in such claim experience, to a reasonable risk charge, to contribution to surplus and contingency funds, to past and prospective expenses, both within and outside this state, and to all other relevant factors within and outside this state including any differing operating methods of the insurers joining in the issue of the policy. In exercising the powers conferred upon him by this chapter, the commissioner shall not be bound by any other requirement of this code with respect to standard provisions to be included in disability policies or forms.

The commissioner may, after hearing upon written notice, withdraw an approval previously given, upon such grounds as in his opinion would authorize disapproval upon original submission thereof. Any such withdrawal of approval after hearing shall be by notice in writing specifying the ground thereof and shall be effective at the expiration of such period, not less than ninety days after the giving of notice of withdrawal, as the commissioner shall in such notice prescribe.

If and when a program of hospital, surgical and medical benefits is enacted by the federal government or the state of Washington, the extended health insurance benefits provided by policies issued under this chapter shall be adjusted to avoid any duplication of benefits offered by the federal or

state programs and the premium rates applicable thereto shall be adjusted to conform with the adjusted benefits.

The association shall submit an annual report to the insurance commissioner which shall become public information and shall provide information as to the number of persons insured, the names of the insurers participating in the association with respect to insurance offered under this chapter and the calendar year experience applicable to such insurance offered under this chapter, including premiums earned, claims paid during the calendar year, the amount of claims reserve established, administrative expenses, commissions, promotional expenses, taxes, contingency reserve, other expenses, and profit and loss for the year. The commissioner shall require the association to provide any and all information concerning the operations of the association deemed relevant by him for inclusion in the report. [1965 ex.s. c 70 § 32.]

**48.21A.070 Documents to be filed—Deceptive name or advertising.** The articles of association of any association formed in accordance with this chapter, all amendments and supplements thereto, a designation in writing of a resident of this state as agent for the service of process, and a list of insurers who are members of the association and all supplements thereto shall be filed with the commissioner.

The name of any association or any advertising or promotional material used in connection with extended health insurance to be sold, offered, or issued, pursuant to this chapter shall not be such as to mislead or deceive the public. [1965 ex.s. c 70 § 33.]

**48.21A.080 Remedies.** No act done, action taken or agreement made pursuant to the authority conferred by this chapter shall constitute a violation of or grounds for prosecution or civil proceedings under any other law of this state heretofore or hereafter enacted which does not specifically refer to insurance. [1965 ex.s. c 70 § 34.]

**48.21A.090 Home health care, hospice care, optional coverage required—Standards, limitations, restrictions—Rules—Medicare supplemental contracts excluded.**

(1) Every insurer entering into or renewing extended health insurance governed by this chapter shall offer optional coverage for home health care and hospice care for persons who are homebound and would otherwise require hospitalization. Such optional coverage need only be offered in conjunction with a policy that provides payment for hospitalization as a part of health care coverage.

(2) Home health care and hospice care coverage offered under subsection (1) of this section shall conform to the following standards, limitations, and restrictions in addition to those set forth in chapters 70.126 and 70.127 RCW:

(a) The coverage may include reasonable deductibles, coinsurance provisions, and internal maximums;

(b) The coverage should be structured to create incentives for the use of home health care and hospice care as an alternative to hospitalization;

(c) The coverage may contain provisions for utilization review and quality assurance;

(d) The coverage may require that home health agencies and hospices have written treatment plans approved by a

physician licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW, and may require such treatment plans to be reviewed at designated intervals;

(e) The coverage shall provide benefits for, and restrict benefits to, services rendered by home health and hospice agencies licensed under chapter 70.127 RCW;

(f) Hospice care coverage shall provide benefits for terminally ill patients for an initial period of care of not less than six months and may provide benefits for an additional six months of care in cases where the patient is facing imminent death or is entering remission if certified in writing by the attending physician;

(g) Home health care coverage shall provide benefits for a minimum of one hundred thirty health care visits per calendar year. However, a visit of any duration by an employee of a home health agency for the purpose of providing services under the plan of treatment constitutes one visit;

(h) The coverage may be structured so that services or supplies included in the primary contract are not duplicated in the optional home health and hospice coverage.

(3) The insurance commissioner shall adopt any rules necessary to implement this section.

(4) The requirements of this section shall not apply to contracts or policies governed by chapter 48.66 RCW.

(5) An insurer, as a condition of reimbursement, may require compliance with home health and hospice certification regulations established by the United States department of health and human services. [1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 220; 1988 c 245 § 32; 1984 c 22 § 2; 1983 c 249 § 2.]

**Effective date—Severability—1989 1st ex.s. c 9:** See RCW 43.70.910 and 43.70.920.

**Effective date—Implementation—Severability—1988 c 245:** See RCW 70.127.900 and 70.127.902.

**Effective date—1984 c 22:** See note following RCW 48.21.220.

**Effective date—1983 c 249:** See note following RCW 70.126.001.

*Home health care, hospice care, rules: Chapter 70.126 RCW.*

## Chapter 48.22

### CASUALTY INSURANCE

#### Sections

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48.22.130	Vendor single-interest or collateral protection coverage—Canceled or discontinued—Premium refund.
48.22.135	Vendor single-interest or collateral protection coverage—Application.

*Casualty rates, rating organization: Chapter 48.19 RCW.*

*Injured public assistance recipient, department has lien, payment to recipient does not discharge lien: RCW 74.09.180, 43.20B.040, and 43.20B.050.*

*Policy forms, execution, filing, etc.: Chapter 48.18 RCW.*

**48.22.005 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Automobile" means a passenger car as defined in RCW 46.04.382 registered or principally garaged in this state other than:

- (a) A farm-type tractor or other self-propelled equipment designed for use principally off public roads;
- (b) A vehicle operated on rails or crawler-treads;
- (c) A vehicle located for use as a residence;
- (d) A motor home as defined in RCW 46.04.305; or
- (e) A moped as defined in RCW 46.04.304.

(2) "Bodily injury" means bodily injury, sickness, or disease, including death at any time resulting from the injury, sickness, or disease.

(3) "Income continuation benefits" means payments of at least eighty-five percent of the insured's loss of income from work, because of bodily injury sustained by him or her in the accident, less income earned during the benefit payment period. The benefit payment period begins fourteen days after the date of the accident and ends at the earliest of the following:

- (a) The date on which the insured is reasonably able to perform the duties of his or her usual occupation;
- (b) The expiration of not more than fifty-two weeks from the fourteenth day; or
- (c) The date of the insured's death.

(4) "Insured automobile" means an automobile described on the declarations page of the policy.

(5) "Insured" means:

(a) The named insured or a person who is a resident of the named insured's household and is either related to the named insured by blood, marriage, or adoption, or is the named insured's ward, foster child, or stepchild; or

(b) A person who sustains bodily injury caused by accident while: (i) Occupying or using the insured automobile with the permission of the named insured; or (ii) a pedestrian accidentally struck by the insured automobile.

(6) "Loss of services benefits" means reimbursement for payment to others, not members of the insured's household, for expenses reasonably incurred for services in lieu of those the insured would usually have performed for his or her household without compensation, provided the services are actually rendered, and ending the earliest of the following:

- (a) The date on which the insured person is reasonably able to perform those services;

(b) The expiration of fifty-two weeks; or

(c) The date of the insured's death.

(7) "Medical and hospital benefits" means payments for all reasonable and necessary expenses incurred by or on behalf of the insured for injuries sustained as a result of an automobile accident for health care services provided by persons licensed under Title 18 RCW, including pharmaceuticals, prosthetic devices and eye glasses, and necessary ambulance, hospital, and professional nursing service.

(8) "Automobile liability insurance policy" means a policy insuring against loss resulting from liability imposed by law for bodily injury, death, or property damage suffered by any person and arising out of the ownership, maintenance, or use of an insured automobile.

(9) "Named insured" means the individual named in the declarations of the policy and includes his or her spouse if a resident of the same household.

(10) "Occupying" means in or upon or entering into or alighting from.

(11) "Pedestrian" means a natural person not occupying a motor vehicle as defined in RCW 46.04.320.

(12) "Personal injury protection" means the benefits described in this section and RCW 48.22.085 through 48.22.100. [1993 c 242 § 1.]

**Severability—1993 c 242:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1993 c 242 § 7.]

**Effective date—1993 c 242:** "Sections 1 through 5 of this act shall take effect July 1, 1994." [1993 c 242 § 8.]

**48.22.020 Assigned risk plans.** The commissioner shall after consultation with the insurers licensed to write motor vehicle liability insurance in this state, approve a reasonable plan or plans for the equitable apportionment among such insurers of applicants for such insurance who are in good faith entitled to but are unable to procure insurance through ordinary methods and, when such plan has been approved, all such insurers shall subscribe thereto and shall participate therein. Any applicant for such insurance, any person insured under such plan and any insurer affected may appeal to the commissioner from any ruling or decision of the manager or committee designated to operate such plan. [1947 c 79 § .22.02; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.22.02.]

*Rate modifications for assigned risks: RCW 48.19.400.*

**48.22.030 Underinsured, hit-and-run, phantom vehicle coverage to be provided—Exceptions—Conditions—Deductibles.** (1) "Underinsured motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle with respect to the ownership, maintenance, or use of which either no bodily injury or property damage liability bond or insurance policy applies at the time of an accident, or with respect to which the sum of the limits of liability under all bodily injury or property damage liability bonds and insurance policies applicable to a covered person after an accident is less than the applicable damages which the covered person is legally entitled to recover.

(2) No new policy or renewal of an existing policy insuring against loss resulting from liability imposed by law for bodily injury, death, or property damage, suffered by any

person arising out of the ownership, maintenance, or use of a motor vehicle shall be issued with respect to any motor vehicle registered or principally garaged in this state unless coverage is provided therein or supplemental thereto for the protection of persons insured thereunder who are legally entitled to recover damages from owners or operators of underinsured motor vehicles, hit-and-run motor vehicles, and phantom vehicles because of bodily injury, death, or property damage, resulting therefrom, except while operating or occupying a motorcycle or motor-driven cycle, and except while operating or occupying a motor vehicle owned or available for the regular use by the named insured or any family member, and which is not insured under the liability coverage of the policy. The coverage required to be offered under this chapter is not applicable to general liability policies, commonly known as umbrella policies, or other policies which apply only as excess to the insurance directly applicable to the vehicle insured.

(3) Except as to property damage, coverage required under subsection (2) of this section shall be in the same amount as the insured's third party liability coverage unless the insured rejects all or part of the coverage as provided in subsection (4) of this section. Coverage for property damage need only be issued in conjunction with coverage for bodily injury or death. Property damage coverage required under subsection (2) of this section shall mean physical damage to the insured motor vehicle unless the policy specifically provides coverage for the contents thereof or other forms of property damage.

(4) A named insured or spouse may reject, in writing, underinsured coverage for bodily injury or death, or property damage, and the requirements of subsections (2) and (3) of this section shall not apply. If a named insured or spouse has rejected underinsured coverage, such coverage shall not be included in any supplemental or renewal policy unless a named insured or spouse subsequently requests such coverage in writing. The requirement of a written rejection under this subsection shall apply only to the original issuance of policies issued after July 24, 1983, and not to any renewal or replacement policy.

(5) The limit of liability under the policy coverage may be defined as the maximum limits of liability for all damages resulting from any one accident regardless of the number of covered persons, claims made, or vehicles or premiums shown on the policy, or premiums paid, or vehicles involved in an accident.

(6) The policy may provide that if an injured person has other similar insurance available to him under other policies, the total limits of liability of all coverages shall not exceed the higher of the applicable limits of the respective coverages.

(7) (a) The policy may provide for a deductible of not more than three hundred dollars for payment for property damage when the damage is caused by a hit-and-run driver or a phantom vehicle.

(b) In all other cases of underinsured property damage coverage, the policy may provide for a deductible of not more than one hundred dollars.

(8) For the purposes of this chapter, a "phantom vehicle" shall mean a motor vehicle which causes bodily injury, death, or property damage to an insured and has no

physical contact with the insured or the vehicle which the insured is occupying at the time of the accident if:

(a) The facts of the accident can be corroborated by competent evidence other than the testimony of the insured or any person having an underinsured motorist claim resulting from the accident; and

(b) The accident has been reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency within seventy-two hours of the accident. [1985 c 328 § 1; 1983 c 182 § 1; 1981 c 150 § 1; 1980 c 117 § 1; 1967 c 150 § 27.]

**Severability—1983 c 182:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1983 c 182 § 3.]

**Effective date—1981 c 150:** "This act shall take effect on September 1, 1981." [1981 c 150 § 3.]

**Effective date—1980 c 117:** "This act shall take effect on September 1, 1980." [1980 c 117 § 8.]

**48.22.040 Underinsured motor vehicle coverage where liability insurer is insolvent—Extent of coverage—Rights of insurer upon making payment.** (1) The term "underinsured motor vehicles" with reference to coverage offered under any insurance policy regulated under this chapter shall, subject to the terms and conditions of such coverage, be deemed to include an insured motor vehicle where the liability insurer thereof is unable to make payment with respect to the legal liability of its insured within the limits specified therein because of insolvency.

(2) An insurer's insolvency protection shall be applicable only to accidents occurring during a policy period in which its insured's underinsured motorist coverage is in effect where the liability insurer of the tort-feasor becomes insolvent within three years after such an accident. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent any insurer from affording insolvency protection under terms and conditions more favorable to its insureds than is provided hereunder.

(3) In the event of payment to an insured under the coverage required by this chapter and subject to the terms and conditions of such coverage, the insurer making such payment shall, to the extent thereof, be entitled to the proceeds of any settlement or judgment resulting from the exercise of any rights of recovery of such insured against any person or organization legally responsible for the bodily injury, death, or property damage for which such payment is made, including the proceeds recoverable from the assets of the insolvent insurer. Whenever an insurer shall make payment under the coverage required by this section and which payment is occasioned by an insolvency, such insurer's right of recovery or reimbursement shall not include any rights against the insured of said insolvent insurer for any amounts which would have been paid by the insolvent insurer. Such paying insurer shall have the right to proceed directly against the insolvent insurer or its receiver, and in pursuance of such right such paying insurer shall possess any rights which the insured of the insolvent company might otherwise have had, if the insured of the insolvent insurer had personally made the payment. [1983 c 182 § 2; 1980 c 117 § 2; 1967 ex.s. c 95 § 3.]

**Severability—1983 c 182:** See note following RCW 48.22.030.

**Effective date—1980 c 117:** See note following RCW 48.22.030.

**48.22.050 Market assistance plans.** The commissioner shall by regulation require insurers authorized to write casualty insurance in this state to form a market assistance plan to assist persons and other entities unable to purchase casualty insurance in an adequate amount from either the admitted market or nonadmitted market.

For the purpose of this section, a market assistance plan means a voluntary mechanism by insurers writing casualty insurance in this state in either the admitted or nonadmitted market to provide casualty insurance for a class of insurance designated in writing to the plan by the commissioner.

The bylaws and method of operation of any market assistance plan shall be approved by the commissioner prior to its operation.

A market assistance plan shall have a minimum of twenty-five insurers willing to insure risks within the class designated by the commissioner. If twenty-five insurers do not voluntarily agree to participate, the commissioner may require casualty insurers to participate in a market assistance plan as a condition of continuing to do business in this state. The commissioner shall make such a requirement to fulfill the quota of at least twenty-five insurers. The commissioner shall make his or her designation on the basis of the insurer's premium volume of casualty insurance in this state. [1986 c 305 § 906.]

**Preamble—Report to legislature—Applicability—Severability—1986 c 305:** See notes following RCW 4.16.160.

**48.22.060 Debt and financing coverage.** Every insurer that writes collision and comprehensive coverage for loss or damage to "private passenger automobiles" or "motor homes," as those terms are defined in RCW 48.18.297 and 46.04.305, respectively, shall provide, upon the insured's request, coverage that will pay, in the event of total loss, an amount, in excess of the actual cash value of the vehicle, sufficient to satisfy any outstanding indebtedness secured by and incurred in conjunction with the financing of the purchase of a new private passenger automobile or motor home.

Nothing in this section prohibits an insurer from denying or excluding such coverage where the insured or someone acting on the insured's behalf acts in a fraudulent manner to obtain or file a claim under such coverage. [1988 c 248 § 16; 1987 c 240 § 1.]

**Effective date—1987 c 240:** "The effective date of this act is January 1, 1988." [1987 c 240 § 2.]

**48.22.070 Longshoreman's and harbor worker's compensation coverage—Rules—Plan creation. (Expires July 1, 1997.)** (1) Before July 1, 1992, the commissioner shall adopt rules establishing a reasonable plan to insure that workers' compensation coverage as required by the United States longshore and harbor workers' compensation act, 33 U.S.C. Secs. 901 through 950, and maritime employer's liability coverage incidental to the workers' compensation coverage is available to those unable to purchase it through the normal insurance market. This plan shall require the participation of all authorized insurers writing primary or excess United States longshore and harbor workers' compensation insurance and the Washington state industrial insurance fund as defined in RCW 51.08.175 which is authorized

to participate in the plan and to make payments in support of the plan in accordance with this section. Any underwriting losses incurred by the plan shall be shared by plan participants in accordance with the following ratios: The state industrial insurance fund, fifty percent; and authorized insurers writing primary or excess United States longshore and harbor workers' compensation insurance, fifty percent.

(2) The Washington state industrial insurance fund may obtain or provide reinsurance coverage for the plan created under subsection (1) of this section the terms of which shall be negotiated between the state fund and the plan. This coverage shall not be obtained or provided if the commissioner determines that the premium to be charged would result in unaffordable rates for coverage provided by the plan. In considering whether excess of loss coverage premiums would result in unaffordable rates for workers' compensation coverage provided by the plan, the commissioner shall compare the resulting plan rates to those provided under any similar pool or plan of other states in existence prior to July 1, 1992.

(3) An applicant for plan insurance, a person insured under the plan, or an insurer, affected by a ruling or decision of the manager or committee designated to operate the plan may appeal to the commissioner for resolution of a dispute. In adopting rules under this section, the commissioner shall require that the plan use generally accepted actuarial principles for rate making. [1993 c 177 § 1; 1992 c 209 § 2.]

**Effective date—1993 c 177:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately [April 30, 1993]." [1993 c 177 § 4.]

**Expiration date—1992 c 209:** "This act shall expire on July 1, 1997." [1995 c 327 § 2; 1993 c 177 § 3; 1992 c 209 § 6.]

**Finding—Declaration—1992 c 209:** "The legislature finds and declares that the continued existence of a strong and healthy maritime industry in this state is threatened by the unavailability and excessive cost of workers' compensation coverage required by the United States longshoreman's and harbor worker's compensation act. The legislature, therefore, acting under its authority to protect industry and employment in this state hereby establishes a commission to devise and implement both a near and long-term solution to this problem, for the purpose of maintaining employment for Washington workers and a vigorous maritime industry." [1992 c 209 § 1.]

**48.22.080 Health care liability risk management training program.** Effective July 1, 1994, a casualty insurer's issuance of a new medical malpractice policy or renewal of an existing medical malpractice policy to a physician or other independent health care practitioner shall be conditioned upon that practitioner's participation in, and completion of, an insurer-designed health care liability risk management training program once every three years. Completion of said training program during 1994 shall satisfy the first three-year training requirement. The risk management training shall provide information related to avoiding adverse health outcomes resulting from substandard practice and minimizing damages associated with the adverse health outcomes that do occur. For purposes of this section, "independent health care practitioners" means those health care practitioner licensing classifications designated by the department of health in rule pursuant to \*RCW 18.130.330. [1994 c 102 § 2; 1993 c 492 § 413.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 18.130.330 was repealed by 1995 c 265 § 27, effective July 1, 1995.

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

**Short title—Severability—Savings—Captions not law—Reservation of legislative power—Effective dates—1993 c 492:** See RCW 43.72.910 through 43.72.915.

**48.22.085 Automobile liability insurance policy—Optional coverage for personal injury protection—Rejection by insured.** (1) No new automobile liability insurance policy or renewal of such an existing policy may be issued unless personal injury protection coverage benefits at limits established in this chapter for medical and hospital expenses, funeral expenses, income continuation, and loss of services sustained by an insured because of bodily injury caused by an automobile accident are offered as an optional coverage.

(2) A named insured may reject, in writing, personal injury protection coverage and the requirements of subsection (1) of this section shall not apply. If a named insured has rejected personal injury protection coverage, that rejection shall be valid and binding as to all levels of coverage and on all persons who might have otherwise been insured under such coverage. If a named insured has rejected personal injury protection coverage, such coverage shall not be included in any supplemental, renewal, or replacement policy unless a named insured subsequently requests such coverage in writing. [1993 c 242 § 2.]

**Severability—Effective date—1993 c 242:** See notes following RCW 48.22.005.

**48.22.090 Personal injury protection coverage—Exceptions.** (1) Personal injury protection coverage need not be provided for vendor's single interest policies, general liability policies, or other policies, commonly known as umbrella policies, that apply only as excess to the automobile liability policy directly applicable to the insured motor vehicle.

(2) Personal injury protection coverage need not be provided to or on behalf of:

(a) A person who intentionally causes injury to himself or herself;

(b) A person who is injured while participating in a prearranged or organized racing or speed contest or in practice or preparation for such a contest;

(c) A person whose bodily injury is due to war, whether or not declared, or to an act or condition incident to such circumstances;

(d) A person whose bodily injury results from the radioactive, toxic, explosive, or other hazardous properties of nuclear material;

(e) The named insured or a relative while occupying a motor vehicle owned by the named insured or furnished for the named insured's regular use, if such motor vehicle is not described on the declaration page of the policy under which a claim is made;

(f) A relative while occupying a motor vehicle owned by the relative or furnished for the relative's regular use, if such motor vehicle is not described on the declaration page of the policy under which a claim is made; or

(g) An insured whose bodily injury results or arises from the insured's use of an automobile in the commission of a felony. [1993 c 242 § 3.]

**Severability—Effective date—1993 c 242:** See notes following RCW 48.22.005.

**48.22.095 Automobile insurance policies—Minimum personal injury protection coverage—Maximum benefit limits.** Insurers providing automobile insurance policies must offer minimum personal injury protection coverage for each insured with maximum benefit limits as follows:

(1) Medical and hospital benefits of ten thousand dollars for expenses incurred within three years of the automobile accident;

(2) Benefits for funeral expenses in an amount of two thousand dollars;

(3) Income continuation benefits covering income losses incurred within one year after the date of the insured's injury in an amount of ten thousand dollars, subject to a limit of the lesser of two hundred dollars per week or eighty-five percent of the weekly income. The combined weekly payment receivable by the insured under any workers' compensation or other disability insurance benefits or other income continuation benefit and this insurance may not exceed eighty-five percent of the insured's weekly income;

(4) Loss of services benefits in an amount of five thousand dollars, subject to a limit of forty dollars per day not to exceed two hundred dollars per week; and

(5) Payments made under personal injury protection coverage are limited to the amount of actual loss or expense incurred. [1993 c 242 § 4.]

**Severability—Effective date—1993 c 242:** See notes following RCW 48.22.005.

**48.22.100 Automobile insurance policies—In lieu of minimum personal injury protection coverage—Benefit limits.** In lieu of minimum coverage required under RCW 48.22.095, an insurer providing automobile liability insurance policies shall offer and provide, upon request, personal injury protection coverage with benefit limits for each insured of:

(1) Up to thirty-five thousand dollars for medical and hospital benefits incurred within three years of the automobile accident;

(2) Up to two thousand dollars for funeral expenses incurred;

(3) Up to thirty-five thousand dollars for one year's income continuation benefits, subject to a limit of the lesser of seven hundred dollars per week or eighty-five percent of the weekly income; and

(4) Up to forty dollars per day for loss of services benefits, for up to one year from the date of the automobile accident.

Payments made under personal injury protection coverage are limited to the amount of actual loss or expense incurred. [1993 c 242 § 5.]

**Severability—Effective date—1993 c 242:** See notes following RCW 48.22.005.

**48.22.105 Rule making.** The commissioner may adopt such rules as are necessary to implement RCW 48.22.005 and 48.22.085 through 48.22.100. [1993 c 242 § 9.]

**Severability—1993 c 242:** See note following RCW 48.22.005.

**48.22.110 Vendor single-interest or collateral protection coverage—Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this section and RCW 48.22.115 through 48.22.135.

(1) "Borrower" means a person who receives a loan or enters into a retail installment contract under chapter 63.14 RCW to purchase a motor vehicle or vessel in which the secured party holds an interest.

(2) "Motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle in this state subject to registration under chapter 46.16 RCW, except motor vehicles governed by RCW 46.16.020 or registered with the Washington utilities and transportation commission as common or contract carriers.

(3) "Secured party" means a person, corporation, association, partnership, or venture that possesses a bona fide security interest in a motor vehicle or vessel.

(4) "Vendor single-interest" or "collateral protection coverage" means insurance coverage insuring primarily or solely the interest of a secured party but which may include the interest of the borrower in a motor vehicle or vessel serving as collateral and obtained by the secured party or its agent after the borrower has failed to obtain or maintain insurance coverage required by the financing agreement for the motor vehicle or vessel. Vendor single-interest or collateral protection coverage does not include insurance coverage purchased by a secured party for which the borrower is not charged.

(5) "Vessel" means a vessel as defined in RCW 88.02.010 and includes personal watercraft as defined in RCW 88.12.010. [1994 c 186 § 1.]

**Effective date—1994 c 186 §§ 1-5:** "Sections 1 through 5 of this act take effect January 1, 1995." [1994 c 186 § 8.]

**48.22.115 Vendor single-interest or collateral protection coverage—Warning.** In a contract or loan agreement, or on a separate document accompanying the contract or loan agreement and signed by the borrower, that provides financing for a motor vehicle or vessel and authorizes a secured party to purchase vendor single interest or collateral protection coverage, the following or substantially similar warning must be set forth in ten-point print:

#### WARNING

UNLESS YOU PROVIDE US WITH EVIDENCE OF THE INSURANCE COVERAGE AS REQUIRED BY OUR LOAN AGREEMENT, WE MAY PURCHASE INSURANCE AT YOUR EXPENSE TO PROTECT OUR INTEREST. THIS INSURANCE MAY, BUT NEED NOT, ALSO PROTECT YOUR INTEREST. IF THE COLLATERAL BECOMES DAMAGED, THE COVERAGE WE PURCHASE MAY NOT PAY ANY CLAIM YOU MAKE OR ANY CLAIM MADE AGAINST YOU. YOU MAY LATER CANCEL THIS COVERAGE BY PROVIDING EVIDENCE THAT YOU HAVE OBTAINED PROPER COVERAGE ELSEWHERE.

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COST OF ANY INSURANCE PURCHASED BY US. THE COST OF THIS INSURANCE MAY BE ADDED



TO YOUR LOAN BALANCE. IF THE COST IS ADDED TO THE LOAN BALANCE, THE INTEREST RATE ON THE UNDERLYING LOAN WILL APPLY TO THIS ADDED AMOUNT. THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF COVERAGE MAY BE THE DATE YOUR PRIOR COVERAGE LAPSED OR THE DATE YOU FAILED TO PROVIDE PROOF OF COVERAGE.

THE COVERAGE WE PURCHASE MAY BE CONSIDERABLY MORE EXPENSIVE THAN INSURANCE YOU CAN OBTAIN ON YOUR OWN AND MAY NOT SATISFY WASHINGTON'S MANDATORY LIABILITY INSURANCE LAWS.

[1994 c 186 § 2.]

Effective date—1994 c 186 §§ 1-5: See note following RCW 48.22.110.

**48.22.120 Vendor single-interest or collateral protection coverage—Final notice and warning—No requirement to purchase—Effective date of coverage.** (1) A secured party shall not impose charges, that may include but are not limited to interest, finance, and premium charges, on a borrower for vendor single interest or collateral protection coverage for the motor vehicle or vessel as provided in subsection (2) of this section until the following or a substantially similar warning printed in ten-point type is sent to the borrower:

#### FINAL NOTICE AND WARNING

UNLESS YOU PROVIDE US WITH EVIDENCE OF THE INSURANCE COVERAGE AS REQUIRED BY OUR LOAN AGREEMENT WITHIN FIVE DAYS AFTER THE POSTMARK ON THIS LETTER, WE WILL PURCHASE INSURANCE AT YOUR EXPENSE TO PROTECT OUR INTEREST. THIS INSURANCE MAY, BUT NEED NOT, ALSO PROTECT YOUR INTEREST. IF THE COLLATERAL BECOMES DAMAGED, THE COVERAGE WE PURCHASE MAY NOT PAY ANY CLAIM YOU MAKE OR ANY CLAIM MADE AGAINST YOU. YOU MAY LATER CANCEL THIS COVERAGE BY PROVIDING EVIDENCE THAT YOU HAVE OBTAINED PROPER COVERAGE ELSEWHERE OR HAVE PAID OFF THE LOAN ON THE COLLATERAL IN ITS ENTIRETY.

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COST OF THE INSURANCE PURCHASED BY US. THE COST OF THIS INSURANCE MAY BE ADDED TO YOUR LOAN BALANCE. IF THE COST IS ADDED TO THE LOAN BALANCE, THE INTEREST RATE ON THE UNDERLYING LOAN WILL APPLY TO THIS ADDED AMOUNT. THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF COVERAGE MAY BE THE DATE YOUR COVERAGE LAPSED OR THE DATE YOU FAILED TO PROVIDE PROOF OF COVERAGE.

THE COVERAGE WE PURCHASE WILL COST YOU A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY \$ . . . .

(PLUS INTEREST) AND MAY BE CONSIDERABLY MORE EXPENSIVE THAN INSURANCE YOU CAN OBTAIN ON YOUR OWN.

The final notice and warning shall identify whether the coverage to be purchased is vendor single interest or collateral protection coverage and disclose the extent of the borrower's coverage, if any, including a statement of whether the coverage satisfies Washington's mandatory liability insurance laws.

(2) If reasonable efforts to provide the borrower with the notice required under subsection (1) of this section fail to produce evidence of the required insurance, the secured party may proceed to impose charges for vendor single interest or collateral protection coverage no sooner than eight days after giving notice as required under this chapter. Reasonable efforts to provide notice under this section means:

(a) Within thirty days before the secured party is required to send the final notice and warning in compliance with subsection (1) of this section, the secured party shall mail a notice by first class mail to the borrower's last known address as contained in the secured party's records. The notice shall state that the secured party intends to charge the borrower for vendor single interest or collateral protection coverage on the collateral if the borrower fails to provide evidence of proper insurance to the lender; and

(b) The secured party shall send the final notice and warning notice in compliance with subsection (1) of this section by certified mail to the borrower's last known address as contained in the secured party's records at least eight days before the insurance is charged to the borrower by the insurer.

(3) The secured party is responsible for complying with subsection (2)(a) and (b) of this section. However, a secured party may seek the services of other entities to fulfill the requirements of subsection (2)(a) and (b) of this section.

(4) Nothing contained in this chapter, or a secured party's compliance with or failure to comply with this chapter, shall be construed to require the secured party to purchase vendor single interest or collateral protection coverage, and the secured party shall not be liable to the borrower or any third party as a result of its failure to purchase vendor single interest or collateral protection coverage.

(5) Substantial compliance by a secured party with RCW 48.22.110 through 48.22.130 constitutes a complete defense to any claim arising under the laws of this state challenging the secured party's placement of vendor single interest or collateral protection coverage.

(6) The effective date of vendor single interest or collateral protection coverage placed under this chapter shall be either the date that the borrower's prior coverage lapsed or the date that the borrower failed to provide proof of coverage on the vehicle or vessel as required under the contract or loan agreement. Premiums for vendor single interest or collateral protection coverage placed under this chapter shall be calculated on a basis that does not exceed the outstanding credit balance as of the effective date of the coverage even though the coverage may limit liability to the outstanding balance, actual cash value, or cost of repair.

(7) If the secured party has purchased the contract or loan agreement relating to the motor vehicle or vessel from the seller of the motor vehicle or vessel under an agreement that the seller must repurchase the contract or loan agreement in the event of a default by the borrower, the secured party shall send a copy of the notice provided under subsection (2)(a) of this section by first class mail to the seller at the seller's last known address on file with the secured party when such notice is sent to the borrower under subsection (2)(a) of this section. [1994 c 186 § 3.]

**Effective date—1994 c 186 §§ 1-5:** See note following RCW 48.22.110.

**48.22.125 Vendor single-interest or collateral protection coverage—Cancellation when borrower has obtained insurance—Interest rate for financing.** (1) The secured party shall cancel vendor single interest or collateral protection coverage charged to the borrower effective the date of receipt of proper evidence from the borrower that the borrower has obtained insurance to protect the secured party's interest. Proper evidence includes an insurance binder that is no older than ninety days from the date of issuance and that contains physical damage coverage as provided in the borrower's loan agreement with respect to the motor vehicle or vessel.

(2) If the underlying loan or extension of credit for the underlying loan is satisfied, the secured party may not require the borrower to maintain vendor single interest or collateral protection coverage that has been purchased.

(3) The interest rate for financing the cost of vendor single interest or collateral protection coverage may not exceed the interest rate applied to the underlying loan obligation. [1994 c 186 § 4.]

**Effective date—1994 c 186 §§ 1-5:** See note following RCW 48.22.110.

**48.22.130 Vendor single-interest or collateral protection coverage—Canceled or discontinued—Premium refund.** If vendor single interest or collateral protection coverage is canceled or discontinued under RCW 48.22.125 (1) or (2), the amount of unearned premium must be refunded to the borrower. At the option of the secured party, this refund may take the form of a credit against the borrower's obligation to the secured party. If the refund is taken as a credit against the borrower's obligation to the secured party, the secured party shall provide the borrower with an itemized statement that indicates the amount of the credit and where the credit has been applied. [1994 c 186 § 5.]

**Effective date—1994 c 186 §§ 1-5:** See note following RCW 48.22.110.

**48.22.135 Vendor single-interest or collateral protection coverage—Application.** The failure of a secured party prior to January 1, 1995, to provide notice as contemplated in this chapter, or otherwise to administer a vendor single interest or collateral protection coverage program in a manner similar to that required under this chapter, shall not be admissible in any court or arbitration proceeding or otherwise used to prove that a secured party's actions with respect to vendor single interest or collateral

protection coverage or similar coverage were unlawful or otherwise improper. A secured party shall not be liable to the borrower or any other party for placing vendor single interest or collateral protection coverage in accordance with the terms of an otherwise legal loan or other written agreement with the borrower entered prior to January 1, 1995. The provisions of this section shall be applicable with respect to actions pending or commenced on or after June 9, 1994. [1994 c 186 § 7.]

## Chapter 48.23

### LIFE INSURANCE AND ANNUITIES

#### Sections

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*Exemption of proceeds**commutation, annuities: RCW 48.18.430.**life insurance: RCW 48.18.410.**Insurable interest, personal insurance, nonprofit organizations: RCW 48.18.030.**Minor may contract for life or disability insurance: RCW 48.18.020.**Payment to person designated in policy or by assignment discharges insurer: RCW 48.18.370.**Policy forms, execution, filing, etc.: Chapter 48.18 RCW.**Simultaneous deaths: RCW 48.18.390.**Spouses' rights in life insurance policy: RCW 48.18.440.*

**48.23.010 Scope of chapter.** The provisions of this chapter apply to contracts of life insurance and annuities other than group life insurance, group annuities, and, except for RCW 48.23.260, 48.23.270, 48.23.340, and \*48.23.350, other than industrial life insurance: PROVIDED, That the provisions of Title 48 RCW shall not apply to charitable gift annuities issued by a board of a state university, regional university, or a state college, nor to the issuance thereof. [1979 c 130 § 2; 1947 c 79 § .23.01; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.23.01.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 48.23.350 was repealed by 1982 1st ex.s. c 9 § 36(2); later enactment, see chapter 48.76 RCW.

Severability—1979 c 130: See note following RCW 28B.10.485.

**48.23.020 Standard provisions required—Life insurance.** (1) No policy of life insurance other than industrial, group and pure endowments with or without return of premiums or of premiums and interest, shall be delivered or issued for delivery in this state unless it contains in substance all of the provisions required by RCW 48.23.030 to 48.23.130, inclusive. This provision shall not apply to annuity contracts.

(2) Any of such provisions or portions thereof not applicable to single premium or term policies shall to that extent not be incorporated therein. [1947 c 79 § .23.02; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.23.02.]

**48.23.030 Grace period.** There shall be a provision that the insured is entitled to a grace period of one month, but not less than thirty days, within which the payment of any premium after the first may be made, subject at the option of the insurer to an interest charge not in excess of six percent per annum for the number of days of grace elapsing before the payment of the premium, during which period of grace the policy shall continue in force, but in case the policy becomes a claim during the grace period before the overdue premium is paid, or the deferred premiums of the current policy year, if any, are paid, the amount of such premium or premiums with interest thereon may be deducted in any settlement under the policy. [1947 c 79 § .23.03; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.23.03.]

**48.23.040 Entire contract—Representations.** In all such policies other than those containing a clause making the policy incontestable from date of issue, there shall be a provision that the policy and the application therefor, if a copy thereof has been endorsed upon or attached to the policy at issue and made a part thereof, shall constitute the entire contract between the parties, and that all statements

made by the applicant or by the insured, shall, in the absence of fraud, be deemed representations and not warranties. [1947 c 79 § .23.04; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.23.04.]

**48.23.050 Incontestability.** There shall be a provision that the policy shall be incontestable after it has been in force during the lifetime of the insured for a period of two years from its date of issue, except for nonpayment of premiums and except, at the option of the insurer, as to provisions relative to benefits in event of total and permanent disability and as to provisions which grant additional insurance specifically against accidental death. [1947 c 79 § .23.05; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.23.05.]

**48.23.060 Misstatement of age.** There shall be a provision that if it is found that the age of the insured (or the age of any other individual considered in determining the premium) has been misstated, the amount payable under the policy shall be such as the premium would have purchased at the correct age or ages, according to the insurer's rate at date of issue. [1947 c 79 § .23.06; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.23.06.]

**48.23.070 Participation in surplus.** (1) In all policies which provide for participation in the insurer's surplus, there shall be a provision that the policy shall so participate annually in the insurer's divisible surplus as apportioned by the insurer, beginning not later than the end of the third policy year. Any policy containing provision for annual participation beginning at the end of the first policy year, may also provide that each dividend shall be paid subject to the payment of the premiums for the next ensuing year. The insured under any annual dividend policy shall have the right each year to have the current dividend arising from such participation either paid in cash, or applied in accordance with such other dividend option as may be specified in the policy and elected by the insured. The policy shall further provide which of the options shall be effective if the insured shall fail to notify the insurer in writing of his election within the period of grace allowed for the payment of premium.

(2) This section shall not apply to paid-up nonforfeiture benefits nor paid-up policies issued on default in payment of premiums. [1947 c 79 § .23.07; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.23.07.]

**48.23.075 Participation in surplus—Requirements for forms.** (1) Life insurance and annuity policy forms of the following types shall be defined and designated as participating forms of insurance only if they contain a provision for participation in the insurer's surplus, and shall be defined and designated as nonparticipating forms if they do not contain a provision for participation in the insurer's surplus:

(a) Forms which provide that the premium or consideration at the time of issue and subsequent premiums or considerations will be established by the insurer based on current, or then current, projected assumptions for such factors as interest, mortality, persistency, expense, or other factors, subject to a maximum guaranteed premium or premiums set forth in the policy; and

(b) Forms (except those for variable life insurance and variable annuity plans which are subject to chapter 48.18A RCW) which provide that their premiums or considerations are credited to an account to which interest is credited, and from which the cost of any life insurance or annuity benefits or other benefits or specified expenses are deducted.

(2) The commissioner may by regulation further clarify the definitions and requirements contained in subsection (1) of this section, and may classify any other types of forms as participating or nonparticipating, consistent therewith. [1982 c 181 § 19.]

**Severability—1982 c 181:** See note following RCW 48.03.010.

**48.23.080 Policy loan.** (1) There shall be a provision that after three full years' premiums have been paid thereon, the insurer at any time, while the policy is in force, will advance, on proper assignment or pledge of the policy and on the sole security thereof, at a rate of interest provided in this chapter as now or hereafter amended, a sum to be determined as follows:

(a) If such policy is issued prior to the operative date of \*RCW 48.23.350, the sum, including any interest paid in advance but not beyond the end of the current policy year, shall be equal to or at the option of the owner of the policy less than, the reserve at the end of the current policy year on the policy and on any dividend additions thereto, less a sum not more than two and one-half percent of the amount insured by the policy and of any dividend additions thereto. The policy may contain a provision by which the insurer reserves the right to defer the making of the loan, except when made to pay premiums, for a period not exceeding six months after the date of application therefor.

(b) If such policy is issued on or after such operative date, the sum, including any interest to the end of the current policy year shall not exceed the cash surrender value at the end of the current policy year, as required by \*RCW 48.23.350.

(c)(i) The policy shall contain (A) a provision that policy loans shall bear interest at a specified rate not exceeding six percent per annum, or (B) a provision that policy loans shall bear interest at a variable of not less than four nor more than eight percent per annum.

(ii) The variable rate shall not be changed more frequently than once per year and no change may exceed one percent per annum except reductions. The insurer shall give at least thirty days' notice to the policy owner or the owner's designee of any changes in the interest rate.

(iii) The provisions of (c)(i) and (c)(ii) of this subsection shall apply only in policies in existence prior to August 1, 1981.

(2) Such policy shall further provide that the insurer may deduct from such loan value any existing indebtedness on the policy (unless such indebtedness has already been deducted in determining the cash surrender value) and any unpaid balance of the premium for the current policy year; and that if the loan is made or repaid on a date other than the anniversary of the policy, the insurer shall be entitled to interest for the portion of the current policy year at the rate of interest specified in the policy.

(3) Such policy may further provide that if the interest on the loan is not paid when due, it shall be added to the

existing indebtedness and shall bear interest at the same rate; and that if and when the total indebtedness on the policy, including interest due or accruing, equals or exceeds the amount of the loan value thereof which would otherwise exist at such time, the policy shall terminate in full settlement of such indebtedness and become void; except, that it shall be stipulated in the policy that no such termination shall be effective prior to the expiration of at least thirty days after notice of the pendency of the termination was mailed by the insurer to the insured and the assignee, if any, at their respective addresses last of record with the insurer.

(4) The insurer shall provide in any policy issued on or after the operative date of \*RCW 48.23.350 that the making of any loan, other than a loan to pay premiums, may be deferred for not exceeding six months after the application for the loan has been received by it. [1981 c 247 § 3; 1977 ex.s. c 250 § 1; 1947 c 79 § .23.08; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.23.08.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 48.23.350 was repealed by 1982 1st ex.s. c 9 § 36(2); later enactment, see chapter 48.76 RCW.

**Purpose—Effective date—1981 c 247:** See notes following RCW 48.23.085.

**Construction—1977 ex.s. c 250:** "This 1977 amendatory act shall not impair the terms and conditions of any policy of life insurance in force prior to the effective date of this 1977 amendatory act." [1977 ex.s. c 250 § 2.]

**48.23.085 Policy loan interest rates.** (1) As used in this section, "published monthly average" means:

(a) The "Moody's Corporate Bond Yield Average - Monthly Average Corporates" as published by Moody's Investors Service, Incorporated or any successor thereto; or

(b) If the "Moody's Corporate Bond Yield Average - Monthly Average Corporates" is no longer published, a substantially similar average, established by rule issued by the commissioner.

(2) Policies issued on or after August 1, 1981, shall provide for policy loan interest rates by containing:

(a) A provision permitting a maximum interest rate of not more than eight percent per annum; or

(b) A provision permitting an adjustable maximum interest rate established from time to time by the life insurer as permitted by law.

(3) The rate of interest charged on a policy loan made under (2)(b) of this section shall not exceed the higher of the following:

(a) The published monthly average for the calendar month ending two months before the date on which the rate is determined; or

(b) The rate used to compute the cash surrender values under the policy during the applicable period plus one percent per annum.

(4) If the maximum rate of interest is determined pursuant to (2)(b) of this section, the policy shall contain a provision setting forth the frequency at which the rate is to be determined for that policy.

(5) The maximum rate for each policy shall be determined at regular intervals at least once every twelve months, but not more frequently than once in any three-month period. At the intervals specified in the policy:

(a) The rate being charged may be increased whenever such increase as determined under subsection (3) of this

section would increase that rate by one-half of one percent or more per annum; and

(b) The rate being charged shall be reduced whenever such reduction as determined under subsection (3) of this section would decrease that rate by one-half of one percent or more per annum.

(6) The life insurer shall:

(a) Notify the policyholder at the time a cash loan is made of the initial rate of interest on the loan;

(b) Notify the policyholder with respect to premium loans of the initial rate of interest on the loan as soon as it is reasonably practical to do so after making the initial loan. Notice need not be given to the policyholder when a further premium loan is added, except as provided in (c) of this subsection;

(c) Send to policyholders with loans reasonable advance notice of any increase in the rate; and

(d) Include in the notices required in this subsection the substance of the pertinent provisions of subsections (2) and (4) of this section.

(7) The substance of the pertinent provisions of subsections (2) and (4) of this section shall be set forth in the policies to which they apply.

(8) The loan value of the policy shall be determined in accordance with RCW 48.23.080, but no policy shall terminate in a policy year as the sole result of change in the interest rate during that policy year, and the life insurer shall maintain coverage during that policy year until the time at which it would otherwise have terminated if there had been no change during that policy year.

(9) For purposes of this section:

(a) The rate of interest on policy loans permitted under this section includes the interest rate charged on reinstatement of policy loans for the period during and after any lapse of a policy;

(b) The term "policy loan" includes any premium loan made under a policy to pay one or more premiums that were not paid to the life insurer as they fell due;

(c) The term "policyholder" includes the owner of the policy or the person designated to pay premiums as shown on the records of the life insurer; and

(d) The term "policy" includes certificates issued by a fraternal benefit society and annuity contracts which provide for policy loans.

(10) No other provision of law shall apply to policy loan interest rates unless made specifically applicable to such rates. [1981 c 247 § 2.]

**Purpose—1981 c 247:** "The purpose of this act is to permit and set guidelines for life insurers to include in life insurance policies issued after the effective date of this act a provision for periodic adjustment of policy loan interest rates." [1981 c 247 § 1.]

**Effective date—1981 c 247:** "This act shall take effect August 1, 1981, and shall not apply to any insurance contract before that date." [1981 c 247 § 5.]

**48.23.090 Table of values and options.** There shall be a table showing in figures the loan value, if any, and any options available under the policy each year upon default in premium payments, during at least the first twenty years of the policy, or for its life if maturity or expiry occurs in less than twenty years. [1947 c 79 § .23.09; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.23.09.]

**48.23.100 Nonforfeiture options.** There shall be a provision specifying the option to which the policyholder is automatically entitled in the absence of the election of other nonforfeiture options upon default in premium payment after nonforfeiture values become available. [1947 c 79 § .23.10; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.23.10.]

**48.23.110 Table of installments.** If the policy provides for payment of its proceeds in installments or as an annuity, a table showing the amount and period of such installments or annuity shall be included in the policy. Except, that if in the judgment of the commissioner it is not practical to include certain tables in the policy, the requirements of this section may be met as to such policy by the insurer filing such tables with the commissioner. [1947 c 79 § .23.11; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.23.11.]

**48.23.120 Reinstatement.** There shall be a provision that the policy may be reinstated at any time within three years after the date of default in the payment of any premium, unless the policy has been surrendered for its cash value, or the period of any extended insurance provided by the policy has expired, upon evidence of insurability satisfactory to the insurer and the payment of all overdue premiums, and payment (or, within the limits permitted by the then cash values of the policy, reinstatement) of any other indebtedness to the insurer upon the policy with interest as to premiums at a rate not exceeding six percent per annum compounded annually. [1981 c 247 § 4; 1947 c 79 § .23.12; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.23.12.]

**Purpose—Effective date—1981 c 247:** See notes following RCW 48.23.085.

**48.23.130 Settlement on proof of death.** There shall be a provision that when a policy becomes a claim by the death of the insured, settlement shall be made upon receipt of due proof of death and surrender of the policy. [1947 c 79 § .23.13; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.23.13.]

**48.23.140 Standard provisions—Annuities, pure endowment contracts.** No annuity or pure endowment contract, other than reversionary annuities, or survivorship annuities, or group annuities, shall be delivered or issued for delivery in this state unless it contains in substance each of the provisions specified in RCW 48.23.150 to 48.23.210 inclusive. Any of such provisions not applicable to single premium annuities or single premium pure endowment contracts shall not, to that extent, be incorporated therein.

This section shall not apply to contracts for deferred annuities included in, or upon the lives of beneficiaries under, life insurance policies. [1947 c 79 § .23.14; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.23.14.]

**48.23.150 Grace period—Annuities, pure endowments.** In such contracts, there shall be a provision that there shall be a period of grace of one month, but not less than thirty days, within which any stipulated payment to the insurer falling due after the first may be made, subject at the option of the insurer, to an interest charge thereon at a rate to be specified in the contract but not exceeding six percent per annum for the number of days of grace elapsing before

such payment, during which period of grace, the contract shall continue in full force; but in case a claim arises under the contract on account of death prior to expiration of the period of grace before the overdue payment to the insurer of the deferred payments of the current contract year, if any, are made, the amount of such payments, with interest on any overdue payments, may be deducted from any amount payable under the contract in settlement. [1947 c 79 § .23.15; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.23.15.]

**48.23.160 Incontestability—Annuities, pure endowments.** If any statements, other than those relating to age, sex, and identity, are required as a condition to issuing such an annuity or pure endowment contract, and subject to RCW 48.23.180, there shall be a provision that the contract shall be incontestable after it has been in force during the lifetime of the person or of each of the persons as to whom such statements are required, for a period of two years from its date of issue, except for nonpayment of stipulated payments to the insurer; and at the option of the insurer, such contract may also except any provisions relative to benefits in the event of total and permanent disability and any provisions which grant insurance specifically against death by accident. [1947 c 79 § .23.16; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.23.16.]

**48.23.170 Entire contract—Annuities, pure endowments.** In such contracts there shall be a provision that the contract shall constitute the entire contract between the parties, or, if a copy of the application is endorsed upon or attached to the contract when issued, a provision that the contract and the application therefor shall constitute the entire contract between the parties. [1947 c 79 § .23.17; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.23.17.]

**48.23.180 Misstatement of age or sex—Annuities, pure endowments.** In such contracts there shall be a provision that if the age or sex of the person or persons upon whose life or lives the contract is made, or if any of them has been misstated, the amount payable or benefit accruing under the contract shall be such as the stipulated payment or payments to the insurer would have purchased according to the correct age or sex; and that if the insurer shall make or has made any underpayment or underpayments or any overpayment or overpayments on account of any such misstatement, the amount thereof, with interest at the rate to be specified in the contract but not exceeding six percent per annum, shall, in the case of underpayment, be paid the insured or, in the case of overpayment, may be charged against the current or next succeeding payment or payments to be made by the insurer under the contract. [1982 c 181 § 12; 1947 c 79 § .23.18; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.23.18.]

**Severability—1982 c 181:** See note following RCW 48.03.010.

**48.23.190 Dividends—Annuities, pure endowments.** If such contract is participating, there shall be a provision that the insurer shall annually ascertain and apportion any divisible surplus accruing on the contract. [1947 c 79 § .23.19; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.23.19.]

**48.23.200 Nonforfeiture benefits—Annuities, pure endowments.** Such contracts issued after the operative date of RCW 48.23.360 and individual deferred annuities issued before the operative date of RCW 48.23.420 through 48.23.520 shall contain:

(1) A provision that in the event of default in any stipulated payment, the insurer will grant a paid-up nonforfeiture benefit on a plan stipulated in the contract, effective as of such date, of such value as is hereinafter specified.

(2) A statement of the mortality table and interest rate used in calculating the paid-up nonforfeiture benefit available under the contract.

(3) An explanation of the manner in which the paid-up nonforfeiture benefits are altered by the existence of any paid-up additions credited to the contract or any indebtedness to the insurer on the contract. [1982 1st ex.s. c 9 § 34; 1979 c 157 § 3; 1947 c 79 § .23.20; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.23.20.]

**48.23.210 Reinstatement—Annuities, pure endowments.** In such contracts there shall be a provision that the contract may be reinstated at any time within one year from the date of default in making stipulated payments to the insurer, unless the cash surrender value has been paid, but all overdue stipulated payments and any indebtedness to the insurer on the contract shall be paid or reinstated, with interest thereon at a rate to be specified in the contract but not exceeding six percent per annum payable annually, and in cases where applicable, the insurer may also include a requirement of evidence of insurability satisfactory to the insurer. [1947 c 79 § .23.21; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.23.21.]

**48.23.220 Standard provisions—Reversionary annuities.** No contract for a reversionary annuity shall be delivered or issued for delivery in this state unless it contains in substance each of the provisions specified in RCW 48.23.230 and 48.23.240. Any of such provisions not applicable to single premium annuities shall not, to that extent, be incorporated therein.

This section shall not apply to group annuities or to annuities included in life insurance policies. [1947 c 79 § .23.22; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.23.22.]

**48.23.230 Sections applicable.** Any such reversionary annuity contract shall contain the provisions specified in RCW 48.23.150 to 48.23.190, inclusive, except that under RCW 48.23.150 the insurer may at its option provide for an equitable reduction of the amount of the annuity payments in settlement of an overdue or deferred payment in lieu of providing for a deduction of such payments from an amount payable upon a settlement under the contract. [1947 c 79 § .23.23; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.23.23.]

**48.23.240 Reinstatement—Reversionary annuities.** In such reversionary annuity contracts there shall be a provision that the contract may be reinstated at any time within three years from the date of default in making stipulated payments to the insurer, upon production of evidence of insurability satisfactory to the insurer, and upon condition that all overdue payments and any indebtedness to the insurer on account of the contract be paid, or, within the

limits permitted by the then cash values of the contract, reinstated, with interest as to both payments and indebtedness at a rate to be specified in the contract but not exceeding six percent per annum compounded annually. [1947 c 79 § .23.24; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.23.24.]

**48.23.250 Supplemental benefits.** The commissioner may make reasonable rules and regulations concerning the conditions in provisions granting additional benefits in event of the insured's accidental death, or in event the insured becomes totally and permanently disabled, which are a part of or supplemental to life insurance contracts. [1947 c 79 § .23.25; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.23.25.]

**48.23.260 Limitation of liability.** (1) The insurer may in any life insurance policy or annuity or pure endowment contract limit its liability to a determinable amount not less than the full reserve of the policy and of dividend additions thereto in event only of death occurring:

(a) As a result of war, or any act of war, declared or undeclared, or of service in the military, naval or air forces or in civilian forces auxiliary thereto, or from any cause while a member of any such military, naval or air forces of any country at war, declared or undeclared.

(b) As a result of suicide of the insured, whether sane or insane, within two years from date of issue of the policy.

(c) As a result of aviation under conditions specified in the policy.

(2) An insurer may specify conditions pertaining to the items of subsection (1) of this section which in the commissioner's opinion are more favorable to the policyholder. [1947 c 79 § .23.26; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.23.26.]

**48.23.270 Incontestability after reinstatement.** The reinstatement of any policy of life insurance or contract of annuity hereafter delivered or issued for delivery in this state may be contestable on account of fraud or misrepresentation of facts material to the reinstatement only for the same period following reinstatement as the policy provides with respect to contestability after original issuance. [1947 c 79 § .23.27; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.23.27.]

**48.23.290 Premium deposits.** (1) A life insurer may, under such policy provisions or agreements as have been approved by the commissioner consistent with this section, contract for and accept premium deposits in addition to the regular premiums specified in the policy, for the purpose of paying future premiums, or to facilitate conversion of the policy, or to increase the benefits thereof.

(2) The unused accumulation from such deposits shall be held and accounted for as a premium deposit fund, and the policy or agreement shall provide for the manner of application of the premium deposit fund to the payment of premiums otherwise in default and for the disposition of the fund if it is not sufficient to pay the next premium.

(3) Such fund shall:

(a) Be available upon surrender of the policy, in addition to the cash surrender value; and

(b) be payable upon the insured's death or upon maturity of the policy; and

(c) be paid to the insured whenever the cash surrender value together with the premium deposit fund equals or exceeds the amount of insurance provided by the policy, unless the amount of the deposit does not exceed that which may be required to facilitate conversion of the policy to another plan in accordance with its terms.

(4) No part of the premium deposit fund shall be paid to the insured during the continuance of the policy except at such times and in such amounts as is specified in the policy or in the deposit agreement. [1947 c 79 § .23.29; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.23.29.]

**48.23.300 Policy settlements—Interest.** Any life insurer shall have the power to hold under agreement the proceeds of any policy issued by it, upon such terms and restrictions as to revocation by the policyholder and control by beneficiaries, and with such exemptions from the claims of creditors of beneficiaries other than the policyholder as set forth in the policy or as agreed to in writing by the insurer and the policyholder. Upon maturity of a policy in the event the policyholder has made no such agreement, the insurer shall have the power to hold the proceeds of the policy under an agreement with the beneficiaries. The insurer shall not be required to segregate funds so held but may hold them as part of its general assets.

An insurer shall pay interest on death benefits payable under the terms of a life insurance policy insuring the life of any person who was a resident of this state at the time of death. Such interest shall accrue commencing on the date of death at the rate then paid by the insurer on other withdrawable policy proceeds left with the company, but not less than eight percent. Benefits payable that have not been tendered to the beneficiary within ninety days of the receipt of proof of death shall accrue interest, commencing on the ninety-first day, at the aforementioned rate plus three percent. This section applies to death of insureds that occur on or after September 1, 1985. [1985 c 264 § 23; 1983 1st ex.s. c 32 § 21; 1947 c 79 § .23.30; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.23.30.]

**48.23.310 Deduction of indebtedness.** In determining the amount due under any life insurance policy heretofore or hereafter issued, deduction may be made of

(1) any unpaid premiums or installments thereof for the current policy year due under the terms of the policy, and of

(2) the amount of principal and accrued interest of any policy loan or other indebtedness against the policy then remaining unpaid, such principal increased by unpaid interest and compounded as provided in this chapter. [1947 c 79 § .23.31; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.23.31.]

**48.23.320 Miscellaneous proceeds.** Upon the death of the insured and except as is otherwise expressly provided by the policy or premium deposit agreement, a life insurer may pay to the surviving spouse, children, beneficiary, or other person other than the insured's estate, appearing to the insurer to be equitably entitled thereto, sums held by it and comprising:

(1) Premiums paid in advance, and which premiums did not fall due prior to such death, or funds held on deposit for the payment of future premiums.

(2) Dividends theretofore declared on the policy and held by the insurer under the insured's option.

(3) Dividends becoming payable on or after the death of the insured. [1947 c 79 § .23.32; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.23.32.]

**48.23.330 Trafficking in dividend rights.** No life insurer nor any of its representatives, agents, or affiliates, shall buy, take by assignment other than in connection with policy loans, or otherwise deal or traffic in any rights to dividends existing under participating life insurance policies issued by the insurer. [1947 c 79 § .23.33; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.23.33.]

**48.23.340 Prohibited policy plans.** No life insurer shall hereafter issue for delivery or deliver in this state any life insurance policy:

(1) Issued under any plan for the segregation of policyholders into mathematical groups and providing benefits for a surviving policyholder of a group arising out of the death of another policyholder of such group, or under any other similar plan.

(2) Providing benefits or values for surviving or continuing policyholders contingent upon the lapse or termination of the policies of other policyholders, whether by death or otherwise. [1947 c 79 § .23.34; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.23.34.]

**48.23.360 Calculation of nonforfeiture benefits under annuities.** (1) Nonforfeiture benefits: Any paid-up nonforfeiture benefit available under any annuity or pure endowment contract pursuant to RCW 48.23.200, in the event of default in a consideration due on any contract anniversary shall be such that its present value as of such anniversary shall be not less than the excess, if any, of the present value, on such anniversary, of the future guaranteed benefits (excluding any total disability benefits attached to such contracts) which would have been provided for by the contract including any existing paid-up additions, if there had been no default, over the sum of (a) the then present value of the net consideration defined in subsection (2) of this section corresponding to considerations which would have fallen due on and after such anniversary, and (b) the amount of any indebtedness to the company on the contract, including interest due or accrued. In determining the benefits referred to in this section and in calculating the net consideration referred to in such subsection (2), in the case of annuity contracts under which an election may be made to have annuity payments commence at optional dates, the annuity payments shall be deemed to commence at the latest date permitted by the contract for the commencement of such payments and the considerations shall be deemed to be payable until such date, which, however, shall not be later than the contract anniversary nearest the annuitant's seventieth birthday.

(2) Net considerations: The net considerations for any annuity or pure endowment contract referred to in subsection (1) of this section shall be calculated on an annual basis, shall be such that the present value thereof at date of issue of the annuity shall equal the then present value of the future benefits thereunder (excluding any total disability benefits at-

tached to such contracts) and shall be not less than the following percentages of the respective considerations specified in the contracts for the respective contract years:

First year . . . . . fifty percent  
Second and subsequent years . . . . . ninety percent

PROVIDED, That in the case of participating annuity contracts the percentages hereinbefore specified may be decreased by five.

(3) Basis of calculation: All net considerations and present values for such contracts referred to in this section shall be calculated on the basis of the 1937 Standard Annuity Mortality Table or, at the option of the insurer, the Annuity Mortality Table for 1949, Ultimate, or any modification of either of these tables approved by the commissioner, and the rate of interest, not exceeding three and one-half percent per annum, specified in the contract for calculating cash surrender values, if any, and paid-up nonforfeiture benefits; except that with respect to annuity and pure endowment contracts issued on or after the operative date of \*RCW 48.12.150(3)(b)(ii) for such contracts, such rate of interest may be as high as four percent per annum: PROVIDED, That if such rate of interest exceeds three and one-half percent per annum, all net considerations and present values for such contracts referred to in this section shall be calculated on the 1971 Individual Annuity Mortality Table, or any modification of this table approved by the commissioner.

(4) Calculations on default: Any cash surrender value and any paid-up nonforfeiture benefit, available under any such contract in the event of default in the payment of any consideration due at any time other than on the contract anniversary, shall be calculated with allowance for the lapse of time and the payment of fractional considerations beyond the last preceding contract anniversary. All values herein referred to may be calculated upon the assumption that any death benefit is payable at the end of the contract year of death.

(5) Deferment of payment: If an insurer provides for the payment of a cash surrender value, it shall reserve the right to defer the payment of such value for a period of six months after demand therefor with surrender of the contract.

(6) Lump sum in lieu: Notwithstanding the requirements of this section, any deferred annuity contract may provide that if the annuity allowed under any paid-up nonforfeiture benefit would be less than one hundred twenty dollars annually, the insurer may at its option grant a cash surrender value in lieu of such paid-up nonforfeiture benefit of such amount as may be required by subsection (3) of this section.

(7) Operative date: If no election is made by an insurer for an operative date prior to July 1, 1948, such date shall be the operative date for this section. [1973 1st ex.s. c 162 § 6; 1951 c 190 § 1; 1947 c 79 § .23.36; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.23.36.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 48.12.150 was repealed by 1982 1st ex.s. c 9 § 36(1); later enactment, see chapter 48.74 RCW.

**48.23.370 Duties of insurer issuing both participating and nonparticipating policies—Rules.** (1) A life insurer issuing both participating and nonparticipating policies shall maintain records which segregate the partici-



pating from the nonparticipating business and clearly show the profits and losses upon each such category of business.

(2) For the purposes of such accounting the insurer shall make a reasonable allocation as between the respective such categories of the expenses of such general operations or functions as are jointly shared. Any allocation of expense as between the respective categories shall be made upon a reasonable basis, to the end that each category shall bear a just portion of joint expense involved in the administration of the business of such category.

(3) No policy hereafter delivered or issued for delivery in this state shall provide for, and no life insurer or representative shall hereafter knowingly offer or promise payment, credit or distribution of participating "dividends," "earnings," "profits," or "savings," by whatever name called, to participating policies out of such profits, earnings or savings on nonparticipating policies.

(4) The commissioner may promulgate rules for the purpose of assuring the equitable treatment of all policyholders so that one group of policyholders shall not support or be supported by another group of policyholders. [1982 c 181 § 13; 1965 ex.s. c 70 § 22.]

**Severability—1982 c 181:** See note following RCW 48.03.010.

**48.23.380 Return of policy and refund of premium—Grace period—Notice—Effect.** Every individual life insurance policy issued after September 1, 1977, shall have printed on its face or attached thereto a notice stating in substance that the policy owner shall be permitted to return the policy within ten days after it is received by the policy owner and to have the premium paid refunded if, after examination of the policy, the policy owner is not satisfied with it for any reason. An additional ten percent penalty shall be added to any premium refund due which is not paid within thirty days of return of the policy to the insurer or agent. If a policy owner pursuant to such notice, returns the policy to the insurer at its home or branch office or to the agent through whom it was purchased, it shall be void from the beginning and the parties shall be in the same position as if no policy had been issued.

This section shall not apply to individual life insurance policies issued in connection with a credit transaction or issued under a contractual policy change or conversion privilege provision contained in a policy. [1983 1st ex.s. c 32 § 10; 1977 c 60 § 1.]

**48.23.410 Short title.** RCW 48.23.420 through 48.23.520 shall be known as the standard nonforfeiture law for individual deferred annuities. [1982 1st ex.s. c 9 § 21.]

**48.23.420 Inapplicability of enumerated sections to certain policies.** RCW 48.23.420 through 48.23.520 do not apply to any reinsurance; group annuity purchased under a retirement plan or plan of deferred compensation established or maintained by an employer (including a partnership or sole proprietorship) or by an employee organization, or by both, other than a plan providing individual retirement accounts or individual retirement annuities under Section 408 of the Internal Revenue Code, as now or hereafter amended; premium deposit fund; variable annuity; investment annuity; immediate annuity; any deferred annuity contract after

annuity payments have commenced; or reversionary annuity; nor to any contract which is delivered outside this state through an agent or other representative of the company issuing the contract. [1982 1st ex.s. c 9 § 22.]

**48.23.430 Paid-up annuity and cash surrender provisions required.** In the case of contracts issued on or after the operative date of this section as defined in RCW 48.23.520, no contract of annuity, except as stated in RCW 48.23.420, may be delivered or issued for delivery in this state unless it contains in substance the following provisions, or corresponding provisions which in the opinion of the commissioner are at least as favorable to the contract holder, upon cessation of payment of considerations under the contract:

(1) That upon cessation of payment of considerations under a contract, the company will grant a paid-up annuity benefit on a plan stipulated in the contract of such value as is specified in RCW 48.23.450, 48.23.460, 48.23.470, 48.23.480, and 48.23.500;

(2) If a contract provides for a lump sum settlement at maturity, or at any other time, that upon surrender of the contract at or before the commencement of any annuity payments, the company will pay in lieu of any paid-up annuity benefit a cash surrender benefit of such amount as is specified in RCW 48.23.450, 48.23.460, 48.23.480, and 48.23.500. The company shall reserve the right to defer the payment of such cash surrender benefit for a period of six months after demand therefor with surrender of the contract;

(3) A statement of the mortality table, if any, and interest rates used in calculating any minimum paid-up annuity, cash surrender, or death benefits that are guaranteed under the contract, together with sufficient information to determine the amounts of such benefits; and

(4) A statement that any paid-up annuity, cash surrender, or death benefits that may be available under the contract are not less than the minimum benefits required by any statute of the state in which the contract is delivered and an explanation of the manner in which such benefits are altered by the existence of any additional amounts credited by the company to the contract, any indebtedness to the company on the contract, or any prior withdrawals from or partial surrenders of the contract.

Notwithstanding the requirements of this section, any deferred annuity contract may provide that if no considerations have been received under a contract for a period of two full years and the portion of the paid-up annuity benefit at maturity on the plan stipulated in the contract arising from considerations paid before such period would be less than twenty dollars monthly, the company may at its option terminate the contract by payment in cash of the then present value of the portion of the paid-up annuity benefit, calculated on the basis of the mortality table, if any, and interest rate specified in the contract for determining the paid-up annuity benefit, and by such payment is relieved of any further obligation under such contract. [1982 1st ex.s. c 9 § 23.]

**48.23.440 Minimum nonforfeiture amounts.** The minimum values as specified in RCW 48.23.450, 48.23.460, 48.23.470, 48.23.480, and 48.23.500 of any paid-up annuity, cash surrender, or death benefits available under an annuity

contract shall be based upon minimum nonforfeiture amounts as defined in this section.

(1) With respect to contracts providing for flexible considerations, the minimum nonforfeiture amount at any time at or prior to the commencement of any annuity payments is equal to an accumulation up to such time at a rate of interest of three percent per annum of percentages of the net considerations, as defined in this subsection, paid prior to such time, decreased by the sum of:

(a) Any prior withdrawals from or partial surrenders of the contract accumulated at a rate of interest of three percent per annum; and

(b) The amount of any indebtedness to the company on the contract, including interest due and accrued, and increased by any existing additional amounts credited by the company to the contract.

The net considerations for a given contract year used to define the minimum nonforfeiture amount shall be an amount not less than zero and shall be equal to the corresponding gross considerations credited to the contract during that contract year less an annual contract charge of thirty dollars and less a collection charge of one dollar and twenty-five cents per consideration credited to the contract during that contract year. The percentages of net considerations shall be sixty-five percent of the net consideration for the first contract year and eighty-seven and one-half percent of the net considerations for the second and later contract years. Notwithstanding the provisions of the preceding sentence, the percentage shall be sixty-five percent of the portion of the total net consideration for any renewal contract year which exceeds by not more than two times the sum of those portions of the net considerations in all prior contract years for which the percentage was sixty-five percent.

(2) With respect to contracts providing for fixed scheduled considerations, minimum nonforfeiture amounts shall be calculated on the assumption that considerations are paid annually in advance and shall be defined as for contracts with flexible considerations which are paid annually with two exceptions:

(a) The portion of the net consideration for the first contract year to be accumulated shall be the sum of sixty-five percent of the net consideration for the first contract year plus twenty-two and one-half percent of the excess of the net consideration for the first contract year over the lesser of the net considerations for the second and third contract years; and

(b) The annual contract charge shall be the lesser of (i) thirty dollars or (ii) ten percent of the gross annual consideration.

(3) With respect to contracts providing for a single consideration, minimum nonforfeiture amounts shall be defined as for contracts with flexible considerations except that the percentage of net consideration used to determine the minimum nonforfeiture amount shall be equal to ninety percent and the net consideration shall be the gross consideration less a contract charge of seventy-five dollars. [1982 1st ex.s. c 9 § 24.]

**48.23.450 Minimum present value of paid-up annuity benefit.** Any paid-up annuity benefit available under a contract shall be such that its present value on the

date annuity payments are to commence is at least equal to the minimum nonforfeiture amount on that date. Such present value shall be computed using the mortality table, if any, and the interest rate specified in the contract for determining the minimum paid-up annuity benefits guaranteed in the contract. [1982 1st ex.s. c 9 § 25.]

**48.23.460 Minimum cash surrender benefits—Death benefit.** For contracts which provide cash surrender benefits, such cash surrender benefits available before maturity shall not be less than the present value as of the date of surrender of that portion of the maturity value of the paid-up annuity benefit which would be provided under the contract at maturity arising from considerations paid prior to the time of cash surrender reduced by the amount appropriate to reflect any prior withdrawals from or partial surrenders of the contract, such present value being calculated on the basis of an interest rate not more than one percent higher than the interest rate specified in the contract for accumulating the net considerations to determine such maturity value, decreased by the amount of any indebtedness to the company on the contract, including interest due and accrued, and increased by any existing additional amounts credited by the company to the contract. In no event may any cash surrender benefit be less than the minimum nonforfeiture amount at that time. The death benefit under such contracts shall be at least equal to the cash surrender benefit. [1982 1st ex.s. c 9 § 26.]

**48.23.470 Contracts without cash surrender, death benefits—Minimum present value of paid-up annuity benefits.** For contracts which do not provide cash surrender benefits, the present value of any paid-up annuity benefit available as a nonforfeiture option at any time prior to maturity shall not be less than the present value of that portion of the maturity value of the paid-up annuity benefit provided under the contract arising from considerations paid before the time the contract is surrendered in exchange for, or changed to, a deferred paid-up annuity, such present value being calculated for the period prior to the maturity date on the basis of the interest rate specified in the contract for accumulating the net considerations to determine such maturity value, and increased by any existing additional amounts credited by the company to the contract. For contracts which do not provide any death benefits prior to the commencement of any annuity payments, such present values shall be calculated on the basis of such interest rate and the mortality table specified in the contract for determining the maturity value of the paid-up annuity benefit. However, in no event may the present value of a paid-up annuity benefit be less than the minimum nonforfeiture amount at that time. [1982 1st ex.s. c 9 § 27.]

**48.23.480 Optional maturity dates.** For the purpose of determining the benefits calculated under RCW 48.23.460 and 48.23.470, in the case of annuity contracts under which an election may be made to have annuity payments commence at optional maturity dates, the maturity date shall be deemed to be the latest date for which election is permitted by the contract, but shall not be deemed to be later than the anniversary of the contract next following the annuitant's

seventieth birthday or the tenth anniversary of the contract, whichever is later. [1982 1st ex.s. c 9 § 28.]

**48.23.490 Statement required in contract without cash surrender or death benefits.** Any contract which does not provide cash surrender benefits or does not provide death benefits at least equal to the minimum nonforfeiture amount prior to the commencement of any annuity payments shall include a statement in a prominent place in the contract that such benefits are not provided. [1982 1st ex.s. c 9 § 29.]

**48.23.500 Calculation of benefits available other than on contract anniversary.** Any paid-up annuity, cash surrender, or death benefits available at any time, other than on the contract anniversary under any contract with fixed scheduled considerations, shall be calculated with allowance for the lapse of time and the payment of any scheduled considerations beyond the beginning of the contract year in which cessation of payment of considerations under the contract occurs. [1982 1st ex.s. c 9 § 30.]

**48.23.510 Additional benefits.** For any contract which provides, within the same contract by rider or supplemental contract provision, both annuity benefits and life insurance benefits that are in excess of the greater of cash surrender benefits or a return of the gross considerations with interest, the minimum nonforfeiture benefits shall be equal to the sum of the minimum nonforfeiture benefits for the annuity portion and the minimum nonforfeiture benefits, if any, for the life insurance portion computed as if each portion were a separate contract. Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 48.23.450, 48.23.460, 48.23.470, 48.23.480, and 48.23.500, additional benefits payable (1) in the event of total and permanent disability, (2) as reversionary annuity or deferred reversionary annuity benefits, or (3) as other policy benefits additional to life insurance, endowment, and annuity benefits, and considerations for all such additional benefits, shall be disregarded in ascertaining the minimum nonforfeiture amounts, paid-up annuity, or cash surrender and death benefits that may be required by RCW 48.23.410 through 48.23.520. The inclusion of such additional benefits shall not be required in any paid-up benefits, unless such additional benefits separately would require minimum nonforfeiture amounts, paid-up annuity, or cash surrender and death benefits. [1982 1st ex.s. c 9 § 31.]

**48.23.520 Operative date of RCW 48.23.410 through 48.23.520.** After July 10, 1982, any company may file with the commissioner a written notice of its election to comply with the provisions of RCW 48.23.410 through 48.23.520 after a specified date before the second anniversary of July 10, 1982. After the filing of such notice, then upon such specified date, which shall be the operative date of RCW 48.23.410 through 48.23.520 for such company, RCW 48.23.410 through 48.23.520 shall become operative with respect to annuity contracts thereafter issued by such company. If a company makes no such election, the operative date of RCW 48.23.410 through 48.23.520 for such company shall be the second anniversary of July 10, 1982. [1982 1st ex.s. c 9 § 32.]

## Chapter 48.24

### GROUP LIFE AND ANNUITIES

#### Sections

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*Policy forms, execution, filing, etc.: Chapter 48.18 RCW.*

**48.24.010 Group requirements.** (1) No contract of life insurance shall hereafter be delivered or issued for delivery in this state insuring the lives of more than one individual unless to one of the groups as provided for in this chapter, and unless in compliance with the other provisions of this chapter.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section shall not apply to contracts of life insurance

(a) insuring only individuals related by marriage, by blood, or by legal adoption; or

(b) insuring only individuals having a common interest through ownership of a business enterprise, or of a substantial legal interest or equity therein, and who are actively engaged in the management thereof; or

(c) insuring the lives of employees and retirees under contracts executed with the state health care authority under the provisions of chapter 41.05 RCW. [1988 c 107 § 22; 1973 1st ex.s. c 147 § 11; 1947 c 79 § .24.01; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.24.01.]

**Implementation—Effective dates—1988 c 107:** See RCW 41.05.901.

**Effective date—Effect of veto—Savings—Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 147:** See notes following RCW 41.05.050.

**48.24.020 Employee groups.** The lives of a group of individuals may be insured under a policy issued to an employer, or to the trustees of a fund established by an employer, which employer or trustee is deemed the policyholder, insuring employees of the employer for the benefit of persons other than the employer, subject to the following requirements:

(1) The employees eligible for insurance under the policy shall be all of the employees of the employer, or all of any class or classes thereof determined by conditions pertaining to their employment. The policy may provide that the term "employees" shall include the employees of one or more subsidiary corporations, and the employees, individual proprietors, and partners of one or more affiliated corporations, proprietors or partnerships if the business of the employer and of such affiliated corporations, proprietors or partnerships is under common control through stock ownership, contract or otherwise. The policy may provide that the term "employees" shall include the individual proprietor or partners if the employer is an individual proprietor or a partnership. The policy may provide that the term "employees" shall include retired employees.

(2) The premium for the policy shall be paid by the policyholder, either wholly from the employer's funds or funds contributed by him, or partly from such funds and partly from funds contributed by the insured employees. No policy may be issued on which the entire premium is to be derived from funds contributed by the insured employees. A policy on which part of the premium is to be derived from funds contributed by the insured employees may be placed in force only if at least seventy-five percent of the then eligible employees, excluding any as to whom evidence of individual insurability is not satisfactory to the insurer, elect to make the required contributions. A policy on which no part of the premium is to be derived from funds contributed by the insured employees must insure all eligible employees, or all except any as to whom evidence of individual insurability is not satisfactory to the insurer.

(3) The policy must cover at least ten employees at date of issue.

(4) The amounts of insurance under the policy must be based upon some plan precluding individual selection either by the employees or by the employer or trustees. [1955 c 303 § 29; 1947 c 79 § .24.02; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.24.02.]

**48.24.025 Payment of premium by employee when compensation suspended due to labor dispute.** Any employee whose compensation includes group life insurance, the premiums for which are paid in full or in part by an employer including the state of Washington, its political subdivisions, or municipal corporations, or paid by payroll deduction, may pay the premiums as they become due directly to the policyholder whenever the employee's compensation is suspended or terminated directly or indirectly as the result of a strike, lockout, or other labor dispute, for a period not exceeding six months and at the rate and coverages as the policy provides. During that period of time the policy may not be altered or changed. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to impair the right

of the insurer to make normal decreases or increases of the premium rate upon expiration and renewal of the policy, in accordance with the provisions of the policy. Thereafter, if such insurance coverage is no longer available, then the employee shall be given the opportunity to purchase an individual policy at a rate consistent with rates filed by the insurer with the commissioner. When the employee's compensation is so suspended or terminated, the employee shall be notified immediately by the policyholder in writing, by mail addressed to the address last on record with the policyholder, that the employee may pay the premiums to the policyholder as they become due as provided in this section.

Payment of the premiums must be made when due or the insurance coverage may be terminated by the insurer.

The provisions of any insurance policy contrary to provisions of this section are void and unenforceable after May 29, 1975. [1975 1st ex.s. c 117 § 2.]

**Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 117:** See note following RCW 48.21.075.

**48.24.030 Dependents of employees or members of certain groups.** (1) Insurance under any group life insurance policy issued pursuant to RCW 48.24.020, or 48.24.050, or 48.24.060, or 48.24.070 or 48.24.090 may, if seventy-five percent of the then insured employees or labor union members or public employee association members or members of the Washington state patrol elect, be extended to insure the spouse and dependent children, or any class or classes thereof, of each such insured employee or member who so elects, in amounts in accordance with a plan which precludes individual selection by the employees or members or by the employer or labor union or trustee, and which insurance on the life of any one family member including a spouse shall not be in excess of fifty percent of the insurance on the life of the insured employee or member.

Premiums for the insurance on such family members shall be paid by the policyholder, either from the employer's funds or funds contributed by him, trustee's funds, or labor union funds, and/or from funds contributed by the insured employees or members, or from both.

(2) Such a spouse insured pursuant to this section shall have the same conversion right as to the insurance on his or her life as is vested in the employee or member under this chapter. [1993 c 132 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 266 § 11; 1965 ex.s. c 70 § 23; 1963 c 192 § 1; 1953 c 197 § 10; 1947 c 79 § .24.03; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.24.03.]

**Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 266:** See note following RCW 48.01.010.

**48.24.035 Credit union groups.** The lives of a group of individuals may be insured under a policy issued to a credit union, which shall be deemed the policyholder, to insure eligible members of such credit union for the benefit of persons other than the credit union or its officials, subject to the following requirements:

(1) The members eligible for insurance under the policy shall be all of the members of a credit union, or all except any as to whom evidence of individual insurability is not satisfactory to the insurer, or all of any class or classes thereof determined by conditions pertaining to their age or membership in the credit union or both.

(2) The premium for the policy shall be paid by the policyholder, either wholly from the credit union's funds, or partly from such funds and partly from funds contributed by the insured members specifically for their insurance. No policy may be issued for which the entire premium is to be derived from funds contributed by the insured members specifically for their insurance.

(3) The policy must cover at least twenty-five members at the date of issue.

(4) The amount of insurance under the policy shall not exceed the amount of the total shares and deposits of the member.

(5) As used herein, "credit union" means a credit union organized and operating under the federal credit union act of 1934 or chapter 31.12 RCW. [1982 c 181 § 14; 1961 c 194 § 8.]

**Severability—1982 c 181:** See note following RCW 48.03.010.

**48.24.040 Debtor groups.** The lives of a group of individuals may be insured under a policy issued to a creditor, who shall be deemed the policyholder, to insure debtors of the creditors, subject to the provisions of the insurance code relating to credit life insurance and credit accident and health insurance and to the following requirements:

(1) The debtors eligible for insurance under the policy shall be all of the debtors of the creditor whose indebtedness is repayable in installments, or all of any class or classes thereof determined by conditions pertaining to the indebtedness or to the purchase giving rise to the indebtedness, except that nothing in this section shall preclude an insurer from excluding from the classes eligible for insurance classes of debtors determined by age. The policy may provide that the term "debtors" shall include the debtors of one or more subsidiary corporations, and the debtors of one or more affiliated corporations, proprietors or partnerships if the business of the policyholder and of such affiliated corporations, proprietors or partnerships is under common control through stock ownership, contract, or otherwise.

(2) The premium for the policy shall be paid by the policyholder, either from the creditor's funds, or from charges collected from the insured debtors, or from both. A policy on which part or all of the premium is to be derived from the collection from the insured debtors of identifiable charges not required of uninsured debtors shall not include, in the class or classes of debtors eligible for insurance, debtors under obligations outstanding at its date of issue without evidence of individual insurability unless at least seventy-five percent of the then eligible debtors elect to pay the required charges. A policy on which no part of the premium is to be derived from the collection of such identifiable charges must insure all eligible debtors, or all except any as to whom evidence of individual insurability is not satisfactory to the insurer.

(3) The policy may be issued only if the group of eligible debtors is then receiving new entrants at the rate of at least one hundred persons yearly, or may reasonably be expected to receive at least one hundred new entrants during the first policy year, and only if the policy reserves to the insurer the right to require evidence of individual insurability

if less than seventy-five percent of the new entrants become insured.

(4) Payment by the debtor insured under any such group life insurance contract of the premium charged the creditor by the insurer for such insurance pertaining to the debtor, shall not be deemed to constitute a charge upon a loan in violation of any usury law. [1967 c 150 § 28; 1961 c 194 § 9; 1955 c 303 § 18; 1947 c 79 § .24.04; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.24.04.]

**48.24.045 Certain associations as groups.** The lives of a group of individuals may be insured under a policy issued to an association which has been in active existence for at least one year, which has a constitution and bylaws, and which has been organized and is maintained in good faith for purposes other than that of obtaining insurance. Under this group life insurance policy, the association shall be deemed the policyholder. The policy may insure association employees, members, or their employees. Beneficiaries under the policy shall be persons other than the association or its officers or trustees. The term "employees" as used in this section may include retired employees. [1979 ex.s. c 44 § 1.]

**48.24.050 Labor union groups.** The lives of a group of individuals may be insured under a policy issued to a labor union, which shall be deemed the policyholder, to insure members of such union for the benefit of persons other than the union or any of its officials, representatives or agents, subject to the following requirements:

(1) The members eligible for insurance under the policy shall be all of the members of the union, or all of any class or classes thereof determined by conditions pertaining to their employment, or to membership in the union, or both.

(2) The premium for the policy shall be paid by the policyholder, either wholly from the union's funds, or partly from such funds and partly from funds contributed by the insured members specifically for their insurance. No policy may be issued of which the entire premium is to be derived from funds contributed by the insured members specifically for their insurance. A policy on which the premium is to be derived in part from funds contributed by the insured members specifically for their insurance may be placed in force only if at least seventy-five percent of the then eligible members, excluding any as to whom evidence of individual insurability is not satisfactory to the insurer, elect to make the required contributions. A policy on which no part of the premium is to be derived from funds contributed by the insured members specifically for their insurance must insure all eligible members, or all except any as to whom evidence of individual insurability is not satisfactory to the insurer.

(3) The policy must cover at least twenty-five members at date of issue.

(4) The amounts of insurance under the policy must be based upon some plan precluding individual selection either by the members or by the union. [1955 c 303 § 19; 1947 c 79 § .24.05; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.24.05.]

**48.24.060 Public employee associations.** The lives of a group of public employees may be insured under a policy issued to the departmental head or to a trustee, or

issued to an association of public employees formed for purposes other than obtaining insurance and having, when the policy is placed in force, a membership in the classes eligible for insurance of not less than seventy-five percent of the number of employees eligible for membership in such classes, which department head or trustee or association shall be deemed the policyholder, to insure such employees for the benefit of persons other than the policyholder or any of its officials, subject to the following requirements:

(1) The persons eligible for insurance under the policy shall be all of the employees of the department or members of the association, or all of any class or classes thereof determined by conditions pertaining to their employment, or to membership in the association, or both.

(2) The premium for the policy shall be paid by the policyholder, in whole or in part either from salary deductions authorized by, or charges collected from, the insured employees or members specifically for the insurance, or from the association's own funds, or from both. Any such deductions from salary may be paid by the employer to the association or directly to the insurer. No policy may be placed in force unless and until at least seventy-five percent of the then eligible employees or association members, excluding any as to whom evidence of individual insurability is not satisfactory to the insurer, have elected to be covered and have authorized their employer to make any required deductions from salary.

(3) The rate of charges to the insured employees or members specifically for the insurance, and the dues of the association if they include the cost of insurance, shall be determined according to each attained age or in not less than four reasonably spaced attained age groups. In no event shall the rate of such dues or charges be level for all members regardless of attained age.

(4) The policy must cover at least twenty-five persons at date of issue.

(5) The amounts of insurance under the policy must be based upon some plan precluding individual selection either by the employees or members or by the association.

As used herein, "public employees" means employees of the United States government, or of any state, or of any political subdivision or instrumentality of any of them. [1989 c 10 § 9. Prior: 1973 1st ex.s. c 163 § 8; 1973 1st ex.s. c 152 § 5; 1963 c 195 § 21; 1955 c 303 § 20; 1953 c 197 § 11; 1947 c 79 § .24.06; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.24.06.]

**Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 152:** See note following RCW 48.05.140.

**48.24.070 Trustee groups.** The lives of a group of individuals may be insured under a policy issued to the trustees of a fund established by two or more employers or by two or more employer members of an employers' association, or by one or more labor unions, or by one or more employers and one or more labor unions, or by one or more employers and one or more labor unions whose members are in the same or related occupations or trades, which trustees shall be deemed the policyholder, to insure employees or members for the benefit of persons other than the employers or the unions, subject to the following requirements:

(1) If the policy is issued to two or more employer members of an employers' association, such policy may be

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issued only if (a) the association has been in existence for at least five years and was formed for purposes other than obtaining insurance and (b) the participating employers, meaning such employer members whose employees are to be insured, constitute at date of issue at least fifty percent of the total employers eligible to participate, unless the number of persons covered at date of issue exceeds six hundred, in which event such participating employers must constitute at least twenty-five percent of such total employers in either case omitting from consideration any employer whose employees are already covered for group life insurance.

(2) The persons eligible for insurance shall be all of the employees of the employers or all of the members of the unions, or all of any class or classes thereof determined by conditions pertaining to their employment, or to membership in the unions, or to both. The policy may provide that the term "employees" shall include the individual proprietor or partners if an employer is an individual proprietor or a partnership. The policy may provide that the term "employees" shall include the trustees or their employees, or both, if their duties are connected with such trusteeship. The policy may provide that the term "employees" shall include retired employees.

(3) The premium for the policy shall be paid by the trustees wholly from funds contributed by the employer or employers of the insured persons, or by the union or unions, or by both, or, partly from such funds and partly from funds contributed by the insured persons. A policy on which part of the premium is to be derived from funds contributed by the insured persons specifically for their insurance may be placed in force only if at least seventy-five percent of the then eligible persons, excluding any as to whom evidence of insurability is not satisfactory to the insurer, elect to make the required contributions. A policy on which no part of the premium is to be derived from funds contributed by the insured persons specifically for their insurance must insure all eligible persons, or all except any as to whom evidence of individual insurability is not satisfactory to the insurer.

(4) The policy must cover at least fifty persons at date of issue.

(5) The amounts of insurance under the policy must be based upon some plan precluding individual selection either by the insured persons or by the policyholder, employers, or unions. [1973 1st ex.s. c 163 § 9; 1963 c 86 § 1; 1959 c 225 § 9; 1955 c 303 § 21; 1953 c 197 § 12; 1947 c 79 § .24.07; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.24.07.]

**48.24.080 Agent groups.** The lives of a group of individuals may be insured under a policy issued to a principal, or if such principal is a life insurer, by or to such principal, covering when issued not less than twenty-five agents of such principal, subject to the following requirements:

(1) The agents eligible for insurance under the policy shall be those who are under contract to render personal services for such principal for a commission or other fixed or ascertainable compensation.

(2) The policy must insure either all of the agents or all of any class or classes thereof, determined by conditions pertaining to the services to be rendered by such agents, except that if a policy is intended to insure several such

classes it may be issued to insure any such class of which seventy-five percent are covered and extended to other classes as seventy-five percent thereof express the desire to be covered.

(3) The premium on the policy shall be paid by the principal or by the principal and the agents jointly. When the premium is paid by the principal and agents jointly and the benefits of the policy are offered to all eligible agents, the policy, when issued, must insure not less than seventy-five percent of such agents.

(4) The amounts of insurance shall be based upon some plan which will preclude individual selection.

(5) The insurance shall be for the benefit of persons other than the principal.

(6) Such policy shall terminate if, subsequent to issue, the number of agents insured falls below twenty-five lives or seventy-five percent of the number eligible and the contribution of the agents, if the premiums are on a renewable term insurance basis, exceed one dollar per month per one thousand dollars of insurance coverage plus any additional premium per one thousand dollars of insurance coverage charged to cover one or more hazardous occupations.

(7) For the purposes of this section "agents" shall be deemed to include agents, subagents, solicitors, and salesmen. [1949 c 190 § 33; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 45.24.08.]

**48.24.090 Washington state patrol.** The lives of a group of individuals may be insured under a policy issued to the commanding officer, which commanding officer shall be deemed the policyholder, to insure not less than twenty-five of the members of the Washington state patrol. Such policy shall be for the benefit of beneficiaries as designated by the individuals so insured, and the premium thereon may be paid by such members. Not less than seventy-five percent of all eligible members of such Washington state patrol, or of any unit thereof determined by conditions pertaining to their employment, may be so insured. [1947 c 79 § .24.09; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.24.09.]

**48.24.095 Financial institutions.** The lives of a group of individuals may be insured under a policy issued to a state or federally regulated financial institution, which financial institution shall be deemed the policyholder. The purpose of the policy shall be to insure the depositors or depositor members of the financial institution for the benefit of persons other than the financial institution or its officers. The issuance of the policy shall be subject to the following requirements:

(1) The persons eligible for insurance under the policy shall be the depositors or deposit members of such financial institution, except any as to whom evidence of individual insurability is not satisfactory to the insurer, or any class or classes thereof determined by conditions of age.

(2) The policy must cover at least one hundred persons at the date of issue.

(3) The amount of insurance under the policy shall not exceed the amount of the deposit account of the insured person or five thousand dollars whichever is less.

(4) Financial institutions referred to herein must be authorized to do business in the state of Washington and have their depositors' or members' deposit accounts insured

against loss to the amount of at least fifteen thousand dollars by a corporate agency of the federal government. [1967 ex.s. c 95 § 15.]

**48.24.100 Standard provisions.** No policy of group life insurance shall be delivered or issued for delivery in this state unless it contains in substance the standard provisions as required by RCW 48.24.110 to 48.24.200, inclusive, or provisions which in the opinion of the commissioner are more favorable to the individuals insured, or at least as favorable to such individuals and more favorable to the policyholder; except that:

(1) Provisions set forth in RCW 48.24.160 to 48.24.200, inclusive, shall not apply to policies issued to a creditor to insure its debtors.

(2) If the group life insurance policy is on a plan of insurance other than the term plan, it shall contain a nonforfeiture provision or provisions which in the opinion of the commissioner is or are equitable to the insured persons and to the policyholder, but such nonforfeiture benefits are not required to be the same as those required for individual life insurance policies. [1947 c 79 § .24.10; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.24.10.]

**48.24.110 Grace period.** There shall be a provision that the policyholder is entitled to a grace period of thirty-one days for the payment of any premium due except the first, during which grace period the death benefit coverage shall continue in force, unless the policyholder has given the insurer written notice of discontinuance in advance of the date of discontinuance and in accordance with the terms of the policy. The policy may provide that the policyholder shall be liable to the insurer for the payment of a pro rata premium for the time the policy was in force during such grace period. [1947 c 79 § .24.11; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.24.11.]

**48.24.120 Incontestability.** There shall be a provision that the validity of the policy shall not be contested, except for nonpayment of premiums, after it has been in force for two years from its date of issue; and that no statement made by an individual insured under the policy relating to his insurability shall be used in contesting the validity of the insurance with respect to which such statement was made after such insurance has been in force prior to the contest for a period of two years during such individual's lifetime nor unless it is contained in a written instrument signed by him. [1947 c 79 § 24.12; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.24.12.]

**48.24.130 The contract—Representations.** There shall be a provision that a copy of the application, if any, of the policyholder shall be attached to the policy when issued and become a part of the contract; that all statements made by the policyholder or by the persons insured shall be deemed representations and not warranties, and that no statement made by any person insured shall be used in any contest unless a copy of the instrument containing the statement is or has been furnished to such person or to his beneficiary. [1947 c 79 § .24.13; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.24.13.]

**48.24.140 Insurability.** There shall be a provision setting forth the conditions, if any, under which the insurer reserves the right to require a person eligible for insurance to furnish evidence of individual insurability satisfactory to the insurer as a condition to part or all of his coverage. [1947 c 79 § .24.14; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.24.14.]

**48.24.150 Misstatement of age or sex.** There shall be a provision specifying an equitable adjustment of premiums or of benefits or of both to be made in the event the age or sex of a person insured has been misstated, such provision to contain a clear statement of the method of adjustment to be used. [1983 1st ex.s. c 32 § 22; 1947 c 79 § .24.15; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.24.15.]

**48.24.160 Beneficiary—Funeral, last illness expenses.** There shall be a provision that any sum becoming due by reason of the death of the individual insured shall be payable to the beneficiary designated by such individual, subject to the provisions of the policy in the event there is no designated beneficiary, as to all or any part of such sum, living at the death of the individual insured and subject to any right reserved by the insurer in the policy and set forth in the certificate to pay at its option a part of such sum not exceeding ten percent of such amount or one thousand dollars, whichever is greater, to any person appearing to the insurer to be equitably entitled thereto by reason of having incurred funeral or other expenses incident to the last illness or death of the individual insured. [1981 c 333 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 199 § 9; 1955 c 303 § 23; 1947 c 79 § .24.16; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.24.16.]

**48.24.170 Certificates.** There shall be a provision that the insurer will issue to the policyholder for delivery to each individual insured a certificate setting forth a statement as to the insurance protection to which he is entitled, to whom the insurance benefits are payable, described by name, relationship, or reference to the insurance records of the policyholder or insurer, and the rights and conditions set forth in RCW 48.24.180, 48.24.190 and 48.24.200, following. [1961 c 194 § 10; 1947 c 79 § .24.17; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.24.17.]

**48.24.180 Conversion on termination of eligibility.** There shall be a provision that if the insurance, or any portion of it, on an individual covered under the policy, other than a child insured pursuant to RCW 48.24.030, ceases because of termination of employment or of membership in the class or classes eligible for coverage under the policy, such individual shall be entitled to have issued to him by the insurer, without evidence of insurability, an individual policy of life insurance without disability or other supplementary benefits, provided application for the individual policy shall be made, and the first premium paid to the insurer, within thirty-one days after such termination, and provided further that,

(1) the individual policy shall, at the option of such individual, be on any one of the forms, except term insurance, then customarily issued by the insurer at the age and for the amount applied for;

(2) the individual policy shall be in an amount not in any event in excess of the amount of life insurance which

ceases because of such termination nor less than one thousand dollars unless a smaller amount of coverage was provided for such individual under the group policy: PROVIDED, That any amount of insurance which matures on the date of such termination or has matured prior thereto under the group policy as an endowment payable to the individual insured, whether in one sum or in installments or in the form of an annuity, shall not, for the purposes of this provision, be included in the amount which is considered to cease because of such termination; and

(3) the premium on the individual policy shall be at the insurer's then customary rate applicable to the form and amount of the individual policy, to the class of risk to which such individual then belongs, and to his age attained on the effective date of the individual policy. [1955 c 303 § 24; 1947 c 79 § .24.18; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.24.18.]

**48.24.190 Conversion on termination of policy.** There shall be a provision that if the group policy terminates or is amended so as to terminate the insurance of any class of insured individuals, every individual insured thereunder at the date of such termination, other than a child insured pursuant to RCW 48.24.030, whose insurance terminates and who has been so insured for at least five years prior to such termination date shall be entitled to have issued to him by the insurer an individual policy of life insurance, subject to the same conditions and limitations as are provided by RCW 48.24.180, except that the group policy may provide that the amount of such individual policy shall not exceed the smaller of (a) the amount of the individual's life insurance protection ceasing because of the termination or amendment of the group policy, less the amount of any life insurance for which he is or becomes eligible under any group policy issued or reinstated by the same or another insurer within thirty-one days of such termination and (b) two thousand dollars. [1953 c 197 § 13; 1947 c 79 § .24.19; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.24.19.]

**48.24.200 Death pending conversion.** There shall be a provision that if a person insured under the group policy dies during the period within which he would have been entitled to have an individual policy issued to him in accordance with RCW 48.24.180 and 48.24.190, and before such an individual policy shall have become effective, the amount of life insurance which he would have been entitled to have issued to him under such individual policy shall be payable as a claim under the group policy, whether or not application for the individual policy or the payment of the first premium therefor has been made. [1947 c 79 § .24.20; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.24.20.]

**48.24.210 Limitation of liability.** (1) The insurer may in any group life insurance contract provide that it is not liable, or is liable only in a reduced amount, for losses resulting:

(a) From war or any act of war, declared or undeclared, or of service in the military, naval or air forces or in civilian forces auxiliary thereto, or from any cause while a member of any such military, naval or air forces, of any country at war, declared or undeclared.



(b) From aviation under conditions specified in the policy.

(2) The insurer may in any such contract provide that any amount of insurance in excess of one thousand dollars on an individual life may be reduced to one thousand dollars or to any greater amount upon attainment of any age not less than age sixty-five or upon the anniversary of the policy nearest attainment of such age. [1947 c 79 § .24.21; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.24.21.]

**48.24.240 Readjustment of premium.** Any group life insurance contract may provide for a readjustment of the premium rate based on experience under that contract, at the end of the first or of any subsequent year of insurance, and which readjustment may be made retroactive for such policy year only. [1947 c 79 § .24.24; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.24.24.]

**48.24.260 Application of dividends or rate reductions.** Any policy dividends hereafter declared, or reduction in rate of premiums hereafter made or continued for the first or any subsequent year of insurance, under any policy of group life insurance heretofore or hereafter issued to any policyholder may be applied to reduce the policyholder's part of the cost of such insurance, except that if the aggregate dividends or refunds or credits under such group policy and any other group policy or contract issued to the policyholder exceed the aggregate contributions of the policyholder toward the cost of the coverages, such excess shall be applied by the policyholder for the sole benefit of insured individuals. [1947 c 79 § .24.26; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.24.26.]

## Chapter 48.25

### INDUSTRIAL LIFE INSURANCE

#### Sections

48.25.010	Scope of chapter.
48.25.020	Industrial life insurance defined.
48.25.030	Compliance enjoined.
48.25.040	Standard provisions.
48.25.050	Grace period.
48.25.060	Entire contract.
48.25.070	Incontestability.
48.25.080	Misstatement of age.
48.25.090	Dividends.
48.25.100	Nonforfeiture benefits.
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48.25.140	Authority to alter policy.
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48.25.160	Facility of payment clause.
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48.25.180	Conversion—Weekly premium policies.
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48.25.200	Title on policy.
48.25.210	Application to term and specified insurance.
48.25.220	Prohibited provisions.
48.25.230	Limitation of liability.

*Exemption of proceeds, life insurance:* RCW 48.18.410.

*Insurable interest, personal insurance, nonprofit organizations:* RCW 48.18.030.

*Minor may contract for life or disability insurance:* RCW 48.18.020.

*Payment to person designated in policy or by assignment discharges insurer:* RCW 48.18.370.

*Policy forms, execution, filing, etc.:* Chapter 48.18 RCW.

**48.25.010 Scope of chapter.** The provisions of this chapter apply only to industrial life insurance contracts. [1947 c 79 § .25.01; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.25.01.]

**48.25.020 Industrial life insurance defined.** "Industrial" life insurance is any life insurance provided by an individual insurance contract issued in face amount of less than one thousand dollars, under which premiums are payable monthly or oftener, and bearing the words "industrial policy" printed upon the policy as a part of the descriptive matter. [1947 c 79 § .25.02; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.25.02.]

**48.25.030 Compliance enjoined.** No policy of industrial life insurance shall be delivered or be issued for delivery in this state after January 1, 1948, except in compliance with the provisions of this chapter and with other applicable provisions of this code. [1947 c 79 § .25.03; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.25.03.]

**48.25.040 Standard provisions.** No such policy shall be so issued or delivered unless it contains in substance the provisions as required by this chapter, or provisions which in the opinion of the commissioner are more favorable to the policyholder. [1947 c 79 § .25.04; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.25.04.]

**48.25.050 Grace period.** There shall be a provision that the insured is entitled to a grace period of four weeks within which the payment of any premium after the first may be made, except that in policies the premiums for which are payable monthly, the period of grace shall be one month but not less than thirty days; and that during the period of grace the policy shall continue in full force, but if during the grace period the policy becomes a claim, then any overdue and unpaid premiums may be deducted from any settlement under the policy. [1947 c 79 § .25.05; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.25.05.]

**48.25.060 Entire contract.** There shall be a provision that the policy shall constitute the entire contract between the parties, or, if a copy of the application is endorsed upon or attached to the policy when issued, a provision that the policy and the application therefor shall constitute the entire contract. If the application is so made a part of the contract, the policy shall also provide that all statements made by the applicant in such application shall, in the absence of fraud, be deemed to be representations and not warranties. [1947 c 79 § .25.06; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.25.06.]

**48.25.070 Incontestability.** There shall be a provision that the policy shall be incontestable after it has been in force during the lifetime of the insured for a period of two years from its date of issue except for nonpayment of premiums, and except, at the option of the insurer, as to supplemental provisions providing benefits for total and

permanent disability or specifically for accidental death. [1947 c 79 § .25.07; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.25.07.]

**48.25.080 Misstatement of age.** There shall be a provision that if it is found that the age of the individual insured, or the age of any other individual considered in determining the premium, has been misstated, any amount payable or benefit accruing under the policy shall be such as the premium would have purchased at the correct age or ages. [1947 c 79 § .25.08; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.25.08.]

**48.25.090 Dividends.** If a participating policy, there shall be a provision that the insurer shall annually ascertain and apportion any divisible surplus accruing on the policy, and that dividends arising from such apportionment shall be credited annually beginning not later than the fifth contract year. This provision shall not prohibit the payment of additional dividends on default of payment of premiums or termination of the policy. [1947 c 79 § .25.09; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.25.09.]

**48.25.100 Nonforfeiture benefits.** There shall be a provision for nonforfeiture benefits as required by chapter 48.76 RCW. [1983 c 3 § 152; 1947 c 79 § .25.10; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.25.10.]

**48.25.110 Cash surrender value.** There shall be a provision for a cash surrender value as required by chapter 48.76 RCW. [1983 c 3 § 153; 1947 c 79 § .25.11; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.25.11.]

**48.25.120 Reinstatement.** There shall be a provision that the policy may be reinstated at any time within two years from the due date of the premium in default unless the cash surrender value has been paid, or the extension period expired, upon the production of evidence of insurability satisfactory to the insurer and the payment of all overdue premiums and payment or reinstatement of any unpaid loans or advances made by the insurer against the policy with interest at a rate not exceeding six percent per annum and payable annually. [1947 c 79 § .25.12; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.25.12.]

**48.25.130 Settlement.** There shall be a provision that when the policy becomes a claim by the death of the insured, settlement shall be made upon receipt of due proof of death or after a specified period not exceeding two months after receipt of such proof. [1947 c 79 § .25.13; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.25.13.]

**48.25.140 Authority to alter policy.** There shall be a provision that no agent shall have the power or authority to waive, change or alter any of the terms or conditions of any policy; except that, at the option of the insurer, the terms or conditions may be changed by an endorsement signed by a duly authorized officer of the insurer. [1947 c 79 § .25.14; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.25.14.]

**48.25.150 Beneficiary.** (1) Each such policy shall have a space on the front or back page of the policy for the

name of the beneficiary designated with a reservation of the right to designate or change the beneficiary after the issuance of the policy.

(2) The policy may also provide that no designation or change of beneficiary shall be binding on the insurer until endorsed on the policy by the insurer, and that the insurer may refuse to endorse the name of any proposed beneficiary who does not appear to the insurer to have an insurable interest in the life of the insured. [1947 c 79 § .25.15; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.25.15.]

**48.25.160 Facility of payment clause.** Such a policy may also provide that if the beneficiary designated in the policy does not surrender the policy with due proof of death within the period stated in the policy, which shall not be less than thirty days after the death of the insured, or if the beneficiary is the estate of the insured or is a minor, or dies before the insured or is not legally competent to give a valid release, then the insurer may make payment thereunder to the executor or administrator of the insured, or to any of the insured's relatives by blood or legal adoption or connection by marriage, or to any person appearing to the insurer to be equitably entitled thereto by reason of having been named beneficiary, or by reason of having incurred expense for the maintenance, medical attention or burial of the insured. Such policy may also include a similar provision applicable to any other payment due under the policy. [1947 c 79 § .25.16; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.25.16.]

**48.25.170 Payment of premiums direct.** In the case of weekly premium policies, there may be a provision that upon proper notice to the insurer while premiums on the policy are not in default beyond the grace period, of the intention to pay future premiums directly to the insurer at its home office or any office designated by the insurer for the purpose, the insurer will, at the end of each period of a year from the due date of the first premium so paid, for which period such premiums are so paid continuously without default beyond the grace period, refund a stated percentage of the premiums in an amount which fairly represents the savings in collection expense. [1947 c 79 § .25.17; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.25.17.]

**48.25.180 Conversion—Weekly premium policies.** There shall be a provision in the case of weekly premium policies granting, upon proper written request and upon presentation of evidence of the insurability of the insured satisfactory to the insurer, the privilege of converting his weekly premium industrial insurance to any form of life insurance with less frequent premium payments regularly issued by the insurer, in accordance with terms and conditions agreed upon with the insurer. The privilege of making such conversion need be granted only if the insurer's weekly premium industrial policies on the life insured, in force as premium paying insurance and on which conversion is requested, grant benefits in event of death, exclusive of additional accidental death benefits and exclusive of any dividend additions, in an amount not less than the minimum amount of such insurance with less frequent premium payments issued by the insurer at the age of the insured on

the plan of industrial or ordinary insurance desired. [1947 c 79 § .25.18; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.25.18.]

**48.25.190 Conversion—Monthly premium policies.**

There shall be a provision, in the case of monthly premium industrial policies, granting, upon proper written request and upon presentation of evidence of the insurability of the insured satisfactory to the insurer, the privilege of converting his monthly premium industrial insurance to any form of ordinary life insurance regularly issued by the insurer, in accordance with terms and conditions agreed upon with the insurer. The privilege of making such conversions need be granted only if the insurer's monthly premium industrial policies on the life insured, in force as premium paying insurance and on which conversion is requested, grant benefits in event of death, exclusive of additional accidental death benefits and exclusive of any dividend additions, in an amount not less than the minimum amount of ordinary insurance issued by the insurer at the age of the insured on the plan of ordinary insurance desired. [1947 c 79 § .25.19; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.25.19.]

**48.25.200 Title on policy.** There shall be a title on the face of each such policy briefly describing its form. [1947 c 79 § .25.20; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.25.20.]

**48.25.210 Application to term and specified insurance.** Any of the provisions required by this chapter or any portion thereof which are not applicable to single premium or term policies or to policies issued or granted pursuant to nonforfeiture provisions, shall to that extent not be incorporated therein. [1947 c 79 § .25.21; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.25.21.]

**48.25.220 Prohibited provisions.** No such policy shall contain:

(1) A provision by which the insurer may deny liability under the policy for the reason that the insured has previously obtained other insurance from the same insurer.

(2) A provision giving the insurer the right to declare the policy void because the insured has had any disease or ailment, whether specified or not, or because the insured has received institutional, hospital, medical or surgical treatment or attention, except a provision which gives the insurer the right to declare the policy void if the insured has, within two years prior to the issuance of the policy, received institutional, hospital, medical or surgical treatment or attention and if the insured or claimant under the policy fails to show that the condition occasioning such treatment or attention was not of a serious nature or was not material to the risk.

(3) A provision giving the insurer the right to declare the policy void because the insured had been rejected for insurance, unless such right be conditioned upon a showing by the insurer, that knowledge of such rejection would have led to a refusal by the insurer to make such contract. [1947 c 79 § .25.22; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.25.22.]

**48.25.230 Limitation of liability.** The insurer may in any such policy limit its liability for the same causes and to the same extent as is provided in RCW 48.23.260 for other

life insurance contracts. [1947 c 79 § .25.23; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.25.23.]

**Chapter 48.25A**

**LIFE INSURANCE—PROFIT-SHARING, CHARTER, FOUNDERS, AND COUPON POLICIES**

Sections

48.25A.010 Definitions.

48.25A.020 Certain policies not to be issued or delivered after September 1, 1967.

48.25A.030 Coupon policies—Approval by commissioner.

48.25A.040 Coupon policies—Requirements.

48.25A.050 Revocation of certificates of authority and licenses for violation of chapter.

**48.25A.010 Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

(1) "Profit-sharing policy" means:

(a) A life insurance policy which by its terms expressly provides that the policyholder will participate in the distribution of earnings or surplus other than earnings or surplus attributable, by reasonable and nondiscriminatory standards, to the participating policies of the company and allocated to the policyholder on reasonable and nondiscriminatory standards; or

(b) A life insurance policy the provisions of which, through sales material or oral presentations, are interpreted by the company to prospective policyholders as entitling the policyholder to the benefits described in subsection (a) of this section.

(2) "Charter policy" or "founders policy" means:

(a) A life insurance policy which by its terms expressly provides that the policyholder will receive some preferential or discriminatory advantage or benefit not available to persons who purchase insurance from the company at future dates or under other circumstances; or

(b) A life insurance policy the provisions of which, through sales material or oral presentations, are interpreted by the company to prospective policyholders as entitling the policyholder to the benefits described in subsection (a) of this section.

(3) "Coupon policy" means a life insurance policy which provides a series of pure endowments maturing periodically in amounts not exceeding the gross annual policy premiums. The term "pure endowment" or "endowment" is used in its accepted actuarial sense, meaning a benefit becoming payable at a specific future date if the insured person is then living. [1967 ex.s. c 95 § 5.]

**48.25A.020 Certain policies not to be issued or delivered after September 1, 1967.** No profit-sharing, charter, or founders policy shall be issued or delivered in this state after September 1, 1967. [1967 ex.s. c 95 § 6.]

**48.25A.030 Coupon policies—Approval by commissioner.** No coupon policy shall be issued or delivered in this state until the form of the same has been filed with and approved by the commissioner. [1967 ex.s. c 95 § 7.]

**48.25A.040 Coupon policies—Requirements.**

Coupon policies issued or delivered in this state shall be subject to the following provisions:

(1) No detachable coupons or certificates or passbooks may be used. No other device may be used which tends to emphasize the periodic endowment benefits or which tends to create the impression that the endowments represent interest earnings or anything other than benefits which have been purchased by part of the policyholder's premium payments.

(2) Each endowment benefit must have a fixed maturity date and payment of the endowment benefit shall not be contingent upon the payment of any premium becoming due on or after such maturity date.

(3) The endowment benefits must be expressed in dollar amounts rather than as percentages of other quantities or in other ways, both in the policy itself and in the sale thereof.

(4) A separate premium for the periodic endowment benefits must be shown in the policy adjacent to the rest of the policy premium information and must be given the same emphasis in the policy and in the sale thereof as that given the rest of the policy premium information. This premium shall be calculated with mortality, interest and expense factors which are consistent with those for the basic policy premium. [1967 ex.s. c 95 § 8.]

**48.25A.050 Revocation of certificates of authority and licenses for violation of chapter.** The commissioner may revoke all certificates of authority and licenses granted to any insurance company, its officers or agents violating any provision of this chapter. [1967 ex.s. c 95 § 9.]

**Chapter 48.26****MARINE AND TRANSPORTATION INSURANCE  
(RESERVED)****Chapter 48.27****PROPERTY INSURANCE**

## Sections

48.27.010 Over-insurance prohibited.

48.27.020 Replacement insurance.

*Binders:* RCW 48.18.230.

*Insurable interest, property insurance, nonprofit organizations:* RCW 48.18.040.

*Policy forms, execution, filing, etc.:* Chapter 48.18 RCW.

*Rates:* Chapter 48.19 RCW.

*Standard form of fire policy:* RCW 48.18.120.

**48.27.010 Over-insurance prohibited.** (1) Over-insurance shall be deemed to exist if property or an insurable interest therein is insured by one or more insurance contracts against the same hazard in any amount in excess of the fair value of the property or of such interest, as determined as of the effective date of the insurance or of any renewal thereof, or in those instances when insured value is for improvements and land.

(2) For the purposes of this section only the term "fair value" means the cost of replacement less such depreciation as is properly applicable to the subject insured.

(3) No person shall knowingly require, request, issue, place, procure, or accept any insurance contract which would result in over-insurance of the property or interest therein proposed to be insured, except as is provided in RCW 48.27.020.

(4) No person shall compel an insured or applicant for insurance to procure property insurance in an amount in excess of the amount which could reasonably be expected to be paid under the policy (or combination of policies) in the event of a loss, whether such insurance is required in connection with a loan or otherwise.

(5) Each violation of this section shall subject the violator to the penalties provided by this code. [1984 c 6 § 1; 1947 c 79 § .27.01; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.27.01.]

**48.27.020 Replacement insurance.** By any contract of insurance of property or of any insurable interest therein, the insurer may in connection with a special provision or endorsement made a part of the policy insure the cost of repair or replacement of such property, if damaged or destroyed by a hazard insured against, and without deduction of depreciation, subject to such reasonable rules and regulations as may be made by the commissioner. [1951 c 194 § 1; 1947 c 79 § .27.02; formerly Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.27.02.]

**Chapter 48.28****SURETY INSURANCE**

## Sections

48.28.010 Requirements deemed met by surety insurer.

48.28.020 Fiduciary bonds—Premium as lawful expense.

48.28.030 Judicial bonds—Premium as part of recoverable costs.

48.28.040 Official bonds—Payment of premiums.

48.28.050 Release from liability.

*Binders:* RCW 48.18.230.

*Official bonds in general:* Chapter 42.08 RCW.

*Policy forms, execution, filing, etc.:* Chapter 48.18 RCW.

**48.28.010 Requirements deemed met by surety insurer.** Whenever by law or by rule of any court, public official, or public body, any surety bond, recognizance, obligation, stipulation or undertaking is required or is permitted to be given, any such bond, recognizance, obligation, stipulation, or undertaking which is otherwise proper and the conditions of which are guaranteed by an authorized surety insurer, or by an unauthorized surety insurer as a surplus line pursuant to chapter 48.15 RCW of this code, shall be approved and accepted and shall be deemed to fulfill all requirements as to number of sureties, residence or status of sureties, and other similar requirements, and no justification by such surety shall be necessary. [1947 c 79 § .28.01; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.28.01.]

**48.28.020 Fiduciary bonds—Premium as lawful expense.** Any fiduciary required by law to give bonds, may include as part of his lawful expense to be allowed by the court or official by whom he was appointed, the reasonable

amount paid as premium for such bonds to the authorized surety insurer or to the surplus line surety insurer which issued or guaranteed such bonds. [1955 c 30 § 1. Prior: 1947 c 79 § .28.02; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.28.02.]

**48.28.030 Judicial bonds—Premium as part of recoverable costs.** In any proceeding the party entitled to recover costs may include therein such reasonable sum as was paid to such surety insurer as premium for any bond or undertaking required therein, and as may be allowed by the court having jurisdiction of such proceeding. [1955 c 30 § 2. Prior: 1947 c 79 § .28.03; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.28.03.]

*Rules of court: Cf. RAP 14.3, 18.22.*

**48.28.040 Official bonds—Payment of premiums.** The premium for bonds given by such surety insurers for appointive or elective public officers and for such of their deputies or employees as are required to give bond shall be paid by the state, political subdivision, or public body so served. [1955 c 30 § 3. Prior: 1947 c 79 § .28.04; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.28.04.]

**48.28.050 Release from liability.** A surety insurer may be released from its liability on the same terms and conditions as are provided by law for the release of individuals as sureties. [1947 c 79 § .28.05; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.28.05.]

## Chapter 48.29 TITLE INSURERS

### Sections

48.29.010	Scope of chapter.
48.29.020	Qualifications—Guaranty fund deposit.
48.29.030	Amount of deposit.
48.29.040	May do business in two or more counties—Restrictions.
48.29.060	Impairment of deposit.
48.29.070	Levy of execution against deposit.
48.29.090	Purpose of deposit.
48.29.100	Termination of deposit.
48.29.110	Release of securities.
48.29.120	Special reserve fund.
48.29.130	Investments.
48.29.140	Premium rates.
48.29.150	Taxation of title insurers.
48.29.160	Agents—County tract indexes required.
48.29.170	Agents—Separate licenses for individuals not required.
48.29.180	Disclosure of energy conservation payment obligations— Informational note—Liability.

**48.29.010 Scope of chapter.** (1) This chapter relates only to title insurers.

(2) None of the provisions of this code shall be deemed to apply to persons engaged in the business of preparing and issuing abstracts of title to property and certifying to the correctness thereof so long as such persons do not guarantee or insure such titles. [1947 c 79 § .29.01; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.29.01.]

**48.29.020 Qualifications—Guaranty fund deposit.** A title insurer shall not be entitled to have a certificate of authority unless it otherwise qualifies therefor, nor unless:

(1) It is a stock corporation.

(2) It owns or leases and maintains a complete set of tract indexes of the county in which its principal office within this state is located.

(3) It deposits and keeps on deposit with the commissioner a guaranty fund in amount as set forth in RCW 48.29.030 and comprised of cash or public obligations as specified in RCW 48.13.040. [1990 c 76 § 1; 1955 c 86 § 12; 1947 c 79 § .29.02; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.29.02.]

**Effective date—Supervision of transfers—1955 c 86:** See notes following RCW 48.05.080.

**48.29.030 Amount of deposit.** (1) The amount of the required guaranty fund deposit shall be determined by the population, as at last official United States or official state census, of the county within which the insurer is to be authorized to transact its business, as follows:

County population		Amount of guaranty fund deposit required
More than	but not more than	
0	15,000	\$ 10,000.00
15,000	35,000	\$ 15,000.00
35,000	60,000	\$ 25,000.00
60,000	100,000	\$ 50,000.00
100,000	150,000	\$ 75,000.00
150,000	300,000	\$ 100,000.00
300,000	500,000	\$ 150,000.00
500,000		\$ 200,000.00

(2) For authority to transact business in two or more counties, the insurer must have a guaranty fund deposit in amount not less than the amount required under subsection (1) as to that one of the counties in which business is to be so transacted for which the largest amount is so required. [1957 c 193 § 16; 1947 c 79 § .29.03; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.29.03.]

**48.29.040 May do business in two or more counties—Restrictions.** (1) Subject to the deposit requirements of RCW 48.29.030, a title insurer having its principal offices in one county may be authorized to transact business in only such additional counties as to which it owns or leases and maintains, or has a duly authorized agent that owns or leases and maintains, a complete set of tract indexes.

(2) A title insurer not authorized to transact business in a certain county may purchase a title policy on property located therein from another title insurer which is so authorized in that county. The first title insurer may thereafter issue its own policy of title insurance to the owner of such property. The first title insurer may combine the insurance on the title of such property in a single policy which also insures the title of one or more other pieces of property. The first title insurer must pay the full premium based on filed rates for the policy, and must charge the precise same amount to its own customer for the insurance as to the title of such property. A title insurer using the authority granted by this subsection in a transaction must so notify its customer. [1990 c 76 § 2; 1957 c 193 § 17; 1947 c 79 § .29.04; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.29.04.]

**48.29.060 Impairment of deposit.** If an insurer's guaranty fund deposit becomes impaired for any cause, the commissioner shall forthwith give notice thereof to the insurer, requiring that the impairment be cured within thirty days after the date of the notice. If the impairment is not so cured, the commissioner shall forthwith revoke the insurer's certificate of authority. [1947 c 79 § .29.06; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.29.06.]

**48.29.070 Levy of execution against deposit.** If an insurer fails to satisfy any judgment against it arising out of its liability under any title insurance policy or certificate of title issued, insured, or assumed by it, within thirty days after the finality of the judgment became fixed, the judgment may be enforced against the insurer's guaranty fund deposit through the following procedure:

(1) The judgment creditor shall petition the court wherein the judgment is entered and as part of the same cause, truthfully setting forth the facts regarding the insurer's failure to satisfy the judgment as required by this section.

(2) Upon such petition the court shall direct issuance of a special execution directed to the sheriff of Thurston county, requiring that the sheriff sell so much of the securities on deposit as may be required to satisfy the judgment and pay the costs of the levy.

(3) The court's order for issuance of the special execution shall also direct that a copy of the judgment and of the petition be served upon the commissioner within five days after the date of the order.

(4) Upon issuance of such special execution and upon such service upon the commissioner, the commissioner shall deliver to such sheriff sufficient of such securities as may be required for sale to satisfy the judgment and to pay such costs. [1955 c 86 § 14; 1947 c 79 § .29.07; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.29.07.]

**Effective date—Supervision of transfers—1955 c 86:** See notes following RCW 48.05.080.

**48.29.090 Purpose of deposit.** (1) The securities comprising the guaranty fund deposit shall be held by the commissioner as a special guaranty fund securing the faithful performance by the insurer of all its undertakings and liabilities as to any title guaranteed or insured by it.

(2) Such deposit shall not be subject to any other liabilities of the insurer until after all its liabilities named in subsection (1) of this section have been discharged. [1955 c 86 § 16; 1947 c 79 § .29.09; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.29.09.]

**Effective date—Supervision of transfers—1955 c 86:** See notes following RCW 48.05.080.

**48.29.100 Termination of deposit.** (1) A guaranty fund deposit shall be terminated only upon the existence of any of the following conditions:

(a) Upon termination of all liabilities of the insurer, other than through reinsurance, under all guaranties or insurances of titles made, issued, or assumed by it.

(b) Upon reinsurance of all such liabilities of the insurer, with the commissioner's approval, in another insurer holding a certificate of authority as a title insurer in this state.

(2) For the purposes of this section only, all liability of the insurer with regard to a title guaranteed or insured by it shall be deemed terminated upon the expiration of twenty-one years from the date of the guaranty or insurance, unless prior thereto a claim of loss has been made with reference thereto and settlement of such loss then remains pending. [1947 c 79 § .29.10; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.29.10.]

**48.29.110 Release of securities.** (1) Upon any termination of the guaranty fund deposit, the commissioner shall release the securities comprising it to the insurer after the following conditions have been complied with:

(a) The insurer shall make written application for such release, verified by the oaths of its president and secretary.

(b) The commissioner shall in due course following upon such application make such examination of the records of the insurer, and of the insurer's officers under oath, as he deems reasonably necessary to determine that the conditions for termination of the deposit have been met.

(2) Upon release of the securities, the commissioner shall revoke the insurer's certificate of authority. [1955 c 86 § 17; 1947 c 79 § .29.11; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.29.11.]

**Effective date—Supervision of transfers—1955 c 86:** See notes following RCW 48.05.080.

**48.29.120 Special reserve fund.** (1) Each title insurer shall annually apportion to a special reserve fund an amount determined by applying the rate of twenty-five cents for each one thousand dollars of net increase of insurance it has in force as at the end of such year. Such apportionment shall be continued or resumed as needed to maintain the special reserve fund at an amount equal to not less than the guaranty fund deposit required of the insurer.

(2) The special reserve fund shall be held by the insurer as an additional guaranty fund, and shall be used only for the payment of losses after the insurer's liquid resources available for the payment of losses, other than such special reserve fund or the guaranty fund deposit, have been exhausted.

(3) For the purposes of computing the special reserve fund as provided in subsection (1) of this section, net increase of insurance in force resulting from reinsurance of the risks of another title insurer shall not be included to the extent that a like special reserve fund on such insurance is maintained by the ceding insurer. [1947 c 79 § .29.12; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.29.12.]

**48.29.130 Investments.** The funds of a domestic title insurer, other than those representing its guaranty fund deposit, shall be invested as follows:

(1) Funds in amount not less than its required special reserve shall be kept invested in investments eligible for domestic life insurers.

(2) Other funds may be invested in:

(a) The insurer's plant and equipment, up to a maximum of fifty percent of capital plus surplus.

(b) Stocks and bonds of abstract companies when approved by the commissioner.

(c) Investments eligible for the investment of funds of any domestic insurer. [1967 c 150 § 30; 1947 c 79 § .29.13; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.29.13.]

**48.29.140 Premium rates.** (1) Premium rates for the insuring or guaranteeing of titles shall not be excessive, inadequate, or unfairly discriminatory.

(2) Each title insurer shall forthwith file with the commissioner a schedule showing the premium rates to be charged by it. Every addition to or modification of such schedule or of any rate therein contained shall likewise be filed with the commissioner, and no such addition or modification shall be effective until expiration of fifteen days after date of such filing.

(3) The commissioner may order the modification of any premium rate or schedule of premium rates found by him after a hearing to be excessive, or inadequate, or unfairly discriminatory. No such order shall require retroactive modification. [1947 c 79 § .29.14; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.29.14.]

**48.29.150 Taxation of title insurers.** Title insurers and their property shall be taxed by this state in accordance with the general laws relating to taxation, and not otherwise. [1947 c 79 § .29.15; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.29.15.]

**48.29.160 Agents—County tract indexes required.** To be licensed as [an] agent of a title insurer, the applicant must own or lease and maintain a complete set of tract indexes of the county or counties in which such agent will do business. [1981 c 223 § 1.]

**48.29.170 Agents—Separate licenses for individuals not required.** Title insurance agents shall be exempt from the provisions of \*RCW 48.17.090(2) and 48.17.180(1) which otherwise require that each individual empowered to exercise the authority of a licensed firm or corporation must be separately licensed. [1981 c 223 § 2.]

*\*Reviser's note:* The reference to "RCW 48.17.090(2)" is now erroneous because 1981 c 339 § 10 deleted subsection (2) of RCW 48.17.090 and renumbered the former subsection (3) as subsection (2).

**48.29.180 Disclosure of energy conservation payment obligations—Informational note—Liability.** The existence of notices of payment obligations in RCW 80.28.065 may be disclosed as an informational note to a preliminary commitment for policy of title insurance. Neither the inclusion nor the exclusion of any such informational note shall create any liability against such title insurer under any preliminary commitment for title insurance, policy or otherwise. [1993 c 245 § 4.]

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 245:** See note following RCW 80.28.065.

## Chapter 48.30

### UNFAIR PRACTICES AND FRAUDS

#### Sections

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*Discrimination prohibited: RCW 48.18.480.*

**48.30.010 Unfair practices in general—Remedies and penalties.** (1) No person engaged in the business of insurance shall engage in unfair methods of competition or in unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of such business as such methods, acts, or practices are defined pursuant to subsection (2) of this section.

(2) In addition to such unfair methods and unfair or deceptive acts or practices as are expressly defined and prohibited by this code, the commissioner may from time to time by regulation promulgated pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW, define other methods of competition and other acts and practices in the conduct of such business reasonably found by the commissioner to be unfair or deceptive.

(3) No such regulation shall be made effective prior to the expiration of thirty days after the date of the order by which it is promulgated.

(4) If the commissioner has cause to believe that any person is violating any such regulation, the commissioner may order such person to cease and desist therefrom. The commissioner shall deliver such order to such person direct or mail it to the person by registered mail with return receipt requested. If the person violates the order after expiration of ten days after the cease and desist order has been received by him or her, he or she may be fined by the commissioner a sum not to exceed two hundred and fifty dollars for each violation committed thereafter.

(5) If any such regulation is violated, the commissioner may take such other or additional action as is permitted under the insurance code for violation of a regulation. [1985 c 264 § 13; 1973 1st ex.s. c 152 § 6; 1965 ex.s. c 70 § 24; 1947 c 79 § .30.01; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.30.01.]

**Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 152:** See note following RCW 48.05.140.

**48.30.020 Anticomcompact law.** (1) No person shall either within or outside of this state enter into any contract, understanding or combination with any other person to do jointly or severally any act or engage in any practice for the purpose of

(a) controlling the rates to be charged for insuring any risk or any class of risks in this state; or

(b) unfairly discriminating against any person in this state by reason of his plan or method of transacting insurance, or by reason of his affiliation or nonaffiliation with any insurance organization; or

(c) establishing or perpetuating any condition in this state detrimental to free competition in the business of insurance or injurious to the insuring public.

(2) This section shall not apply relative to ocean marine and foreign trade insurances.

(3) This section shall not be deemed to prohibit the doing of things permitted to be done in accordance with the provisions of chapter 48.19 RCW of this code.

(4) Whenever the commissioner has knowledge of any violation of this section he shall forthwith order the offending person to discontinue such practice immediately or show cause to the satisfaction of the commissioner why such order should not be complied with. If the offender is an insurer or a licensee under this code and fails to comply with such order within thirty days after receipt thereof, the commissioner may forthwith revoke the offender's certificate of authority or licenses. [1947 c 79 § .30.02; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.30.02.]

**48.30.030 False financial statements.** No person shall knowingly file with any public official nor knowingly make, publish, or disseminate any financial statement of an insurer which does not accurately state the insurer's financial condition. [1947 c 79 § .30.03; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.30.03.]

**48.30.040 False information and advertising.** No person shall knowingly make, publish, or disseminate any false, deceptive or misleading representation or advertising in the conduct of the business of insurance, or relative to the business of insurance or relative to any person engaged therein. [1947 c 79 § .30.04; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.30.04.]

**48.30.050 Advertising must show name and domicile.** Every advertisement of, by, or on behalf of an insurer shall set forth the name in full of the insurer and the location of its home office or principal office, if any, in the United States (if an alien insurer). [1947 c 79 § .30.05; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.30.05.]

**48.30.060 Insurer name—Deceptive use prohibited.** No person who is not an insurer shall assume or use any name which deceptively infers or suggests that it is an insurer. [1947 c 79 § .30.06; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.30.06.]

**48.30.070 Advertising of financial condition.** (1) Every advertisement by or on behalf of any insurer purporting to show its financial condition may be in a condensed form but shall in substance correspond with the insurer's last verified statement filed with the commissioner.

(2) No insurer or person in its behalf shall advertise assets except those actually owned and possessed by the insurer in its own exclusive right, available for the payment of losses and claims, and held for the protection of its policyholders and creditors. [1947 c 79 § .30.07; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.30.07.]

**48.30.075 Using existence of insurance guaranty associations in advertising, etc., to sell insurance.** No person shall make, publish, disseminate, circulate, or place before the public, or cause, directly or indirectly, to be made, published, disseminated, circulated, or placed before the public in any newspaper, magazine, or other publication, or in the form of a notice, circular, pamphlet, letter, or poster, or over any radio station or television station, or in any other way, any advertisement, announcement, or statement which uses the existence of the Washington Insurance Guaranty Association or the Washington Life and Disability Insurance Guaranty Association for the purpose of sales, solicitation, or inducement to purchase any form of insurance covered by the Washington Insurance Guaranty Association Act or the Washington Life and Disability Insurance Guaranty Association Act. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 109 § 9.]

**48.30.080 Defamation of insurer.** No person shall make, publish, or disseminate, or aid, abet or encourage the making, publishing, or dissemination of any information or statement which is false or maliciously critical and which is designed to injure in its reputation or business any authorized insurer or any domestic corporation or reciprocal being formed pursuant to this code for the purpose of becoming an insurer. [1947 c 79 § .30.08; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.30.08.]

**48.30.090 Misrepresentation of policies.** No person shall make, issue or circulate, or cause to be made, issued or circulated any misrepresentation of the terms of any policy or the benefits or advantages promised thereby, or the dividends or share of surplus to be received thereon, or use any name or title of any policy or class of policies misrepresenting the nature thereof. [1947 c 79 § .30.09; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.30.09.]

**48.30.100 Dividends not to be guaranteed.** No insurer, agent, broker, solicitor, or other person, shall guarantee or agree to the payment of future dividends or future refunds of unused premiums or savings in any specific or approximate amounts or percentages on account of any insurance contract. [1947 c 79 § .30.10; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.30.10.]

**48.30.110 Contributions to candidates for insurance commissioner.** (1) No insurer or fraternal benefit society doing business in this state shall directly or indirectly pay or use, or offer, consent, or agree to pay or use any money or thing of value for or in aid of any candidate for the office of insurance commissioner; nor for reimbursement or indemnification of any person for money or property so used.

(2) Any individual who violates any provision of this section, or who participates in, aids, abets, advises, or consents to any such violation, or who solicits or knowingly receives any money or thing of value in violation of this



section, shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor and shall be liable to the insurer or society for the amount so contributed or received. [1982 c 181 § 18; 1947 c 79 § .30.11; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.30.11.]

**Severability—1982 c 181:** See note following RCW 48.03.010.

**48.30.120 Misconduct of officers, employees.** No director, officer, agent, attorney in fact, or employee of an insurer shall:

(1) Knowingly receive or possess himself of any of its property, otherwise than in payment for a just demand, and with intent to defraud, omit to make or to cause or direct to be made, a full and true entry thereof in its books and accounts; nor

(2) Make or concur in making any false entry, or concur in omitting to make any material entry, in its books or accounts; nor

(3) Knowingly concur in making or publishing any written report, exhibit or statement of its affairs or pecuniary condition containing any material statement which is false, or omit or concur in omitting any statement required by law to be contained therein; nor

(4) Having the custody or control of its books, wilfully fail to make any proper entry in the books of the insurer as required by law, or to exhibit or allow the same to be inspected and extracts to be taken therefrom by any person entitled by law to inspect the same, or take extracts therefrom; nor

(5) If a notice of an application for an injunction or other legal process affecting or involving the property or business of the insurer is served upon him, fail to disclose the fact of such service and the time and place of such application to the other directors, officers, and managers thereof; nor

(6) Fail to make any report or statement lawfully required by a public officer. [1947 c 79 § .30.12; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.30.12.]

**48.30.130 Presumption of knowledge of director.** A director of an insurer is deemed to have such knowledge of its affairs as to enable him to determine whether any act, proceeding, or omission of its directors is a violation of any provision of this chapter. If present at a meeting of directors at which any act, proceeding, or omission of its directors which is a violation of any such provision occurs, he must be deemed to have concurred therein unless at the time he causes or in writing requires his dissent therefrom to be entered on the minutes of the directors.

If absent from such meeting, he must be deemed to have concurred in any such violation if the facts constituting such violation appear on the records or minutes of the proceedings of the board of directors, and he remains a director of the insurer for six months thereafter without causing or in writing requiring his dissent from such violation to be entered upon such record or minutes. [1947 c 79 § .30.13; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.30.13.]

**48.30.140 Rebating.** (1) Except to the extent provided for in an applicable filing with the commissioner then in effect, no insurer, general agent, agent, broker, or solicitor shall, as an inducement to insurance, or after insurance has

been effected, directly or indirectly, offer, promise, allow, give, set off, or pay to the insured or to any employee of the insured, any rebate, discount, abatement, or reduction of premium or any part thereof named in any insurance contract, or any commission thereon, or earnings, profits, dividends, or other benefit, or any other valuable consideration or inducement whatsoever which is not expressly provided for in the policy.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section shall not apply as to commissions paid to a licensed agent, general agent, broker, or solicitor for insurance placed on that person's own property or risks.

(3) This section shall not apply to the allowance by any marine insurer, or marine insurance agent, general agent, broker, or solicitor, to any insured, in connection with marine insurance, of such discount as is sanctioned by custom among marine insurers as being additional to the agent's or broker's commission.

(4) This section shall not apply to advertising or promotional programs conducted by insurers, agents, or brokers whereby prizes, goods, wares, or merchandise, not exceeding twenty-five dollars in value per person in the aggregate in any twelve month period, are given to all insureds or prospective insureds under similar qualifying circumstances.

(5) This section does not apply to an offset or reimbursement of all or part of a fee paid to a broker as provided in RCW 48.17.270. [1994 c 203 § 3; 1990 1st ex.s. c 3 § 8; 1985 c 264 § 14; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 119 § 3; 1947 c 79 § .30.14; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.30.14.]

**48.30.150 Illegal inducements.** No insurer, general agent, agent, broker, solicitor, or other person shall, as an inducement to insurance, or in connection with any insurance transaction, provide in any policy for, or offer, or sell, buy, or offer or promise to buy or give, or promise, or allow to, or on behalf of, the insured or prospective insured in any manner whatsoever:

(1) Any shares of stock or other securities issued or at any time to be issued on any interest therein or rights thereto; or

(2) Any special advisory board contract, or other contract, agreement, or understanding of any kind, offering, providing for, or promising any profits or special returns or special dividends; or

(3) Any prizes, goods, wares, or merchandise of an aggregate value in excess of twenty-five dollars.

This section shall not be deemed to prohibit the sale or purchase of securities as a condition to or in connection with surety insurance insuring the performance of an obligation as part of a plan of financing found by the commissioner to be designed and operated in good faith primarily for the purpose of such financing, nor shall it be deemed to prohibit the sale of redeemable securities of a registered investment company in the same transaction in which life insurance is sold. [1990 1st ex.s. c 3 § 9; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 119 § 4; 1957 c 193 § 18; 1947 c 79 § .30.15; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.30.15.]

**48.30.155 Life or disability insurers—Insurance as inducement to purchase of goods, etc.** No life or disability

insurer shall directly or indirectly participate in any plan to offer or effect any kind or kinds of insurance in this state as an inducement to the purchase by the public of any goods, securities, commodities, services or subscriptions to publications. This section shall not apply to group or blanket insurance issued pursuant to this code. [1957 c 193 § 19.]

**48.30.157 Charges for extra services.** Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 48.30.140, 48.30.150, and 48.30.155, the commissioner may permit an agent or broker to enter into reasonable arrangements with insureds and prospective insureds to charge a reduced fee in situations where services that are charged for are provided beyond the scope of services customarily provided in connection with the solicitation and procurement of insurance, so that an overall charge to an insured or prospective insured is reasonable taking into account receipt of commissions and fees and their relation, proportionally, to the value of the total work performed. [1988 c 248 § 17; 1983 c 3 § 154; 1979 ex.s. c 199 § 10.]

**48.30.170 Rebate—Acceptance prohibited.** (1) No insured person shall receive or accept, directly or indirectly, any rebate of premium or part thereof, or any favor, advantage, share in dividends, or other benefits, or any valuable consideration or inducement not specified or provided for in the policy, or any commission on any insurance policy to which he or she is not lawfully entitled as a licensed agent, broker, or solicitor. The retention by the nominal policyholder in any group life insurance contract of any part of any dividend or reduction of premium thereon contrary to the provisions of RCW 48.24.260, shall be deemed the acceptance and receipt of a rebate and shall be punishable as provided by this code.

(2) The amount of insurance whereon the insured has so received or accepted any such rebate or any such commission, other than as to life or disability insurances, shall be reduced in the proportion that the amount or value of the rebate or commission bears to the premium for such insurance. In addition to such reduction of insurance, if any, any such insured shall be liable to a fine of not more than two hundred dollars.

(3) This section shall not apply to an offset or reimbursement of all or part of a fee paid to a broker as provided in RCW 48.17.270. [1994 c 203 § 4; 1947 c 79 § .30.17; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.30.17.]

**48.30.180 "Twisting" prohibited.** No person shall by misrepresentations or by misleading comparisons, induce or tend to induce any insured to lapse, terminate, forfeit, surrender, retain, or convert any insurance policy. [1947 c 79 § .30.18; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.30.18.]

**48.30.190 Illegal dealing in premiums.** (1) No person shall wilfully collect any sum as premium for insurance, which insurance is not then provided or is not in due course to be provided by an insurance policy issued by an insurer as authorized by this code.

(2) No person shall wilfully collect as premium for insurance any sum in excess of the amount actually expended or in due course is to be expended for insurance applica-

ble to the subject on account of which the premium was collected.

(3) No person shall wilfully or knowingly fail to return to the person entitled thereto within a reasonable length of time any sum collected as premium for insurance in excess of the amount actually expended for insurance applicable to the subject on account of which the premium was collected.

(4) Each violation of this section which does not amount to a felony shall constitute a misdemeanor. [1947 c 79 § .30.19; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.30.19.]

**48.30.200 Hypothecation of premium notes.** It shall be unlawful for any insurer or its representative, or any agent or broker, to hypothecate, sell, or dispose of any promissory note, received in payment for any premium or part thereof on any contract of life insurance or of disability insurance applied for, prior to delivery of the policy to the applicant. [1947 c 79 § .30.20; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.30.20.]

**48.30.210 Misrepresentation in application for insurance.** A person who knowingly makes a false or misleading statement or impersonation, or who willfully fails to reveal a material fact, in or relative to an application for insurance to an insurer, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor, and the license of any such person may be revoked. [1995 c 285 § 18; 1990 1st ex.s. c 3 § 10; 1947 c 79 § .30.21; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.30.21.]

Effective date—1995 c 285: See RCW 48.30A.900.

**48.30.220 Destruction, injury, secretion, etc., of property.** Any person, who, with intent to defraud or prejudice the insurer thereof, burns or in any manner injures, destroys, secretes, abandons, or disposes of any property which is insured at the time against loss or damage by fire, theft, embezzlement, or any other casualty, whether the same be the property of or in the possession of such person or any other person, under circumstances not making the offense arson in the first degree, is guilty of a class C felony. [1995 c 285 § 19; 1965 ex.s. c 70 § 25; 1947 c 79 § .30.22; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.30.22.]

Effective date—1995 c 285: See RCW 48.30A.900.

**48.30.230 False claims or proof—Penalty.** Any person, who, knowing it to be such:

(1) Presents, or causes to be presented, a false or fraudulent claim, or any proof in support of such a claim, for the payment of a loss under a contract of insurance; or

(2) Prepares, makes, or subscribes any false or fraudulent account, certificate, affidavit, or proof of loss, or other document or writing, with intent that it be presented or used in support of such a claim, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor, or if such claim is in excess of one thousand five hundred dollars, of a class C felony. [1990 1st ex.s. c 3 § 11; 1947 c 79 § .30.23; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.30.23.]

**48.30.240 Rate wars prohibited.** (1) Any insurer which precipitates, or aids in precipitating or conducting a rate war and by so doing writes or issues a policy of insurance at a less rate than permitted under its schedules

filed with the commissioner, or below the rate deemed by him to be proper and adequate to cover the class of risk insured, shall have its certificate of authority to do business in this state suspended until such time as the commissioner is satisfied that it is charging a proper rate of premium.

(2) Any insurer which has precipitated, or aided in precipitating or conducting a rate war for the purpose of punishing or eliminating competitors or stifling competition, or demoralizing the business, or for any other purpose, and has ordered the cancellation or rewriting of policies at a rate lower than that provided by its rating schedules where such rate war is not in operation, and has paid or attempted to pay to the insured any return premiums, on any risk so to be rewritten, on which its agent has received or is entitled to receive his regular commission, such insurer shall not be allowed to charge back to such agent any portion of his commission on the ground that the same has not been earned. [1947 c 79 § .30.24; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.30.24.]

**48.30.250 Interlocking ownership, management.** (1)

Any insurer may retain, invest in or acquire the whole or any part of the capital stock of any other insurer or insurers, or have a common management with any other insurer or insurers, unless such retention, investment, acquisition or common management is inconsistent with any other provision of this title, or unless by reason thereof the business of such insurers with the public is conducted in a manner which substantially lessens competition generally in the insurance business or tends to create a monopoly therein.

(2) Any person otherwise qualified may be a director of two or more insurers which are competitors, unless the effect thereof is to substantially lessen competition between insurers generally or tends to create a monopoly.

(3) If the commissioner finds, after a hearing thereon, that there is violation of this section he shall order all such persons and insurers to cease and desist from such violation within such time, or extension thereof, as may be specified in such order. [1949 c 190 § 34; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 45.30.25.]

**48.30.260 Right of debtor or borrower to select agent, broker, insurer.** (1)

Every debtor or borrower, when property insurance of any kind is required in connection with the debt or loan, shall have reasonable opportunity and choice in the selection of the agent, broker, and insurer through whom such insurance is to be placed; but only if the insurance is properly provided for the protection of the creditor or lender, whether by policy or binder, not later than at commencement of risk as to such property as respects such creditor or lender, and in the case of renewal of insurance, only if the renewal policy, or a proper binder therefor containing a brief description of the coverage bound and the identity of the insurer in which the coverage is bound, is delivered to the creditor or lender not later than thirty days prior to the renewal date.

(2) Every person who lends money or extends credit and who solicits insurance on real and personal property must explain to the borrower in prominently displayed writing that the insurance related to such loan or credit extension may be purchased from an insurer or agent of the borrower's choice,

subject only to the lender's right to reject a given insurer or agent as provided in subsection (3)(b) of this section.

(3) No person who lends money or extends credit may:

(a) Solicit insurance for the protection of property, after a person indicates interest in securing a loan or credit extension, until such person has received a commitment from the lender as to a loan or credit extension;

(b) Unreasonably reject a contract of insurance furnished by the borrower for the protection of the property securing the credit or lien. A rejection shall not be deemed unreasonable if it is based on reasonable standards, uniformly applied, relating to the extent of coverage required and the financial soundness and the services of an insurer. Such standards shall not discriminate against any particular type of insurer, nor shall such standards call for rejection of an insurance contract because the contract contains coverage in addition to that required in the credit transaction;

(c) Require that any borrower, mortgagor, purchaser, insurer, broker, or agent pay a separate charge, in connection with the handling of any contract of insurance required as security for a loan, or pay a separate charge to substitute the insurance policy of one insurer for that of another. This subsection does not include the interest which may be charged on premium loans or premium advancements in accordance with the terms of the loan or credit document;

(d) Use or disclose, without the prior written consent of the borrower, mortgagor, or purchaser taken at a time other than the making of the loan or extension of credit, information relative to a contract of insurance which is required by the credit transaction, for the purpose of replacing such insurance;

(e) Require any procedures or conditions of duly licensed agents, brokers, or insurers not customarily required of those agents, brokers, or insurers affiliated or in any way connected with the person who lends money or extends credit; or

(f) Require property insurance in an amount in excess of the amount which could reasonably be expected to be paid under the policy, or combination of policies, in the event of a loss.

(4) Nothing contained in this section shall prevent a person who lends money or extends credit from placing insurance on real or personal property in the event the mortgagor, borrower, or purchaser has failed to provide required insurance in accordance with the terms of the loan or credit document.

(5) Nothing contained in this section shall apply to credit life or credit disability insurance. [1990 1st ex.s. c 3 § 13; 1988 c 248 § 18; 1984 c 6 § 2; 1977 c 61 § 1; 1957 c 193 § 20.]

**48.30.270 Public building or construction contracts—Surety bonds or insurance—Violations concerning—Exemption.** (1)

No officer or employee of this state, or of any public agency, public authority or public corporation except a public corporation or public authority created pursuant to agreement or compact with another state, and no person acting or purporting to act on behalf of such officer or employee, or public agency or public authority or public corporation, shall, with respect to any public building or construction contract which is about to be, or which has been

competitively bid, require the bidder to make application to, or to furnish financial data to, or to obtain or procure, any of the surety bonds or contracts of insurance specified in connection with such contract, or specified by any law, general, special or local, from a particular insurer or agent or broker.

(2) No such officer or employee or any person, acting or purporting to act on behalf of such officer or employee shall negotiate, make application for, obtain or procure any of such surety bonds or contracts of insurance, except contracts of insurance for builder's risk or owner's protective liability, which can be obtained or procured by the bidder, contractor or subcontractor.

(3) This section shall not be construed to prevent the exercise by such officer or employee on behalf of the state or such public agency, public authority, or public corporation of its right to approve the form, sufficiency or manner or execution of the surety bonds or contracts of insurance furnished by the insurer selected by the bidder to underwrite such bonds, or contracts of insurance.

(4) Any provisions in any invitation for bids, or in any of the contract documents, in conflict with this section are declared to be contrary to the public policy of this state.

(5) A violation of this section shall be subject to the penalties provided by RCW 48.01.080.

(6) This section shall not apply to the public nonprofit corporation authorized under RCW 67.40.020. [1983 2nd ex.s. c 1 § 6; 1967 ex.s. c 12 § 3.]

*State convention and trade center—Corporation exempt: RCW 67.40.020.*

**48.30.300 Unfair discrimination, generally—Disability policies, specifically.** Notwithstanding any provision contained in Title 48 RCW to the contrary:

(1) No person or entity engaged in the business of insurance in this state shall refuse to issue any contract of insurance or cancel or decline to renew such contract because of the sex or marital status, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical handicap of the insured or prospective insured. The amount of benefits payable, or any term, rate, condition, or type of coverage shall not be restricted, modified, excluded, increased or reduced on the basis of the sex or marital status, or be restricted, modified, excluded or reduced on the basis of the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical handicap of the insured or prospective insured. Subject to the provisions of subsection (2) of this section these provisions shall not prohibit fair discrimination on the basis of sex, or marital status, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical handicap when bona fide statistical differences in risk or exposure have been substantiated.

(2) With respect to disability policies issued or renewed on and after July 1, 1994, that provide coverage against loss arising from medical, surgical, hospital, or emergency care services:

(a) Policies shall guarantee continuity of coverage. Such provision, which shall be included in every policy, shall provide that:

(i) The policy may be canceled or nonrenewed without the prior written approval of the commissioner only for nonpayment of premium or as permitted under RCW 48.18.090; and

(ii) The policy may be canceled or nonrenewed because of a change in the physical or mental condition or health of a covered person only with the prior written approval of the commissioner. Such approval shall be granted only when the insurer has discharged its obligation to continue coverage for such person by obtaining coverage with another insurer, health care service contractor, or health maintenance organization, which coverage is comparable in terms of premiums and benefits as defined by rule of the commissioner.

(b) It is an unfair practice for a disability insurer to modify the coverage provided or rates applying to an in-force disability insurance policy and to fail to make such modification in all such issued and outstanding policies.

(c) Subject to rules adopted by the commissioner, it is an unfair practice for a disability insurer to:

(i) Cease the sale of a policy form unless it has received prior written authorization from the commissioner and has offered all policyholders covered under such discontinued policy the opportunity to purchase comparable coverage without health screening; or

(ii) Engage in a practice that subjects policyholders to rate increases on discontinued policy forms unless such policyholders are offered the opportunity to purchase comparable coverage without health screening.

The insurer may limit an offer of comparable coverage without health screening to a period not less than thirty days from the date the offer is first made. [1993 c 492 § 287; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 119 § 7.]

*Findings—Intent—1993 c 492: See notes following RCW 43.20.050.*

*Short title—Severability—Savings—Captions not law—Reservation of legislative power—Effective dates—1993 c 492: See RCW 43.72.910 through 43.72.915.*

**48.30.310 Commercial motor vehicle employment driving record not to be considered, when.** When an individual applies for a policy of casualty insurance providing either automobile liability coverage, uninsured motorist coverage, automobile medical payments coverage, or automobile physical damage coverage on an individually owned passenger vehicle or a renewal of such policy, an insurer shall not consider the applicant's commercial motor vehicle employment driving record in determining whether the policy will be issued or renewed or in determining the rates for the policy. An insurer shall not cancel such policy or discriminate in regard to other terms or conditions of the policy based upon the applicant's commercial motor vehicle employment driving record.

"Employment driving record" means that record maintained by the director pertaining to motor vehicle accidents or convictions for violation of motor vehicle laws while the applicant is driving a commercial motor vehicle as an employee of another. [1977 ex.s. c 356 § 3.]

**48.30.320 Notice of reason for cancellation, restrictions based on handicaps.** Every authorized insurer, upon canceling, denying, or refusing to renew any individual life, individual disability, homeowner, dwelling fire, or private passenger automobile insurance policy, shall, upon written request, directly notify in writing the applicant or insured, as the case may be, of the reasons for the action by the insurer. Any benefits, terms, rates, or conditions of such an insurance

contract which are restricted, excluded, modified, increased, or reduced because of the presence of a sensory, mental, or physical handicap shall, upon written request, be set forth in writing and supplied to the insured. The written communications required by this section shall be phrased in simple language which is readily understandable to a person of average intelligence, education, and reading ability. [1979 c 133 § 1.]

**48.30.330 Immunity from libel or slander.** With respect to contracts of insurance as defined in RCW 48.30.320, there shall be no liability on the part of, and no cause of action of any nature shall arise against, the insurance commissioner, the commissioner's agents, or members of the commissioner's staff, or against any insurer, its authorized representative, its agents, its employees, furnishing to the insurer information as to reasons for cancellation or refusal to issue or renew, for libel or slander on the basis of any statement made by any of them in any written notice of cancellation or refusal to issue or renew, or in any other communications, oral or written, specifying the reasons for cancellation or refusal to issue or renew or the providing of information pertaining thereto, or for statements made or evidence submitted in any hearing conducted in connection therewith. [1979 c 133 § 2.]

### Chapter 48.30A INSURANCE FRAUD

#### Sections

- 48.30A.005 Findings—Intent.
- 48.30A.010 Definitions.
- 48.30A.015 Unlawful acts.
- 48.30A.020 Defenses to proceedings under this chapter.
- 48.30A.025 Trafficking in insurance claims—Penalties.
- 48.30A.030 Injunction available—Remedies—Costs—Attorneys' fees—Degree of proof—Time limit.
- 48.30A.035 Detrimental judgment—Written notification to appropriate regulatory or disciplinary body or agency.
- 48.30A.040 Violation—Cause for discipline—Unprofessional conduct—Regulatory penalty.
- 48.30A.045 Insurance antifraud plan—File plan and changes with commissioner.
- 48.30A.050 Insurance antifraud plan—Specific procedures.
- 48.30A.055 Insurance antifraud plan—Review—Disapproval—Notice—Audit to ensure compliance.
- 48.30A.060 Insurance antifraud plan—Actions taken by insurer—Report—Not public records.
- 48.30A.065 Insurance antifraud plan—Failure to file or exercise good faith—Penalty—Failure to follow plan—Civil penalty.
- 48.30A.070 Duty to investigate, enforce, and prosecute violations.
- 48.30A.900 Effective date—1995 c 285.

**48.30A.005 Findings—Intent.** The legislature finds that the business of insurance is one affected by the public interest, requiring that all persons be actuated by good faith, abstain from deception, and practice honesty and equity in all insurance matters. The payment of kickbacks, bribes, or rebates for referrals to service providers, as has been occurring with increasing regularity in this state, results in inflated or fraudulent insurance claims, results in greater insurance costs for all citizens, and is contrary to the public interest. In particular, the process whereby "cappers" buy and sell insurance claims without the controls of professional

licensing and discipline creates a fertile ground for illegal activity and has, in this state, resulted in frauds committed against injured claimants, insurance companies, and the public. Operations that engage in this practice have some or all of the following characteristics: Cappers, acting under an agreement or understanding that they will receive a pecuniary benefit, refer claimants with real or imaginary claims, injuries, or property damage to service providers. This sets off a chain of events that corrupts both the provision of services and casualty or property insurance for all citizens. This chain of events includes false claims for services through the use of false estimates of repair; false prescriptions of care or rehabilitative therapy; services that either do not occur or are provided by persons unqualified to provide the services; submission of false claims; submission of and demands for fraudulent costs, lost wages, pain and suffering, and the like; and other devices meant to result in false claims under casualty or property insurance policies or contracts, whether insured or self-insured, and either directly or through subrogation.

The legislature finds that combatting these practices requires laws carefully fashioned to identify practices that mimic customary business practices. The legislature does not intend this law to be used against medical and other business referral practices that are otherwise legal, customary, and unrelated to the furtherance of some or all of the corrupt practices identified in this chapter. [1995 c 285 § 1.]

**48.30A.010 Definitions.** The definitions set forth in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

(1) "Casualty or property insurance" includes both the insurance under which a claim is filed and insurance that receives a claim through subrogation, and means insurance as defined in RCW 48.11.040 and 48.11.070 and includes self-insurance arrangements.

(2) "Claimant" means a person who has or is believed by an actor to have an insurance claim.

(3) "Group-buying arrangement" means an arrangement made by a membership organization having one hundred or more members in which the organization asks for or receives valuable consideration in exchange for referring its members to a service provider; the consideration asked for or received will be or is used to benefit the entire organization, not just one or more individuals in positions of power or influence in the organization; and reasonable efforts are made to disclose to affected members of the organization the nature of the referral relationship, including the nature, extent, amount, and use of the consideration.

(4) "Health care services" means a service provided to a claimant for treatment of physical or mental illness or injury arising in whole or substantial part from trauma.

(5) "Insurance claim" means a claim for payment, benefits, or damages under a contract, plan, or policy of casualty or property insurance.

(6) "Legal provider" means an active member in good standing of the Washington state bar association, and any other person authorized by the Washington state supreme court to engage in full or limited practice of law.

(7) "Service provider" means a person who directly or indirectly provides, advertises, or otherwise claims to provide services.

(8) "Services" means health care services, motor vehicle body or other motor vehicle repair, and preparing, processing, presenting, or negotiating an insurance claim.

(9) "Trauma" means a physical injury or wound caused by external force or violence. [1995 c 285 § 2.]

**48.30A.015 Unlawful acts.** (1) It is unlawful for a person:

(a) Knowing that the payment is for the referral of a claimant to a service provider, either to accept payment from a service provider or, being a service provider, to pay another; or

(b) To provide or claim or represent to have provided services to a claimant, knowing the claimant was referred in violation of (a) of this subsection.

(2) It is unlawful for a service provider to engage in a regular practice of waiving, rebating, giving, paying, or offering to waive, rebate, give, or pay all or any part of a claimant's casualty or property insurance deductible. [1995 c 285 § 3.]

**48.30A.020 Defenses to proceedings under this chapter.** In a proceeding under this chapter, it is a defense if proven by the defendant by a preponderance of the evidence that, at the time of the offense:

(1) The conduct alleged was authorized by the rules of professional conduct or the admission to practice rules for lawyers as adopted by the state supreme court, Washington business and professions licensing statutes, or rules adopted by the secretary of health or the director of licensing;

(2) The payment was an incidental nonmonetary gift or gratuity, or was purely social in nature;

(3) The conduct alleged was an exercise of a group-buying arrangement;

(4) The conduct alleged was a legal provider paying a service provider's bills from the proceeds of an insurance claim that included the bills;

(5) The conduct alleged was a legal provider paying for services of an expert witness, including reports, consultation, and testimony; or

(6) The conduct alleged was a service provider's purchase of advertising from an unrelated business that provides referrals from advertising for groups of ten or more service providers that are not related to the advertising business and not related to each other. [1995 c 285 § 4.]

**48.30A.025 Trafficking in insurance claims—Penalties.** A violation of RCW 48.30A.015 constitutes trafficking in insurance claims. A single violation is a gross misdemeanor. Each subsequent violation, whether alleged in the same or in subsequent prosecutions, is a class C felony. [1995 c 285 § 5.]

**48.30A.030 Injunction available—Remedies—Costs—Attorneys' fees—Degree of proof—Time limit.** Independent of authority granted to the attorney general, the prosecuting attorney may petition the superior court for an injunction against a person who has violated this chapter.

Remedies in an injunctive action brought by a prosecuting attorney are limited to an order enjoining, restraining, or preventing the doing of any act or practice that constitutes a violation of this chapter and imposing a civil penalty of up to five thousand dollars for each violation. The prevailing party in the action may, in the discretion of the court, recover its reasonable investigative costs and the costs of the action including a reasonable attorney's fee. The degree of proof required in an action brought under this section is a preponderance of the evidence. An action under this section must be brought within three years after the violation of this chapter occurred. [1995 c 285 § 6.]

**48.30A.035 Detrimental judgment—Written notification to appropriate regulatory or disciplinary body or agency.** Whenever a service provider or a person licensed by the state in a business or profession is convicted, enjoined, or found liable for damages or a civil penalty or other equitable relief under RCW 48.30A.030, the attorney general or the prosecuting attorney shall provide written notification of the judgment to the appropriate regulatory or disciplinary body or agency. [1995 c 285 § 7.]

**48.30A.040 Violation—Cause for discipline—Unprofessional conduct—Regulatory penalty.** A violation of this chapter is cause for discipline and constitutes unprofessional conduct that could result in any regulatory penalty provided by law, including refusal, revocation, or suspension of a business or professional license, or right or admission to practice. Conduct that constitutes a violation of this chapter is unprofessional conduct in violation of RCW 18.130.180. [1995 c 285 § 8.]

**48.30A.045 Insurance antifraud plan—File plan and changes with commissioner.** Each insurer licensed to write direct insurance in this state shall institute and maintain an insurance antifraud plan. An insurer licensed on July 1, 1995, shall file its antifraud plan with the insurance commissioner no later than December 31, 1995. An insurer licensed after July 1, 1995, shall file its antifraud plan within six months of licensure. An insurer shall file any change to the antifraud plan with the insurance commissioner within thirty days after the plan has been modified. [1995 c 285 § 9.]

**48.30A.050 Insurance antifraud plan—Specific procedures.** An insurer's antifraud plan must establish specific procedures to:

(1) Prevent insurance fraud, including internal fraud involving employees or company representatives, fraud resulting from misrepresentation on applications for insurance coverage, and claims fraud;

(2) Review claims in order to detect evidence of possible insurance fraud and to investigate claims where fraud is suspected;

(3) Report fraud to appropriate law enforcement agencies and cooperate with those agencies in their prosecution of fraud cases;

(4) Undertake civil actions against persons who have engaged in fraudulent activities;

(5) Train company employees and agents in the detection and prevention of fraud. [1995 c 285 § 10.]

**48.30A.055 Insurance antifraud plan—Review—Disapproval—Notice—Audit to ensure compliance.** If after review of an insurer's antifraud plan, the commissioner finds that the plan does not comply with RCW 48.30A.050, the commissioner may disapprove the antifraud plan. Notice of disapproval must include a statement of the specific reasons for disapproval. The insurer shall refile a plan disapproved by the commissioner within sixty days of the date of the notice of disapproval. The commissioner may audit insurers to ensure compliance with antifraud plans. [1995 c 285 § 11.]

**48.30A.060 Insurance antifraud plan—Actions taken by insurer—Report—Not public records.** Each insurer shall annually provide to the insurance commissioner a summary report on actions taken under its antifraud plan to prevent and combat insurance fraud. The report must also include, but not be limited to, measures taken to protect and ensure the integrity of electronic data processing-generated data and manually compiled data, statistical data on the amount of resources committed to combatting fraud, and the amount of fraud identified and recovered during the reporting period. The antifraud plans and summary of the insurer's antifraud activities are not public records and are exempt from chapter 42.17 RCW, are proprietary, are not subject to public examination, and are not discoverable or admissible in civil litigation. [1995 c 285 § 12.]

**48.30A.065 Insurance antifraud plan—Failure to file or exercise good faith—Penalty—Failure to follow plan—Civil penalty.** An insurer that fails to file a timely antifraud plan or who does not make a good faith attempt to file an antifraud plan that complies with RCW 48.30A.050, is subject to the penalty provisions of RCW 48.01.080, but no penalty may be imposed for the first filing made by an insurer under this chapter. An insurer that fails to follow the antifraud plan is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed ten thousand dollars for each violation, at the discretion of the commissioner after consideration of all relevant factors, including the willfulness of the violation. [1995 c 285 § 13.]

**48.30A.070 Duty to investigate, enforce, and prosecute violations.** It is the duty of all peace officers, law enforcement officers, and law enforcement agencies within this state to investigate, enforce, and prosecute all violations of this chapter. [1995 c 285 § 14.]

**48.30A.900 Effective date—1995 c 285.** This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect July 1, 1995. [1995 c 285 § 39.]

## Chapter 48.31

### MERGERS, REHABILITATION, LIQUIDATION

#### Sections

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*Dissolution of business corporation: Chapter 23B.14 RCW.*

*Uniform insurers liquidation act: Chapter 48.99 RCW.*

**48.31.010 Merger or consolidation.** (1) Subject to the provisions of RCW 48.08.080, relating to the mutualization of stock insurers, RCW 48.09.350, relating to the conversion or reinsurance of mutual insurers, and RCW 48.10.330, relating to the consolidation or conversion of

reciprocal insurers, a domestic insurer may merge or consolidate with another insurer, subject to the following conditions:

(a) The plan of merger or consolidation must be submitted to and be approved by the commissioner in advance of the merger or consolidation.

(b) The commissioner shall not approve any such plan unless, after a hearing, pursuant to such notice as the commissioner may require, he finds that it is fair, equitable, consistent with law, and that no reasonable objection exists. If the commissioner fails to approve the plan, he shall state his reasons for such failure in his order made on such hearing. The insurers involved in the merger shall bear the expense of the mailing of the notice of hearing and of the order on hearing.

(c) No director, officer, member, or subscriber of any such insurer, except as is expressly provided by the plan of merger or consolidation, shall receive any fee, commission, other compensation or valuable consideration whatsoever, for in any manner aiding, promoting or assisting in the merger or consolidation.

(d) Any merger or consolidation as to an incorporated domestic insurer shall in other respects be governed by the general laws of this state relating to business corporations. Except, that as to domestic mutual insurers, approval by two-thirds of its members who vote thereon pursuant to such notice and procedure as was approved by the commissioner shall constitute approval of the merger or consolidation as respects the insurer's members.

(2) Reinsurance of all or substantially all of the insurance in force of a domestic insurer by another insurer shall be deemed a consolidation for the purposes of this section. [1973 1st ex.s. c 107 § 3; 1961 c 194 § 11; 1947 c 79 § .31.01; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.31.01.]

**Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 107:** See note following RCW 48.17.330.

**48.31.020 "Insurer"—Scope of term.** For the purposes of this chapter, other than as to RCW 48.31.010, and in addition to persons included under \*RCW 48.31.110, the term "insurer" shall be deemed to include an insurer authorized under chapter 48.05 RCW, a health care service contractor registered under chapter 48.44 RCW, and a health maintenance organization registered under chapter 48.46 RCW, as well as all persons engaged as, or purporting to be engaged as insurers, health care service contractors, or health maintenance organizations in this state, and to persons in process of organization to become insurers, health care service contractors, or health maintenance organizations. [1989 c 151 § 1; 1947 c 79 § .31.02; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.31.02.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 48.31.110 was recodified as RCW 48.99.010 pursuant to 1993 c 462 § 81.

**48.31.030 Rehabilitation—Grounds.** The commissioner may apply for an order directing him or her to rehabilitate a domestic insurer upon one or more of the following grounds: That the insurer

(1) Is insolvent; or

(2) Has refused to submit its books, records, accounts, or affairs to the reasonable examination of the commissioner; or

(3) Has failed to comply with the commissioner's order, made pursuant to law, to make good an impairment of capital (if a stock insurer) or an impairment of assets (if a mutual or reciprocal insurer) within the time prescribed by law; or

(4) Has transferred or attempted to transfer substantially its entire property or business, or has entered into any transaction the effect of which is to merge substantially its entire property or business in that of any other insurer without first having obtained the written approval of the commissioner; or

(5) Is found, after examination, to be in such condition that its further transaction of business will be hazardous to its policyholders, or to its creditors, or to its members, subscribers, or stockholders, or to the public; or

(6) Has willfully violated its charter or any law of this state; or

(7) Has an officer, director, or manager who has refused to be examined under oath, concerning its affairs, for which purpose the commissioner is authorized to conduct and to enforce by all appropriate and available means any such examination under oath in any other state or territory of the United States, in which any such officer, director, or manager may then presently be, to the full extent permitted by the laws of any such other state or territory, this special authorization considered; or

(8) Has been the subject of an application for the appointment of a receiver, trustee, custodian, or sequestrator of the insurer or of its property, or if a receiver, trustee, custodian, or sequestrator is appointed by a federal court or if such appointment is imminent; or

(9) Has consented to such an order through a majority of its directors, stockholders, members, or subscribers; or

(10) Has failed to pay a final judgment rendered against it in any state upon any insurance contract issued or assumed by it, within thirty days after the judgment became final or within thirty days after time for taking an appeal has expired, or within thirty days after dismissal of an appeal before final determination, whichever date is the later; or

(11) There is reasonable cause to believe that there has been embezzlement from the insurer, wrongful sequestration or diversion of the insurer's assets, forgery or fraud affecting the insurer, or other illegal conduct in, by, or with respect to the insurer that, if established, would endanger assets in an amount threatening the solvency of the insurer; or

(12) The insurer has failed to remove a person who in fact has executive authority in the insurer, whether an officer, manager, general agent, employee, or other person, if the person has been found after notice and hearing by the commissioner to be dishonest or untrustworthy in a way affecting the insurer's business; or

(13) Control of the insurer, whether by stock ownership or ownership or otherwise, and whether direct or indirect, is in a person or persons found after notice and hearing to be untrustworthy; or

(14) The insurer has failed to file its annual report or other financial report required by statute within the time allowed by law and, after written demand by the commis-



sioner, has failed to give an adequate explanation immediately; or

(15) The board of directors or the holders of a majority of the shares entitled to vote, request, or consent to rehabilitation under this chapter. [1993 c 462 § 75; 1949 c 190 § 28; 1947 c 79 § .31.03; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 45.31.03.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.31.040 Rehabilitation—Order—Termination.** (1) An order to rehabilitate a domestic insurer shall direct the commissioner forthwith to take possession of the property of the insurer and to conduct the business thereof, and to take such steps toward removal of the causes and conditions which have made rehabilitation necessary as the court may direct.

(2) If at any time the commissioner deems that further efforts to rehabilitate the insurer would be useless, he or she may apply to the court for an order of liquidation.

(3) The commissioner, or any interested person upon due notice to the commissioner, at any time may apply for an order terminating the rehabilitation proceeding and permitting the insurer to resume possession of its property and the conduct of its business, but no such order shall be granted except when, after a full hearing, the court has determined that the purposes of the proceedings have been fully accomplished.

(4) An order to rehabilitate the business of a domestic insurer, or an alien insurer domiciled in this state, shall appoint the commissioner and his or her successors in office as the rehabilitator, and shall direct the rehabilitator to immediately take possession of the assets of the insurer, and to administer them under the general supervision of the court. The filing or recording of the order with the recorder of deeds of the county in this state in which the principal business of the company is conducted, or the county in this state in which the company's principal office or place of business is located, imparts the same notice as a deed or other evidence of title duly filed or recorded with that recorder of deeds would have imparted. The order to rehabilitate the insurer by operation of law vests title to all assets of the insurer in the rehabilitator.

(5) An order issued under this section requires accountings to the court by the rehabilitator. Accountings must be done at such intervals as the court specifies in its order, but no less frequently than semiannually.

(6) Entry of an order of rehabilitation does not constitute an anticipatory breach of contracts of the insurer nor may it be grounds for retroactive revocation or retroactive cancellation of contracts of the insurer, unless the revocation or cancellation is done by the rehabilitator. [1993 c 462 § 76; 1947 c 79 § .31.04; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.31.04.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.31.045 Rehabilitation order against insurer—Insurer is party to action or proceeding—Stay the action—Statute of limitations or defense of laches.** (1) A court in this state before which an action or proceeding in which the insurer is a party, or is obligated to defend a party, is pending when a rehabilitation order against the

insurer is entered shall stay the action or proceeding for ninety days and such additional time as is necessary for the rehabilitator to obtain proper representation and prepare for further proceedings. The rehabilitator shall take such action respecting the pending litigation as he or she deems necessary in the interests of justice and for the protection of creditors, policyholders, and the public. The rehabilitator shall immediately consider all litigation pending outside this state and shall petition the courts having jurisdiction over that litigation for stays whenever necessary to protect the estate of the insurer.

(2) A statute of limitations or defense of laches does not run with respect to an action by or against an insurer between the filing of a petition for appointment of a rehabilitator for that insurer and the order granting or denying that petition. An action against the insurer that might have been commenced when the petition was filed may be commenced for at least sixty days after the order of rehabilitation is entered or the petition is denied. The rehabilitator may, upon an order for rehabilitation, within one year or such other longer time as applicable law may permit, institute an action or proceeding on behalf of the insurer upon a cause of action against which the period of limitation fixed by applicable law has not expired at the time of the filing of the petition upon which the order is entered.

(3) A guaranty association or foreign guaranty association covering life or health insurance or annuities has standing to appear in a court proceeding concerning the rehabilitation of a life or health insurer if the association is or may become liable to act as a result of the rehabilitation. [1993 c 462 § 77.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.31.050 Liquidation—Grounds.** The commissioner may apply for an order directing him to liquidate the business of a domestic insurer or of the United States branch of an alien insurer having trusteed assets in this state, regardless of whether or not there has been a prior order directing him to rehabilitate such insurer, upon any of the grounds specified in RCW 48.31.030 or upon any one or more of the following grounds: That the insurer

(1) Has ceased transacting business for a period of one year; or

(2) Is an insolvent insurer and has commenced voluntary liquidation or dissolution, or attempts to commence or prosecute any action or proceeding to liquidate its business or affairs, or to dissolve its corporate charter, or to procure the appointment of a receiver, trustee, custodian, or sequestrator under any law except this code; or

(3) Has not organized or completed its organization and obtained a certificate of authority as an insurer prior to the expiration or revocation of its solicitation permit. [1947 c 79 § .31.05; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.31.05.]

**48.31.060 Liquidation—Order.** (1) An order to liquidate the business of a domestic insurer shall direct the commissioner forthwith to take possession of the property of the insurer, to liquidate its business, to deal with the insurer's property and business in his own name as commissioner or in the name of the insurer as the court may direct,

to give notice to all creditors who may have claims against the insurer to present such claims.

(2) The commissioner may apply under this chapter for an order dissolving the corporate existence of a domestic insurer:

(a) Upon his application for an order of liquidation of such insurer, or at any time after such order has been granted; or

(b) Upon the grounds specified in item (3) of RCW 48.31.050, regardless of whether an order of liquidation is sought or has been obtained. [1947.c 79 § .31.06; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.31.06.]

**48.31.070 Liquidation—Alien insurers.** An order to liquidate the business of the United States branch of an alien insurer having trusteed assets in this state shall be in the same terms as those prescribed for domestic insurers, except that only the assets of the business of such United States branch shall be included therein. [1947 c 79 § .31.07; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.31.07.]

**48.31.080 Conservation of assets—Foreign insurers.** The commissioner may apply for an order directing him to conserve the assets within this state of a foreign insurer upon any one or more of the following grounds:

(1) Upon any of the grounds specified in items (1) to (9) inclusive of RCW 48.31.030 and in item (2) of RCW 48.31.050.

(2) That its property has been sequestered in its domiciliary sovereignty or in any other sovereignty. [1947 c 79 § .31.08; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.31.08.]

**48.31.090 Conservation of assets—Alien insurers.** The commissioner may apply for an order directing him to conserve the assets within this state of an alien insurer upon any one or more of the following grounds:

(1) Upon any of the grounds specified in items (1) to (9) inclusive of RCW 48.31.030 and in item (2) of RCW 48.31.050; or

(2) That the insurer has failed to comply, within the time designated by the commissioner, with an order of the commissioner pursuant to law to make good an impairment of its trusteed funds; or

(3) That the property of the insurer has been sequestered in its domiciliary sovereignty or elsewhere. [1947 c 79 § .31.09; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.31.09.]

**48.31.100 Foreign insurers—Conservation, ancillary proceedings.** (1) An order to conserve the assets of a foreign or alien insurer shall direct the commissioner forthwith to take possession of the property of the insurer within this state and to conserve it, subject to the further direction of the court.

(2) Whenever a domiciliary receiver is appointed for any such insurer in its domiciliary state which is also a reciprocal state, as defined in \*RCW 48.31.110, the court shall on application of the commissioner appoint the commissioner as the ancillary receiver in this state, subject to the provisions of the uniform insurers liquidation act. [1947 c 79 § .31.10; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.31.10.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 48.31.110 was recodified as RCW 48.99.010 pursuant to 1993 c 462 § 81.

**48.31.105 Conduct of proceedings—Requirement to cooperate—Definitions—Violations—Penalties.** (1) An officer, manager, director, trustee, owner, employee, or agent of an insurer or other person with authority over or in charge of a segment of the insurer's affairs shall cooperate with the commissioner in a proceeding under this chapter or an investigation preliminary to the proceeding. The term "person" as used in this section includes a person who exercises control directly or indirectly over activities of the insurer through a holding company or other affiliate of the insurer. "To cooperate" as used in this section includes the following:

(a) To reply promptly in writing to an inquiry from the commissioner requesting such a reply; and

(b) To make available to the commissioner books, accounts, documents, or other records or information or property of or pertaining to the insurer and in his or her possession, custody, or control.

(2) A person may not obstruct or interfere with the commissioner in the conduct of a delinquency proceeding or an investigation preliminary or incidental thereto.

(3) This section does not abridge existing legal rights, including the right to resist a petition for liquidation or other delinquency proceedings, or other orders.

(4) A person included within subsection (1) of this section who fails to cooperate with the commissioner, or a person who obstructs or interferes with the commissioner in the conduct of a delinquency proceeding or an investigation preliminary or incidental thereto, or who violates an order the commissioner issued validly under this chapter may:

(a) Be sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars or to undergo imprisonment for a term of not more than one year, or both; or

(b) After a hearing, be subject to the imposition by the commissioner of a civil penalty not to exceed ten thousand dollars and be subject further to the revocation or suspension of insurance licenses issued by the commissioner. [1993 c 462 § 58.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.31.111 Commencement of delinquency proceeding by commissioner—Jurisdiction of courts.** (1) Except as provided in RCW 48.32A.060, no delinquency proceeding may be commenced under this chapter by anyone other than the commissioner of this state, and no court has jurisdiction to entertain a proceeding commenced by another person.

(2) No court of this state has jurisdiction to entertain a complaint praying for the dissolution, liquidation, rehabilitation, sequestration, conservation, or receivership of an insurer, or praying for an injunction or restraining order or other relief preliminary to, incidental to, or relating to the proceedings, other than in accordance with this chapter.

(3) In addition to other grounds for jurisdiction provided by the law of this state, a court of this state having jurisdiction of the subject matter has jurisdiction over a person served under the rules of civil procedure or other applicable provisions of law in an action brought by the receiver of a domestic insurer or an alien insurer domiciled in this state:

(a) If the person served is an agent, broker, or other person who has written policies of insurance for or has acted in any manner on behalf of an insurer against which a delinquency proceeding has been instituted, in an action resulting from or incident to such a relationship with the insurer; or

(b) If the person served is a reinsurer who has entered into a contract of reinsurance with an insurer against which a delinquency proceeding has been instituted, or is an agent or broker of or for the reinsurer, in an action on or incident to the reinsurance contract; or

(c) If the person served is or has been an officer, director, manager, trustee, organizer, promoter, or other person in a position of comparable authority or influence over an insurer against which a delinquency proceeding has been instituted, in an action resulting from or incident to such a relationship with the insurer; or

(d) If the person served is or was at the time of the institution of the delinquency proceeding against the insurer holding assets in which the receiver claims an interest on behalf of the insurer, in an action concerning the assets; or

(e) If the person served is obligated to the insurer in any way, in an action on or incident to the obligation.

(4) If the court on motion of a party finds that an action should as a matter of substantial justice be tried in a forum outside this state, the court may enter an appropriate order to stay further proceedings on the action in this state. [1993 c 462 § 59.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.31.115 Immunity from suit and liability—Persons entitled to protection.** (1) The persons entitled to protection under this section are:

(a) The commissioner and any other receiver responsible for conducting a delinquency proceeding under this chapter, including present and former commissioners and receivers; and

(b) The commissioner's employees, meaning all present and former special deputies and assistant special deputies and special receivers appointed by the commissioner and all persons whom the commissioner, special deputies, or assistant special deputies have employed to assist in a delinquency proceeding under this chapter. Attorneys, accountants, auditors, and other professional persons or firms who are retained as independent contractors, and their employees, are not considered employees of the commissioner for purposes of this section.

(2) The commissioner and the commissioner's employees are immune from suit and liability, both personally and in their official capacities, for a claim for damage to or loss of property or personal injury or other civil liability caused by or resulting from an alleged act or omission of the commissioner or an employee arising out of or by reason of his or her duties or employment. However, nothing in this subsection may be construed to hold the commissioner or an employee immune from suit or liability for any damage, loss, injury, or liability caused by the intentional or willful and wanton misconduct of the commissioner or an employee.

(3) If a legal action is commenced against the commissioner or an employee, whether against him or her personally or in his or her official capacity, alleging property damage,

property loss, personal injury, or other civil liability caused by or resulting from an alleged act or omission of the commissioner or an employee arising out of or by reason of his or her duties or employment, the commissioner and any employee shall be indemnified from the assets of the insurer for all expenses, attorneys' fees, judgments, settlements, decrees, or amounts due and owing or paid in satisfaction of or incurred in the defense of the legal action unless it is determined upon a final adjudication on the merits that the alleged act or omission of the commissioner or employee giving rise to the claim did not arise out of or by reason of his or her duties or employment, or was caused by intentional or willful and wanton misconduct.

(a) Attorneys' fees and related expenses incurred in defending a legal action for which immunity or indemnity is available under this section shall be paid from the assets of the insurer, as they are incurred, in advance of the final disposition of such action upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the commissioner or employee to repay the attorneys' fees and expenses if it is ultimately determined upon a final adjudication on the merits and that the commissioner or employee is not entitled to immunity or indemnity under this section.

(b) Any indemnification under this section is an administrative expense of the insurer.

(c) In the event of an actual or threatened litigation against the commissioner or an employee for which immunity or indemnity may be available under this section, a reasonable amount of funds that in the judgment of the commissioner may be needed to provide immunity or indemnity shall be segregated and reserved from the assets of the insurer as security for the payment of indemnity until all applicable statutes of limitation have run or all actual or threatened actions against the commissioner or an employee have been completely and finally resolved, and all obligations of the insurer and the commissioner under this section have been satisfied.

(d) In lieu of segregation and reserving of funds, the commissioner may obtain a surety bond or make other arrangements that will enable the commissioner to secure fully the payment of all obligations under this section.

(4) If a legal action against an employee for which indemnity may be available under this section is settled before final adjudication on the merits, the insurer shall pay the settlement amount on behalf of the employee, or indemnify the employee for the settlement amount, unless the commissioner determines:

(a) That the claim did not arise out of or by reason of the employee's duties or employment; or

(b) That the claim was caused by the intentional or willful and wanton misconduct of the employee.

(5) In a legal action in which the commissioner is a defendant, that portion of a settlement relating to the alleged act or omission of the commissioner is subject to the approval of the court before which the delinquency proceeding is pending. The court may not approve that portion of the settlement if it determines:

(a) That the claim did not arise out of or by reason of the commissioner's duties or employment; or

(b) That the claim was caused by the intentional or willful and wanton misconduct of the commissioner.

(6) Nothing in this section removes or limits an immunity, indemnity, benefit of law, right, or defense otherwise available to the commissioner, an employee, or any other person, not an employee under subsection (1)(b) of this section, who is employed by or in the office of the commissioner or otherwise employed by the state.

(7)(a) Subsection (2) of this section applies to any suit based in whole or in part on an alleged act or omission that takes place on or after July 25, 1993.

(b) No legal action lies against the commissioner or an employee based in whole or in part on an alleged act or omission that took place before July 25, 1993, unless suit is filed and valid service of process is obtained within twelve months after July 25, 1993.

(c) Subsections (3), (4), and (5) of this section apply to a suit that is pending on or filed after July 25, 1993, without regard to when the alleged act or omission took place. [1993 c 462 § 60.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.31.121 Court order for a formal delinquency proceeding—Commissioner may petition—Insurer may petition for hearing and review.** (1) The commissioner may petition the court alleging, with respect to a domestic insurer:

(a) That there exists a ground that would justify a court order for a formal delinquency proceeding against an insurer under this chapter;

(b) That the interests of policyholders, creditors, or the public will be endangered by delay; and

(c) The contents of an order deemed necessary by the commissioner.

(2) Upon a filing under subsection (1) of this section, the court may issue forthwith, ex parte and without a hearing, the requested order that shall: Direct the commissioner to take possession and control of all or a part of the property, books, accounts, documents, and other records of an insurer, and of the premises occupied by it for transaction of its business; and until further order of the court enjoin the insurer and its officers, managers, agents, and employees from disposition of its property and from the transaction of its business except with the written consent of the commissioner.

(3) The court shall specify in the order what the order's duration shall be, which shall be such time as the court deems necessary for the commissioner to ascertain the condition of the insurer. On motion of either party or on its own motion, the court may from time to time hold hearings it deems desirable after such notice as it deems appropriate, and may extend, shorten, or modify the terms of the seizure order. The court shall vacate the seizure order if the commissioner fails to commence a formal proceeding under this chapter after having had a reasonable opportunity to do so. An order of the court pursuant to a formal proceeding under this chapter vacates the seizure order.

(4) Entry of a seizure order under this section does not constitute an anticipatory breach of a contract of the insurer.

(5) An insurer subject to an ex parte order under this section may petition the court at any time after the issuance of an order under this section for a hearing and review of the order. The court shall hold the hearing and review not more

than fifteen days after the request. A hearing under this subsection may be held privately in chambers, and it must be so held if the insurer proceeded against so requests.

(6) If, at any time after the issuance of an order under this section, it appears to the court that a person whose interest is or will be substantially affected by the order did not appear at the hearing and has not been served, the court may order that notice be given. An order that notice be given does not stay the effect of an order previously issued by the court. [1993 c 462 § 61.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.31.125 Order of liquidation—Termination of coverage.** (1) All policies, including bonds and other noncancellable business, other than life or health insurance or annuities, in effect at the time of issuance of an order of liquidation continue in force only until the earliest of:

(a) The end of a period of thirty days from the date of entry of the liquidation order;

(b) The expiration of the policy coverage;

(c) The date when the insured has replaced the insurance coverage with equivalent insurance in another insurer or otherwise terminated the policy;

(d) The liquidator has effected a transfer of the policy obligation; or

(e) The date proposed by the liquidator and approved by the court to cancel coverage.

(2) An order of liquidation terminates coverages at the time specified in subsection (1) of this section for purposes of any other statute.

(3) Policies of life or health insurance or annuities shall continue in force for the period and under the terms provided by an applicable guaranty association or foreign guaranty association.

(4) Policies of life or health insurance or annuities or a period or coverage of the policies not covered by a guaranty association or foreign guaranty association shall terminate under subsections (1) and (2) of this section. [1993 c 462 § 62.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.31.131 Appointment of liquidator—Actions at law or equity—Statute of limitations or defense of laches.**

(1) Upon issuance of an order appointing a liquidator of a domestic insurer or of an alien insurer domiciled in this state, an action at law or equity or in arbitration may not be brought against the insurer or liquidator, whether in this state or elsewhere, nor may such an existing action be maintained or further presented after issuance of the order. The courts of this state shall give full faith and credit to injunctions against the liquidator or the company when the injunctions are included in an order to liquidate an insurer issued under laws in other states corresponding to this subsection. Whenever, in the liquidator's judgment, protection of the estate of the insurer necessitates intervention in an action against the insurer that is pending outside this state, the liquidator may intervene in the action. The liquidator may defend an action in which he or she intervenes under this section at the expense of the estate of the insurer.

(2) The liquidator may, upon or after an order for liquidation, within two years or such other longer time as applicable law may permit, institute an action or proceeding on behalf of the estate of the insurer upon a cause of action against which the period of limitation fixed by applicable law has not expired at the time of the filing of the petition upon which the order is entered. Where, by an agreement, a period of limitation is fixed for instituting a suit or proceeding upon a claim, or for filing a claim, proof of claim, proof of loss, demand, notice, or the like, or where in a proceeding, judicial or otherwise, a period of limitation is fixed, either in the proceeding or by applicable law, for taking an action, filing a claim or pleading, or doing an act, and where in such a case the period had not expired at the date of the filing of the petition, the liquidator may, for the benefit of the estate, take such an action or do such an act, required of or permitted to the insurer, within a period of one hundred eighty days after the entry of an order for liquidation, or within such further period as is shown to the satisfaction of the court not to be unfairly prejudicial to the other party.

(3) A statute of limitation or defense of laches does not run with respect to an action against an insurer between the filing of a petition for liquidation against an insurer and the denial of the petition. An action against the insurer that might have been commenced when the petition was filed may be commenced for at least sixty days after the petition is denied.

(4) A guaranty association or foreign guaranty association has standing to appear in a court proceeding concerning the liquidation of an insurer if the association is or may become liable to act as a result of the liquidation. [1993 c 462 § 63.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.31.135 Recovery from reinsurers—Not reduced by delinquency proceedings—Direct payment to insured.** The amount recoverable by the commissioner from reinsurers may not be reduced as a result of the delinquency proceedings, regardless of any provision in the reinsurance contract or other agreement except as provided in RCW 48.31.290. Payment made directly to an insured or other creditor does not diminish the reinsurer's obligation to the insurer's estate except when the reinsurance contract provided for direct coverage of a named insured and the payment was made in discharge of that obligation. [1993 c 462 § 64.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.31.141 Responsibility for payment of a premium—Earned or unearned premium—Violations—Penalties—Rights of party aggrieved.** (1)(a) An agent, broker, premium finance company, or any other person, other than the policy owner or the insured, responsible for the payment of a premium is obligated to pay any unpaid premium for the full policy term due the insurer at the time of the declaration of insolvency, whether earned or unearned, as shown on the records of the insurer. The liquidator also has the right to recover from the person a part of an unearned premium that represents commission of the person.

Credits or setoffs or both may not be allowed to an agent, broker, or premium finance company for amounts advanced to the insurer by the agent, broker, or premium finance company on behalf of, but in the absence of a payment by, the policy owner or the insured.

(b) Notwithstanding (a) of this subsection, the agent, broker, premium finance company, or other person is not liable for uncollected unearned premium of the insurer. A presumption exists that the premium as shown on the books of the insurer is collected, and the burden is upon the agent, broker, premium finance company, or other person to demonstrate by a preponderance of the evidence that the unearned premium was not actually collected. For purposes of this subsection, "unearned premium" means that portion of an insurance premium covering the unexpired term of the policy or the unexpired period of the policy period.

(c) An insured is obligated to pay any unpaid earned premium due the insurer at the time of the declaration of insolvency, as shown on the records of the insurer.

(2) Upon a violation of this section, the commissioner may pursue either one or both of the following courses of action:

(a) Suspend or revoke or refuse to renew the licenses of the offending party or parties;

(b) Impose a penalty of not more than one thousand dollars for each violation.

(3) Before the commissioner may take an action as set forth in subsection (2) of this section, he or she shall give written notice to the person accused of violating the law, stating specifically the nature of the alleged violation, and fixing a time and place, at least ten days thereafter, when a hearing on the matter shall be held. After the hearing, or upon failure of the accused to appear at the hearing, the commissioner, if he or she finds a violation, shall impose those penalties under subsection (2) of this section that he or she deems advisable.

(4) When the commissioner takes action in any or all of the ways set out in subsection (2) of this section, the party aggrieved has the rights granted under the Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 34.05 RCW. [1993 c 462 § 65.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.31.145 Liquidator denies claim—Written notice—Objections of claimant—Court hearing.** (1) When the liquidator denies a claim in whole or in part, the liquidator shall give written notice of the determination to the claimant or the claimant's attorney by first class mail at the address shown in the proof of claim. Within sixty days from the mailing of the notice, the claimant may file his or her objections with the liquidator. If no such a filing is made, the claimant may not further object to the determination.

(2) Whenever the claimant files objections with the liquidator and the liquidator does not alter his or her denial of the claim as a result of the objections, the liquidator shall ask the court for a hearing as soon as practicable and give notice of the hearing by first class mail to the claimant or the claimant's attorney and to other persons directly affected, not less than ten nor more than thirty days before the date of the hearing. The matter may be heard by the court or by a court-appointed referee who shall submit findings of fact along with his or her recommendation. [1993 c 462 § 66.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.31.151 Creditor's claim against insurer is secured by other person—Subrogated rights—Agreements concerning distributions.** Whenever a creditor whose claim against an insurer is secured, in whole or in part, by the undertaking of another person, fails to prove and file that claim, the other person may do so in the creditor's name, and is subrogated to the rights of the creditor, whether the claim has been filed by the creditor or by the other person in the creditor's name, to the extent that he or she discharges the undertaking. In the absence of an agreement with the creditor to the contrary, the other person is not entitled to a distribution until the amount paid to the creditor on the undertaking plus the distributions paid on the claim from the insurer's estate to the creditor equals the amount of the entire claim of the creditor. The creditor shall hold any excess received by him or her in trust for the other person. The term "other person" as used in this section does not apply to a guaranty association or foreign guaranty association. [1993 c 462 § 67.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.31.155 Unclaimed funds—Liquidator's application for discharge—Duties of state treasurer.** Unclaimed funds subject to distribution remaining in the liquidator's hands when he or she is ready to apply to the court for discharge, including the amount distributable to a person who is unknown or cannot be found, shall be deposited with the state treasurer, and shall be paid without interest to the person entitled to them or his or her legal representative upon proof satisfactory to the state treasurer of his or her right to them. An amount on deposit not claimed within six years from the discharge of the liquidator is deemed to have been abandoned and shall be escheated without formal escheat proceedings and be deposited with the state treasurer. [1993 c 462 § 68.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.31.161 After termination of liquidation proceeding—Good cause to reopen proceedings.** After the liquidation proceeding has been terminated and the liquidator discharged, the commissioner or other interested party may at any time petition the court to reopen the proceedings for good cause, including the discovery of additional assets. If the court is satisfied that there is justification for reopening, it shall so order. [1993 c 462 § 69.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See note following RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.31.165 Domiciliary receiver not appointed—Court order to liquidate—Notice—Domiciliary receiver appointed in other state.** (1) If no domiciliary receiver has been appointed, the commissioner may apply to the court for an order directing him or her to liquidate the assets found in this state of a foreign insurer or an alien insurer not domiciled in this state, on any of the grounds stated in: RCW 48.31.030, except subsection (10) of that section; 48.31.050(2); or 48.31.080.

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(2) When an order is sought under subsection (1) of this section, the court shall cause the insurer to be given thirty days' notice and time to respond, or a lesser period reasonable under the circumstances.

(3) If it appears to the court that the best interests of creditors, policyholders, and the public require, the court may issue an order to liquidate in whatever terms it deems appropriate. The filing or recording of the order with the recorder of deeds of the county in which the principal business of the company in this state is located or the county in which its principal office or place of business in this state is located, imparts the same notice as a deed or other evidence of title duly filed or recorded with that recorder of deeds would have imparted.

(4) If a domiciliary liquidator is appointed in a reciprocal state while a liquidation is proceeding under this section, the liquidator under this section shall thereafter act as ancillary receiver under RCW 48.99.030. If a domiciliary liquidator is appointed in a nonreciprocal state while a liquidation is proceeding under this section, the liquidator under this section may petition the court for permission to act as ancillary receiver under RCW 48.99.030.

(5) On the same grounds as are specified in subsection (1) of this section, the commissioner may petition an appropriate federal court to be appointed receiver to liquidate that portion of the insurer's assets and business over which the court will exercise jurisdiction, or any lesser part thereof that the commissioner deems desirable for the protection of policyholders, creditors, and the public in this state.

(6) The court may order the commissioner, when he or she has liquidated the assets of a foreign or alien insurer under this section, to pay claims of residents of this state against the insurer under those rules on the liquidation of insurers under this chapter that are otherwise compatible with this section. [1993 c 462 § 70.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.31.171 Domiciliary liquidator—Reciprocal state—Nonreciprocal state—Commissioner's duties.** (1) Except as to special deposits and security on secured claims under RCW 48.99.030(2), the domiciliary liquidator of an insurer domiciled in a reciprocal state is vested by operation of law with the title to all of the assets, property, contracts, and rights of action, agents' balances, and all the books, accounts, and other records of the insurer located in this state. The date of vesting is the date of the filing of the petition, if that date is specified by the domiciliary law for the vesting of property in the domiciliary state. Otherwise, the date of vesting is the date of entry of the order directing possession to be taken. The domiciliary liquidator has the immediate right to recover balances due from agents and to obtain possession of the books, accounts, and other records of the insurer located in this state. The domiciliary liquidator also has the right to recover all other assets of the insurer located in this state, subject to RCW 48.99.030.

(2) If a domiciliary liquidator is appointed for an insurer not domiciled in a reciprocal state, the commissioner of this state is vested by operation of law with the title to all of the property, contracts, and rights of action, and all the books, accounts, and other records of the insurer located in this state, at the same time that the domiciliary liquidator is vest-

ed with title in the domicile. The commissioner of this state may petition for a conservation or liquidation order under RCW 48.31.100 or 48.99.030, or for an ancillary receivership under RCW 48.99.030, or after approval by the court may transfer title to the domiciliary liquidator, as the interests of justice and the equitable distribution of the assets require.

(3) Claimants residing in this state may file claims with the liquidator or ancillary receiver, if any, in this state or with the domiciliary liquidator, if the domiciliary law permits. The claims must be filed on or before the last date fixed for the filing of claims in the domiciliary liquidation proceedings. [1993 c 462 § 71.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.31.175 Foreign or alien insurer—Property located in this state—Commissioner's discretion.** The commissioner in his or her sole discretion may institute proceedings under RCW 48.31.121 at the request of the commissioner or other appropriate insurance official of the domiciliary state of a foreign or alien insurer having property located in this state. [1993 c 462 § 72.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.31.181 Liquidation proceedings—One or more reciprocal states—Distributions—Special deposit claims—Secured claims.** (1) In a liquidation proceeding in this state involving one or more reciprocal states, the order of distribution of the domiciliary state controls as to claims of residents of this and reciprocal states. Claims of residents of reciprocal states shall be given equal priority of payment from general assets regardless of where the assets are located.

(2) The owners of special deposit claims against an insurer for which a liquidator is appointed in this or any other state shall be given priority against the special deposits in accordance with the statutes governing the creation and maintenance of the deposits. If there is a deficiency in a deposit, so that the claims secured by it are not fully discharged from it, the claimants may share in the general assets, but the sharing shall be deferred until general creditors, and also claimants against other special deposits who have received smaller percentages from their respective special deposits, have been paid percentages of their claims equal to the percentage paid from the special deposit.

(3) The owner of a secured claim against an insurer for which a liquidator has been appointed in this or another state may surrender his or her security and file his or her claim as a general creditor, or the claim may be discharged by resort to the security, in which case the deficiency, if any, shall be treated as a claim against the general assets of the insurer on the same basis as claims of unsecured creditors. [1993 c 462 § 73.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.31.184 Ancillary receiver in another state or foreign country—Failure to transfer assets.** If an ancillary receiver in another state or foreign country, whether called

by that name or not, fails to transfer to the domiciliary liquidator in this state assets within his or her control other than special deposits, diminished only by the expenses of the ancillary receivership, if any, then the claims filed in the ancillary receivership, other than special deposit claims or secured claims, shall be placed in the class of claims under RCW 48.31.280(7). [1993 c 462 § 74.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.31.185 Receiver's proposal to disperse assets upon liquidation—Application for approval—Contents of proposal—Notice of application.** (1) Within one hundred twenty days of a final determination of insolvency of an insurer and order of liquidation by a court of competent jurisdiction of this state, the receiver shall make application to the court for approval of a proposal to disperse assets out of such insurer's marshalled assets from time to time as such assets become available to the Washington Insurance Guaranty Association and the Washington Life and Disability Insurance Guaranty Association and to any entity or person performing a similar function in another state. (The Washington Insurance Guaranty Association and the Washington Life and Disability Insurance Guaranty Association and any entity or person performing a similar function in other states shall in this section be referred to collectively as the "associations".)

(2) Such proposal shall at least include provisions for:

(a) Reserving amounts for the payment of claims falling within the priorities established in \*RCW 48.31.280 (2)(a), (b), and (c) as now or hereafter amended;

(b) Disbursement of the assets marshalled to date and subsequent disbursements of assets as they become available;

(c) Equitable allocation of disbursements to each of the associations entitled thereto;

(d) The securing by the receiver from each of the associations entitled to disbursements pursuant to this section an agreement to return to the receiver such assets previously disbursed as may be required to pay claims of secured creditors and claims falling within the priorities established in RCW 48.31.280 as now or hereafter amended in accordance with such priorities. No bond shall be required of any such association; and

(e) A full report to be made by the association to the receiver accounting for all assets so disbursed to the association, all disbursements made therefrom, any interest earned by the association on such assets, and any other matters as the court may direct.

(3) The receiver's proposal shall provide for disbursements to the associations in amounts estimated at least equal to the claim payments made or to be made thereby for which such associations could assert a claim against the receiver, and shall further provide that if the assets available for disbursement from time to time do not equal or exceed the amount of such claim payments made or to be made by the associations then disbursements shall be in the amount of available assets.

(4) The receiver's proposal shall, with respect to an insolvent insurer writing life insurance, disability insurance, or annuities, provide for disbursements of assets to the Washington Life and Disability Insurance Guaranty Association or to any other entity or organization reinsuring,

assuming, or guaranteeing policies or contracts of insurance under the provisions of the Washington Life and Disability Insurance Guaranty Association Act.

(5) Notice of such application shall be given to the associations in and to the commissioners of insurance of each of the states. Any such notice shall be deemed to have been given when deposited in the United States certified mails, first class postage prepaid, at least thirty days prior to submission of such application to the court. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 109 § 10.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 48.31.280 was amended by 1993 c 462 § 83 which deleted subsection (2)(a), (b), and (c) of that section. See subsections (1), (2), and (5).

**48.31.190 Commencement of proceeding—Venue—Effect of appellate review.** (1) Proceedings under this chapter involving a domestic insurer shall be commenced in the superior court for the county in which is located the insurer's home office or, at the election of the commissioner, in the superior court for Thurston county. Proceedings under this chapter involving other insurers shall be commenced in the superior court for Thurston county.

(2) The commissioner shall commence any such proceeding, the attorney general representing him, by an application to the court or to any judge thereof, for an order directing the insurer to show cause why the commissioner should not have the relief prayed for.

(3) Upon a showing of an emergency or threat of imminent loss to policyholders of the insurer the court may issue an ex parte order authorizing the commissioner immediately to take over the premises and assets of the insurer, the commissioner then to preserve the status quo, pending a hearing on the order to show cause, which shall be heard as soon as the court calendar permits in preference to other civil cases.

(4) In response to any order to show cause issued under this chapter the insurer shall have the burden of going forward with and producing evidence to show why the relief prayed for by the commissioner is not required.

(5) On the return of such order to show cause, and after a full hearing, the court shall either deny the relief sought in the application or grant the relief sought in the application together with such other relief as the nature of the case and the interest of policyholders, creditors, stockholders, members, subscribers, or the public may require.

(6) No appellate review of a superior court order, entered after a hearing, granting the commissioner's petition to rehabilitate an insurer or to carry out an insolvency proceeding under this chapter, shall stay the action of the commissioner in the discharge of his responsibilities under this chapter, pending a decision by the appellate court in the matter.

(7) In any proceeding under this chapter the commissioner and his deputies shall be responsible on their official bonds for the faithful performance of their duties. If the court deems it desirable for the protection of the assets, it may at any time require an additional bond from the commissioner or his deputies. [1993 c 462 § 82; 1988 c 202 § 46; 1969 ex.s. c 241 § 13; 1967 c 150 § 31; 1947 c 79 § .31.19; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.31.19.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**Severability—1988 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.24.050.

**48.31.200 Injunctions.** (1) Upon application by the commissioner for such an order to show cause or at any time thereafter, the court may without notice issue an injunction restraining the insurer, its officers, directors, stockholders, members, subscribers, agents, and all other persons from the transaction of its business or the waste or disposition of its property until the further order of the court.

(2) The court may at any time during a proceeding under this chapter issue such other injunctions or orders as may be deemed necessary to prevent interference with the commissioner or the proceeding, or waste of the assets of the insurer, or the commencement or prosecution of any actions, or the obtaining of preferences, judgments, attachments or other liens, or the making of any levy against the insurer or against its assets or any part thereof. [1947 c 79 § .31.20; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.31.20.]

**48.31.210 Change of venue.** At any time after the commencement of a proceeding under this chapter the commissioner may apply to the court for an order changing the venue of, and removing the proceeding to Thurston county, or to any other county of this state in which he deems that such proceeding may be most economically and efficiently conducted. [1947 c 79 § .31.21; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.31.21.]

**48.31.220 Deposit of moneys collected.** The moneys collected by the commissioner in a proceeding under this chapter, shall be, from time to time, deposited in one or more state or national banks, savings banks, or trust companies, and in the case of the insolvency or voluntary or involuntary liquidation of any such depository which is an institution organized and supervised under the laws of this state, such deposits shall be entitled to priority of payment on an equality with any other priority given by the banking law of this state. The commissioner may in his discretion deposit such moneys or any part thereof in a national bank or trust company as a trust fund. [1947 c 79 § .31.22; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.31.22.]

**48.31.230 Exemption from filing fees.** The commissioner shall not be required to pay any fee to any public officer in this state for filing, recording, issuing a transcript or certificate, or authenticating any paper or instrument pertaining to the exercise by the commissioner of any of the powers or duties conferred upon him under this chapter, whether or not such paper or instrument be executed by the commissioner or his deputies, employees, or attorneys of record and whether or not it is connected with the commencement of an action or proceeding by or against the commissioner, or with the subsequent conduct of such action or proceeding. [1947 c 79 § .31.23; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.31.23.]

**48.31.240 Borrowing on pledge of assets.** For the purpose of facilitating the rehabilitation, liquidation, conservation or dissolution of an insurer pursuant to this chapter the commissioner may, subject to the approval of the court, borrow money and execute, acknowledge and deliver notes



or other evidences of indebtedness therefor and secure the repayment of the same by the mortgage, pledge, assignment, transfer in trust, or hypothecation of any or all of the property whether real, personal or mixed of such insurer, and the commissioner, subject to the approval of the court, shall have power to take any and all other action necessary and proper to consummate any such loans and to provide for the repayment thereof. The commissioner shall be under no obligation personally or in his official capacity as commissioner to repay any loan made pursuant to this section. [1947 c 79 § .31.24; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.31.24.]

**48.31.260 Liquidation—Date rights, liabilities fixed.**

The rights and liabilities of the insurer and of its creditors, policyholders, stockholders, members, subscribers, and all other persons interested in its estate shall, unless otherwise directed by the court, be fixed as of the date on which the order directing the liquidation of the insurer is filed in the office of the clerk of the court which made the order, subject to the provisions of RCW 48.31.300 with respect to the rights of claimants holding contingent claims. [1947 c 79 § .31.26; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.31.26.]

**48.31.270 Voidable transfers.** (1) Any transfer of, or lien upon, the property of an insurer which is made or created within four months prior to the granting of an order to show cause under this chapter with the intent of giving to any creditor or of enabling him to obtain a greater percentage of his debt than any other creditor of the same class and which is accepted by such creditor having reasonable cause to believe that such a preference will occur, shall be voidable.

(2) Every director, officer, employee, stockholder, member, subscriber, and any other person acting on behalf of such insurer who shall be concerned in any such act or deed and every person receiving thereby any property of such insurer or the benefit thereof shall be personally liable therefor and shall be bound to account to the commissioner.

(3) The commissioner as liquidator, rehabilitator or conservator in any proceeding under this chapter, may avoid any transfer of, or lien upon the property of an insurer which any creditor, stockholder, subscriber or member of such insurer might have avoided and may recover the property so transferred unless such person was a bona fide holder for value prior to the date of the granting of an order to show cause under this chapter. Such property or its value may be recovered from anyone who has received it except a bona fide holder for value as above specified. [1947 c 79 § .31.27; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.31.27.]

**48.31.280 Priority and order of distribution of claims.** The priority of distribution of claims from the insurer's estate is as follows: Every claim in a class must be paid in full or adequate funds retained for payment before the members of the next class receive any payment; no subclasses may be established within a class; and no claim by a shareholder, policyholder, or other creditor may circumvent the priority classes through the use of equitable remedies. The order of distribution of claims is:

(1) Class 1. The costs and expenses of administration during rehabilitation and liquidation, including but not limited to the following:

(a) The actual and necessary costs of preserving or recovering the assets of the insurer;

(b) Compensation for all authorized services rendered in the rehabilitation and liquidation;

(c) Necessary filing fees;

(d) The fees and mileage payable to witnesses;

(e) Authorized reasonable attorneys' fees and other professional services rendered in the rehabilitation and liquidation;

(f) The reasonable expenses of a guaranty association or foreign guaranty association for unallocated loss adjustment expenses.

(2) Class 2. Reasonable compensation to employees for services performed to the extent that they do not exceed two months of monetary compensation and represent payment for services performed within one year before the filing of the petition for liquidation or, if rehabilitation preceded liquidation, within one year before the filing of the petition for rehabilitation. Principal officers and directors are not entitled to the benefit of this priority except as otherwise approved by the liquidator and the court. The priority is in lieu of any other similar priority that may be authorized by law as to wages or compensation of employees.

(3) Class 3. Loss claims. For purposes of this section, "loss claims" are all claims under policies, including claims of the federal or a state or local government, for losses incurred, including third-party claims and all claims of a guaranty association or foreign guaranty association. All claims under life insurance and annuity policies, whether for death proceeds, annuity proceeds, or investment values, are loss claims. That portion of any loss indemnification that is provided for by other benefits or advantages recovered by the claimant, is not included in this class, other than benefits or advantages recovered or recoverable in discharge of familial obligation of support or by way of succession at death or a proceeds of life insurance, or as gratuities. No payment by an employer to his or her employee may be treated as a gratuity.

(4) Class 4. Claims under nonassessable policies for unearned premium or other premium refunds and claims of general creditors including claims of ceding and assuming companies in their capacity as such.

(5) Class 5. Claims of the federal or any state or local government except those under subsection (3) of this section. Claims, including those of any governmental body for a penalty or forfeiture, are allowed in this class only to the extent of the pecuniary loss sustained from the act, transaction, or proceeding out of which the penalty or forfeiture arose, with reasonable and actual costs occasioned thereby. The remainder of such claims are postponed to the class of claims under subsection (8) of this section.

(6) Class 6. Claims filed late or any other claims other than claims under subsections (7) and (8) of this section.

(7) Class 7. Surplus or contribution notes, or similar obligations, and premium refunds on assessable policies. Payments to members of domestic mutual insurance companies are limited in accordance with law.

(8) Class 8. The claims of shareholders or other owners in their capacity as shareholders. [1993 c 462 § 83; 1975-

'76 2nd ex.s. c 109 § 1; 1947 c 79 § .31.28; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.31.28.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.31.290 Offsets.** (1) In all cases of mutual debts or mutual credits between the insurer and another person in connection with any action or proceeding under this chapter, such credits and debts shall be set off and the balance only shall be allowed or paid, except as provided in subsection (2) of this section.

(2) No offset shall be allowed in favor of any such person where (a) the obligation of the insurer to such person would not at the date of the entry of any liquidation order, or otherwise, as provided in RCW 48.31.260, entitle him to share as a claimant in the assets of the insurer, or (b) the obligation of the insurer to such person was purchased by or transferred to such person with a view of its being used as an offset, or (c) the obligation of such person is to pay an assessment levied against the members of a mutual insurer, or against the subscribers of a reciprocal insurer, or is to pay a balance upon a subscription to the capital stock of a stock insurer. [1947 c 79 § .31.29; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.31.29.]

**48.31.300 Allowance of contingent and other claims.**

(1) No contingent claim shall share in a distribution of the assets of an insurer which has been adjudicated to be insolvent by an order made pursuant to RCW 48.31.310, except that such claims shall be considered, if properly presented, and may be allowed to share where:

(a) Such claim becomes absolute against the insurer on or before the last day fixed for filing of proofs of claim against the assets of such insurer, or

(b) There is a surplus and the liquidation is thereafter conducted upon the basis that such insurer is solvent.

(2) Where an insurer has been so adjudicated to be insolvent any person who has a cause of action against an insured of such insurer under a liability insurance policy issued by such insurer, shall have the right to file a claim in the liquidation proceeding, regardless of the fact that such claim may be contingent, and such claim may be allowed

(a) If it may be reasonably inferred from the proof presented upon such claim that such person would be able to obtain a judgment upon such cause of action against such insured; and

(b) If such person shall furnish suitable proof, unless the court for good cause shown shall otherwise direct, that no further valid claims against such insurer arising out of his or her cause of action other than those already presented can be made; and

(c) If the total liability of such insurer to all claimants arising out of the same act of its insured shall be no greater than its maximum liability would be were it not in liquidation.

No judgment against such an insured taken after the date of the entry of the liquidation order shall be considered in the liquidation proceedings as evidence of liability, or of the amount of damages, and no judgment against an insured taken by default, inquest or by collusion prior to the entry of the liquidation order shall be considered as conclusive evidence in the liquidation proceeding either of the liability

of such insured to such person upon such cause of action or of the amount of damages to which such person is therein entitled.

(3) No claim of any secured claimant shall be allowed at a sum greater than the difference between the value of the claim without security and the value of the security itself as of the date of the entry of the order of liquidation or such other date set by the court for fixation of rights and liabilities as provided in RCW 48.31.260 unless the claimant shall surrender his or her security to the commissioner in which event the claim shall be allowed in the full amount for which it is valued.

(4) Whether or not the third party files a claim, the insured may file a claim on his or her own behalf in the liquidation.

(5) No claim may be presented under this section if it is or may be covered by a guaranty association or foreign guaranty association. [1993 c 462 § 84; 1947 c 79 § .31.30; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.31.30.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.31.310 Time to file claims.** (1) If upon the granting of an order of liquidation under this chapter or at any time thereafter during the liquidation proceeding, the insurer shall not be clearly solvent, the court shall after such notice and hearing as it deems proper, make an order declaring the insurer to be insolvent. Thereupon, regardless of any prior notice which may have been given to creditors, the commissioner shall notify all persons who may have claims against such insurer and who have not filed proper proofs thereof, to present the same to him, at a place specified in such notice, within four months from the date of the entry of such order, or if the commissioner shall certify that it is necessary, within such longer time as the court shall prescribe. The last day for the filing of proofs of claim shall be specified in the notice. Such notice shall be given in a manner determined by the court.

(2) Proofs of claim may be filed subsequent to the date specified, but no such claim shall share in the distribution of the assets until all allowed claims, proofs of which have been filed before said date, have been paid in full with interest. [1947 c 79 § .31.31; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.31.31.]

**48.31.320 Report for assessment.** Within three years from the date an order of rehabilitation or liquidation of a domestic mutual insurer or a domestic reciprocal insurer was filed in the office of the clerk of the court by which such order was made, the commissioner may make a report to the court setting forth

(1) the reasonable value of the assets of the insurer;

(2) the insurer's probable liabilities; and

(3) the probable necessary assessment, if any, to pay all claims and expenses in full, including expenses of administration. [1947 c 79 § .31.32; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.31.32.]

**48.31.330 Levy of assessment.** (1) Upon the basis of the report provided for in RCW 48.31.320, including any amendments thereof, the court, ex parte, may levy one or more assessments against all members of such insurer who, as shown by the records of the insurer, were members (if a

mutual insurer) or subscribers (if a reciprocal insurer) at any time within one year prior to the date of issuance of the order to show cause under RCW 48.31.190.

(2) Such assessment or assessments shall cover the excess of the probable liabilities over the reasonable value of the assets, together with the estimated cost of collection and percentage of uncollectibility thereof. The total of all assessments against any member or subscriber with respect to any policy, whether levied pursuant to this chapter or pursuant to any other provisions of this code, shall be for no greater amount than that specified in the policy or policies of the member or subscriber and as limited under this code; except that if the court finds that the policy was issued at a rate of premium below the minimum rate lawfully permitted for the risk insured, the court may determine the upper limit of such assessment upon the basis of such minimum rate.

(3) No assessment shall be levied against any member or subscriber with respect to any nonassessable policy issued in accordance with this code. [1947 c 79 § .31.33; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.31.33.]

**48.31.340 Order for payment of assessment.** After levy of assessment as provided in RCW 48.31.330, upon the filing of a further detailed report by the commissioner, the court shall issue an order directing each member (if a mutual insurer) or each subscriber (if a reciprocal insurer) if he shall not pay the amount assessed against him to the commissioner on or before a day to be specified in the order, to show cause why he should not be held liable to pay such assessment together with costs as set forth in RCW 48.31.360 and why the commissioner should not have judgment therefor. [1947 c 79 § .31.34; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.31.34.]

**48.31.350 Publication, transmittal of assessment order.** The commissioner shall cause a notice of such assessment order setting forth a brief summary of the contents of such order to be:

(1) Published in such manner as shall be directed by the court; and

(2) Enclosed in a sealed envelope, addressed and mailed postage prepaid to each member or subscriber liable thereunder at his last known address as it appears on the records of the insurer, at least twenty days before the return day of the order to show cause provided for in RCW 48.31.340. [1947 c 79 § .31.35; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.31.35.]

**48.31.360 Judgment upon the assessment.** (1) On the return day of the order to show cause provided for in RCW 48.31.340 if the member or subscriber does not appear and serve verified objections upon the commissioner, the court shall make an order adjudging that such member or subscriber is liable for the amount of the assessment against him together with ten dollars costs, and that the commissioner may have judgment against the member or subscriber therefor.

(2) If on such return day the member or subscriber shall appear and serve verified objections upon the commissioner there shall be a full hearing before the court or a referee to hear and determine, who, after such hearing, shall make an order either negating the liability of the member or subscriber to pay the assessment or affirming his liability to

pay the whole or some part thereof together with twenty-five dollars costs and the necessary disbursements incurred at such hearing, and directing that the commissioner in the latter case may have judgment therefor.

(3) A judgment upon any such order shall have the same force and effect, and may be entered and docketed, and may be appealed from as if it were a judgment in an original action brought in the court in which the proceeding is pending. [1947 c 79 § .31.36; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.31.36.]

## Chapter 48.31B

### INSURER HOLDING COMPANY ACT

#### Sections

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- 48.31B.070 Person aggrieved by actions of commissioner.
- 48.31B.900 Short title.
- 48.31B.901 Severability—1993 c 462.
- 48.31B.902 Implementation—1993 c 462.

**48.31B.005 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, the following terms have the meanings set forth in this section, unless the context requires otherwise.

(1) An "affiliate" of, or person "affiliated" with, a specific person, is a person who directly, or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, controls, or is controlled by, or is under common control with, the person specified.

(2) The term "control," including the terms "controlling," "controlled by," and "under common control with," means the possession, direct or indirect, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of a person, whether through the ownership of voting securities, by contract other than a commercial contract for goods or nonmanagement services, or otherwise, unless the power is the result of an official position with or corporate office held by the person. Control is presumed to exist if a person, directly or indirectly, owns, controls, holds with the power to vote, or holds proxies representing, ten percent or more of the voting securities of any other person. This

presumption may be rebutted by a showing made in a manner similar to that provided by RCW 48.31B.025(1) that control does not exist in fact. The commissioner may determine, after furnishing all persons in interest notice and opportunity to be heard and making specific findings of fact to support such determination, that control exists in fact, notwithstanding the absence of a presumption to that effect.

(3) An "insurance holding company system" consists of two or more affiliated persons, one or more of which is an insurer.

(4) The term "insurer" has the same meaning as set forth in RCW 48.01.050; it does not include agencies, authorities, or instrumentalities of the United States, its possessions and territories, the commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, or a state or political subdivision of a state.

(5) A "person" is an individual, a corporation, a partnership, an association, a joint stock company, a trust, an unincorporated organization, a similar entity, or any combination of the foregoing acting in concert, but does not include a joint venture partnership exclusively engaged in owning, managing, leasing, or developing real or tangible personal property.

(6) A "securityholder" of a specified person is one who owns a security of that person, including common stock, preferred stock, debt obligations, and any other security convertible into or evidencing the right to acquire any of the foregoing.

(7) A "subsidiary" of a specified person is an affiliate controlled by that person directly or indirectly through one or more intermediaries.

(8) The term "voting security" includes a security convertible into or evidencing a right to acquire a voting security. [1993 c 462 § 2.]

**48.31B.010 Insurer ceases to control subsidiary—Disposal of investment.** If an insurer ceases to control a subsidiary, it shall dispose of any investment in the subsidiary within three years from the time of the cessation of control or within such further time as the commissioner may prescribe, unless at any time after the investment has been made, the investment meets the requirements for investment under any other section of this Title, and the insurer has notified the commissioner thereof. [1993 c 462 § 3.]

**48.31B.015 Control of insurer—Acquisition, merger, or exchange—Preacquisition notification—Jurisdiction of courts.** (1) No person other than the issuer may make a tender offer for or a request or invitation for tenders of, or enter into an agreement to exchange securities of, seek to acquire, or acquire, in the open market or otherwise, voting security of a domestic insurer if, after the consummation thereof, the person would, directly or indirectly, or by conversion or by exercise of a right to acquire, be in control of the insurer. No person may enter into an agreement to merge with or otherwise to acquire control of a domestic insurer or person controlling a domestic insurer unless, at the time the offer, request, or invitation is made or the agreement is entered into, or before the acquisition of the securities if no offer or agreement is involved, the person has filed with the commissioner and has sent to the insurer,

a statement containing the information required by this section and the offer, request, invitation, agreement, or acquisition has been approved by the commissioner as prescribed in this section.

For purposes of this section a domestic insurer includes a person controlling a domestic insurer unless the person, as determined by the commissioner, is either directly or through its affiliates primarily engaged in business other than the business of insurance. However, the person shall file a preacquisition notification with the commissioner containing the information set forth in RCW 48.31B.020(3)(a) sixty days before the proposed effective date of the acquisition. Persons who fail to file the required preacquisition notification with the commissioner are subject to the penalties in RCW 48.31B.020(5)(c). For the purposes of this section, "person" does not include a securities broker holding, in usual and customary broker's function, less than twenty percent of the voting securities of an insurance company or of a person who controls an insurance company.

(2) The statement to be filed with the commissioner under this section must be made under oath or affirmation and must contain the following information:

(a) The name and address of each person by whom or on whose behalf the merger or other acquisition of control referred to in subsection (1) of this section is to be effected, hereinafter called "acquiring party," and:

(i) If that person is an individual, his or her principal occupation and all offices and positions held during the past five years, and any conviction of crimes other than minor traffic violations during the past ten years;

(ii) If that person is not an individual, a report of the nature of its business operations during the past five years or for such lesser period as the person and any predecessors have been in existence; an informative description of the business intended to be done by the person's subsidiaries; any convictions of crimes during the past ten years; and a list of all individuals who are or who have been selected to become directors or executive officers of the person, or who perform or will perform functions appropriate to those positions. The list must include for each such individual the information required by (a)(i) of this subsection.

(b) The source, nature, and amount of the consideration used or to be used in effecting the merger or other acquisition of control, a description of any transaction in which funds were or are to be obtained for any such purpose, including a pledge of the insurer's stock, or the stock of any of its subsidiaries or controlling affiliates, and the identity of persons furnishing the consideration. However, where a source of the consideration is a loan made in the lender's ordinary course of business, the identity of the lender must remain confidential if the person filing the statement so requests.

(c) Fully audited financial information as to the earnings and financial condition of each acquiring party for the preceding five fiscal years of each acquiring party, or for such lesser period as the acquiring party and any predecessors have been in existence, and similar unaudited information as of a date not earlier than ninety days before the filing of the statement.

(d) Any plans or proposals that each acquiring party may have to liquidate the insurer, to sell its assets or merge or consolidate it with any person, or to make any other

material change in its business or corporate structure or management.

(e) The number of shares of any security referred to in subsection (1) of this section that each acquiring party proposes to acquire, the terms of the offer, request, invitation, agreement, or acquisition referred to in subsection (1) of this section, and a statement as to the method by which the fairness of the proposal was arrived at.

(f) The amount of each class of any security referred to in subsection (1) of this section that is beneficially owned or concerning which there is a right to acquire beneficial ownership by each acquiring party.

(g) A full description of any contracts, arrangements, or understandings with respect to any security referred to in subsection (1) of this section in which an acquiring party is involved, including but not limited to transfer of any of the securities, joint ventures, loan or option arrangements, puts or calls, guarantees of loans, guarantees against loss or guarantees of profits, division of losses or profits, or the giving or withholding of proxies. The description must identify the persons with whom the contracts, arrangements, or understandings have been entered into.

(h) A description of the purchase of any security referred to in subsection (1) of this section during the twelve calendar months before the filing of the statement, by an acquiring party, including the dates of purchase, names of the purchasers, and consideration paid or agreed to be paid for the security.

(i) A description of any recommendations to purchase any security referred to in subsection (1) of this section made during the twelve calendar months before the filing of the statement, by an acquiring party, or by anyone based upon interviews or at the suggestion of the acquiring party.

(j) Copies of all tender offers for, requests or invitations for tenders of, exchange offers for, and agreements to acquire or exchange any securities referred to in subsection (1) of this section, and, if distributed, of additional soliciting material relating to the securities.

(k) The term of an agreement, contract, or understanding made with or proposed to be made with a broker-dealer as to solicitation or securities referred to in subsection (1) of this section for tender, and the amount of fees, commissions, or other compensation to be paid to broker-dealers with regard to the securities.

(l) Such additional information as the commissioner may prescribe by rule as necessary or appropriate for the protection of policyholders of the insurer or in the public interest.

If the person required to file the statement referred to in subsection (1) of this section is a partnership, limited partnership, syndicate, or other group, the commissioner may require that the information called for by (a) through (l) of this subsection shall be given with respect to each partner of the partnership or limited partnership, each member of the syndicate or group, and each person who controls a partner or member. If a partner, member, or person is a corporation, or the person required to file the statement referred to in subsection (1) of this section is a corporation, the commissioner may require that the information called for by (a) through (l) of this subsection shall be given with respect to the corporation, each officer and director of the corporation, and each person who is directly or indirectly the beneficial

owner of more than ten percent of the outstanding voting securities of the corporation.

If a material change occurs in the facts set forth in the statement filed with the commissioner and sent to the insurer under this section, an amendment setting forth the change, together with copies of all documents and other material relevant to the change, must be filed with the commissioner and sent to the insurer within two business days after the person learns of the change.

(3) If an offer, request, invitation, agreement, or acquisition referred to in subsection (1) of this section is proposed to be made by means of a registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933 or in circumstances requiring the disclosure of similar information under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or under a state law requiring similar registration or disclosure, the person required to file the statement referred to in subsection (1) of this section may use those documents in furnishing the information called for by that statement.

(4)(a) The commissioner shall approve a merger or other acquisition of control referred to in subsection (1) of this section unless, after a public hearing thereon, he or she finds that:

(i) After the change of control, the domestic insurer referred to in subsection (1) of this section would not be able to satisfy the requirements for the issuance of a license to write the line or lines of insurance for which it is presently licensed;

(ii) The effect of the merger or other acquisition of control would be substantially to lessen competition in insurance in this state or tend to create a monopoly therein. In applying the competitive standard in (a)(ii) of this subsection:

(A) The informational requirements of RCW 48.31B.020(3)(a) and the standards of RCW 48.31B.020(4)(b) apply;

(B) The commissioner may not disapprove the merger or other acquisition if the commissioner finds that any of the situations meeting the criteria provided by RCW 48.31B.020(4)(c) exist; and

(C) The commissioner may condition the approval of the merger or other acquisition on the removal of the basis of disapproval within a specified period of time;

(iii) The financial condition of an acquiring party is such as might jeopardize the financial stability of the insurer, or prejudice the interest of its policyholders;

(iv) The plans or proposals that the acquiring party has to liquidate the insurer, sell its assets, consolidate or merge it with any person, or to make any other material change in its business or corporate structure or management, are unfair and unreasonable to policyholders of the insurer and not in the public interest;

(v) The competence, experience, and integrity of those persons who would control the operation of the insurer are such that it would not be in the interest of policyholders of the insurer and of the public to permit the merger or other acquisition of control; or

(vi) The acquisition is likely to be hazardous or prejudicial to the insurance-buying public.

(b) The commissioner shall approve an exchange or other acquisition of control referred to in this section within sixty days after he or she declares the statement filed under

this section to be complete and after holding a public hearing. At the hearing, the person filing the statement, the insurer, and any person whose significant interest is determined by the commissioner to be affected may present evidence, examine and cross-examine witnesses, and offer oral and written arguments and in connection therewith may conduct discovery proceedings in the same manner as is allowed in the superior court of this state. All discovery proceedings must be concluded not later than three days before the commencement of the public hearing.

(c) The commissioner may retain at the acquiring person's expense any attorneys, actuaries, accountants, and other experts not otherwise a part of the commissioner's staff as may be reasonably necessary to assist the commissioner in reviewing the proposed acquisition of control. All reasonable costs of a hearing held under this section, as determined by the commissioner, including costs associated with the commissioner's use of investigatory, professional, and other necessary personnel, mailing of required notices and other information, and use of equipment or facilities, must be paid before issuance of the commissioner's order by the acquiring person.

(5) This section does not apply to:

(a) A transaction that is subject to RCW 48.31.010, dealing with the merger or consolidation of two or more insurers;

(b) An offer, request, invitation, agreement, or acquisition that the commissioner by order has exempted from this section as: (i) Not having been made or entered into for the purpose and not having the effect of changing or influencing the control of a domestic insurer, or (ii) otherwise not comprehended within the purposes of this section.

(6) The following are violations of this section:

(a) The failure to file a statement, amendment, or other material required to be filed under subsection (1) or (2) of this section; or

(b) The effectuation or an attempt to effectuate an acquisition of control of, or merger with, a domestic insurer unless the commissioner has given approval thereto.

(7) The courts of this state have jurisdiction over every person not resident, domiciled, or authorized to do business in this state who files a statement with the commissioner under this section, and over all actions involving that person arising out of violations of this section, and each such person is deemed to have performed acts equivalent to and constituting an appointment by that person of the commissioner to be the person's true and lawful attorney upon whom may be served all lawful process in an action, suit, or proceeding arising out of violations of this section. Copies of all such lawful process shall be served on the commissioner and transmitted by registered or certified mail by the commissioner to such person at the person's last known address. [1993 c 462 § 4.]

**48.31B.020 Acquisition of insurer—Change in control—Definitions—Exemptions—Competition—Preacquisition notification—Violations—Penalties.** (1) The definitions in this subsection apply only for the purposes of this section.

(a) "Acquisition" means an agreement, arrangement, or activity, the consummation of which results in a person

acquiring directly or indirectly the control of another person, and includes but is not limited to the acquisition of voting securities, the acquisition of assets, bulk reinsurance, and mergers.

(b) An "involved insurer" includes an insurer which either acquires or is acquired, is affiliated with an acquirer or acquired, or is the result of a merger.

(2)(a) Except as exempted in (b) of this subsection, this section applies to any acquisition in which there is a change in control of an insurer authorized to do business in this state.

(b) This section does not apply to the following:

(i) An acquisition subject to approval or disapproval by the commissioner under RCW 48.31B.015;

(ii) A purchase of securities solely for investment purposes so long as the securities are not used by voting or otherwise to cause or attempt to cause the substantial lessening of competition in any insurance market in this state. If a purchase of securities results in a presumption of control under RCW 48.31B.005(2), it is not solely for investment purposes unless the commissioner of the insurer's state of domicile accepts a disclaimer of control or affirmatively finds that control does not exist and the disclaimer action or affirmative finding is communicated by the domiciliary commissioner to the commissioner of this state;

(iii) The acquisition of a person by another person when neither person is directly nor through affiliates primarily engaged in the business of insurance, if preacquisition notification is filed with the commissioner in accordance with subsection (3)(a) of this section sixty days before the proposed effective date of the acquisition. However, preacquisition notification is not required for exclusion from this section if the acquisition would otherwise be excluded from this section by this subsection (2)(b);

(iv) The acquisition of already affiliated persons;

(v) An acquisition if, as an immediate result of the acquisition:

(A) In no market would the combined market share of the involved insurers exceed five percent of the total market;

(B) There would be no increase in any market share; or

(C) In no market would:

(I) The combined market share of the involved insurers exceed twelve percent of the total market; and

(II) The market share increase by more than two percent of the total market.

For the purpose of (b)(v) of this subsection, a "market" means direct written insurance premium in this state for a line of business as contained in the annual statement required to be filed by insurers licensed to do business in this state;

(vi) An acquisition for which a preacquisition notification would be required under this section due solely to the resulting effect on the ocean marine insurance line of business;

(vii) An acquisition of an insurer whose domiciliary commissioner affirmatively finds: That the insurer is in failing condition; there is a lack of feasible alternative to improving such condition; and the public benefits of improving the insurer's condition through the acquisition exceed the public benefits that would arise from not lessening competition; and the findings are communicated by the domiciliary commissioner to the commissioner of this state.

(3) An acquisition covered by subsection (2) of this section may be subject to an order under subsection (5) of this section unless the acquiring person files a preacquisition notification and the waiting period has expired. The acquired person may file a preacquisition notification.

(a) The preacquisition notification must be in such form and contain such information as prescribed by the commissioner relating to those markets that, under subsection (2)(b)(v) of this section, cause the acquisition not to be exempted from this section. The commissioner may require such additional material and information as he or she deems necessary to determine whether the proposed acquisition, if consummated, would violate the competitive standard of subsection (4) of this section. The required information may include an opinion of an economist as to the competitive impact of the acquisition in this state accompanied by a summary of the education and experience of the person indicating his or her ability to render an informed opinion.

(b) The waiting period required begins on the date the commissioner declares the preacquisition notification to be complete and ends on the earlier of the sixtieth day after the date of the declaration or the termination of the waiting period by the commissioner. Before the end of the waiting period, the commissioner may require the submission of additional needed information relevant to the proposed acquisition. If additional information is required, the waiting period ends on the earlier of the sixtieth day after the commissioner declares he or she has received the additional information or the termination of the waiting period by the commissioner.

(4)(a) The commissioner may enter an order under subsection (5)(a) of this section with respect to an acquisition if there is substantial evidence that the effect of the acquisition may be substantially to lessen competition in a line of insurance in this state or tend to create a monopoly therein or if the insurer fails to file adequate information in compliance with subsection (3) of this section.

(b) In determining whether a proposed acquisition would violate the competitive standard of (a) of this subsection, the commissioner shall consider the following:

(i) An acquisition covered under subsection (2) of this section involving two or more insurers competing in the same market is prima facie evidence of violation of the competitive standards:

(A) If the market is highly concentrated and the involved insurers possess the following shares of the market:

Insurer A	Insurer B
4%	4% or more
10%	2% or more
15%	1% or more; or

(B) If the market is not highly concentrated and the involved insurers possess the following shares of the market:

Insurer A	Insurer B
5%	5% or more
10%	4% or more
15%	3% or more
19%	1% or more

A highly concentrated market is one in which the share of the four largest insurers is seventy-five percent or more

of the market. Percentages not shown in the tables are interpolated proportionately to the percentages that are shown. If more than two insurers are involved, exceeding the total of the two columns in the table is prima facie evidence of violation of the competitive standard in (a) of this subsection. For the purpose of (b)(i) of this subsection, the insurer with the largest share of the market is Insurer A.

(ii) There is a significant trend toward increased concentration when the aggregate market share of a grouping of the largest insurers in the market, from the two largest to the eight largest, has increased by seven percent or more of the market over a period of time extending from a base year five to ten years before the acquisition up to the time of the acquisition. An acquisition or merger covered under subsection (2) of this section involving two or more insurers competing in the same market is prima facie evidence of violation of the competitive standard in (a) of this subsection if:

(A) There is a significant trend toward increased concentration in the market;

(B) One of the insurers involved is one of the insurers in a grouping of such large insurers showing the requisite increase in the market share; and

(C) Another involved insurer's market is two percent or more.

(iii) For the purposes of (b) of this subsection:

(A) The term "insurer" includes a company or group of companies under common management, ownership, or control;

(B) The term "market" means the relevant product and geographical markets. In determining the relevant product and geographical markets, the commissioner shall give due consideration to, among other things, the definitions or guidelines, if any, adopted by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners and to information, if any, submitted by parties to the acquisition. In the absence of sufficient information to the contrary, the relevant product market is assumed to be the direct written insurance premium for a line of business, such line being that used in the annual statement required to be filed by insurers doing business in this state, and the relevant geographical market is assumed to be this state;

(C) The burden of showing prima facie evidence of violation of the competitive standard rests upon the commissioner.

(iv) Even though an acquisition is not prima facie violative of the competitive standard under (b)(i) and (ii) of this subsection, the commissioner may establish the requisite anticompetitive effect based upon other substantial evidence. Even though an acquisition is prima facie violative of the competitive standard under (b)(i) and (ii) of this subsection, a party may establish the absence of the requisite anticompetitive effect based upon other substantial evidence. Relevant factors in making a determination under (b)(iv) of this subsection include, but are not limited to, the following: Market shares, volatility of ranking of market leaders, number of competitors, concentration, trend of concentration in the industry, and ease of entry and exit into the market.

(c) An order may not be entered under subsection (5)(a) of this section if:

(i) The acquisition will yield substantial economies of scale or economies in resource use that cannot be feasibly

achieved in any other way, and the public benefits that would arise from the economies exceed the public benefits that would arise from not lessening competition; or

(ii) The acquisition will substantially increase the availability of insurance, and the public benefits of the increase exceed the public benefits that would arise from not lessening competition.

(5)(a)(i) If an acquisition violates the standards of this section, the commissioner may enter an order:

(A) Requiring an involved insurer to cease and desist from doing business in this state with respect to the line or lines of insurance involved in the violation; or

(B) Denying the application of an acquired or acquiring insurer for a license to do business in this state.

(ii) The commissioner may not enter the order unless: (A) There is a hearing; (B) notice of the hearing is issued before the end of the waiting period and not less than fifteen days before the hearing; and (C) the hearing is concluded and the order is issued no later than sixty days after the end of the waiting period. Every order must be accompanied by a written decision of the commissioner setting forth his or her findings of fact and conclusions of law.

(iii) An order entered under (a) of this subsection may not become final earlier than thirty days after it is issued, during which time the involved insurer may submit a plan to remedy the anticompetitive impact of the acquisition within a reasonable time. Based upon the plan or other information, the commissioner shall specify the conditions, if any, under the time period during which the aspects of the acquisition causing a violation of the standards of this section would be remedied and the order vacated or modified.

(iv) An order pursuant to (a) of this subsection does not apply if the acquisition is not consummated.

(b) A person who violates a cease and desist order of the commissioner under (a) of this subsection and while the order is in effect, may, after notice and hearing and upon order of the commissioner, be subject at the discretion of the commissioner to one or more of the following:

(i) A monetary penalty of not more than ten thousand dollars for every day of violation; or

(ii) Suspension or revocation of the person's license; or

(iii) Both (b)(i) and (b)(ii) of this subsection.

(c) An insurer or other person who fails to make a filing required by this section and who also fails to demonstrate a good faith effort to comply with the filing requirement, is subject to a civil penalty of not more than fifty thousand dollars.

(6) RCW 48.31B.045 (2) and (3) and 48.31B.050 do not apply to acquisitions covered under subsection (2) of this section. [1993 c 462 § 5.]

**48.31B.025 Registration with commissioner—Information required—Rule making—Disclaimer of affiliation—Failure to file.** (1) Every insurer authorized to do business in this state that is a member of an insurance holding company system shall register with the commissioner, except a foreign insurer subject to registration requirements and standards adopted by statute or regulation in the jurisdiction of its domicile that are substantially similar to those contained in:

(a) This section;

(b) RCW 48.31B.030 (1)(a), (2), and (3); and

(c) Either RCW 48.31B.030(1)(b) or a provision such as the following: Each registered insurer shall keep current the information required to be disclosed in its registration statement by reporting all material changes or additions within fifteen days after the end of the month in which it learns of each change or addition.

An insurer subject to registration under this section shall register within fifteen days after it becomes subject to registration, and annually thereafter by May 15th of each year for the previous calendar year, unless the commissioner for good cause shown extends the time for registration, and then within the extended time. The commissioner may require an insurer authorized to do business in the state that is a member of a holding company system, but that is not subject to registration under this section, to furnish a copy of the registration statement, the summary specified in subsection (3) of this section, or other information filed by the insurance company with the insurance regulatory authority of its domiciliary jurisdiction.

(2) An insurer subject to registration shall file the registration statement on a form prescribed by the commissioner, containing the following current information:

(a) The capital structure, general financial condition, ownership, and management of the insurer and any person controlling the insurer;

(b) The identity and relationship of every member of the insurance holding company system;

(c) The following agreements in force, and transactions currently outstanding or that have occurred during the last calendar year between the insurer and its affiliates:

(i) Loans, other investments, or purchases, sales, or exchanges of securities of the affiliates by the insurer or of the insurer by its affiliates;

(ii) Purchases, sales, or exchange of assets;

(iii) Transactions not in the ordinary course of business;

(iv) Guarantees or undertakings for the benefit of an affiliate that result in an actual contingent exposure of the insurer's assets to liability, other than insurance contracts entered into in the ordinary course of the insurer's business;

(v) All management agreements, service contracts, and cost-sharing arrangements;

(vi) Reinsurance agreements;

(vii) Dividends and other distributions to shareholders; and

(viii) Consolidated tax allocation agreements;

(d) Any pledge of the insurer's stock, including stock of subsidiary or controlling affiliate, for a loan made to a member of the insurance holding company system;

(e) Other matters concerning transactions between registered insurers and affiliates as may be included from time to time in registration forms adopted or approved by the commissioner.

(3) Registration statements must contain a summary outlining all items in the current registration statement representing changes from the prior registration statement.

(4) No information need be disclosed on the registration statement filed under subsection (2) of this section if the information is not material for the purposes of this section. Unless the commissioner by rule or order provides otherwise, sales, purchases, exchanges, loans or extensions of



credit, investments, or guarantees involving one-half of one percent or less of an insurer's admitted assets as of the 31st day of the previous December are not material for purposes of this section.

(5)(a) Subject to RCW 48.31B.030(2), each registered insurer shall report to the commissioner all dividends and other distributions to shareholders within five business days after their declaration and at least fifteen business days before payment, and shall provide the commissioner such other information as may be required by rule.

(b) If the commissioner determines that a registered insurer's surplus as regards policyholders is not reasonable in relation to the insurer's outstanding liabilities and adequate to its financial needs, the commissioner may order the registered insurance company to limit or discontinue the payment of stockholder dividends until such time as the surplus is adequate.

(6) A person within an insurance holding company system subject to registration shall provide complete and accurate information to an insurer, where the information is reasonably necessary to enable the insurer to comply with this chapter.

(7) The commissioner shall terminate the registration of an insurer that demonstrates that it no longer is a member of an insurance holding company system.

(8) The commissioner may require or allow two or more affiliated insurers subject to registration under this section to file a consolidated registration statement.

(9) The commissioner may allow an insurer authorized to do business in this state and part of an insurance holding company system to register on behalf of an affiliated insurer that is required to register under subsection (1) of this section and to file all information and material required to be filed under this section.

(10) This section does not apply to an insurer, information, or transaction if and to the extent that the commissioner by rule or order exempts the insurer, information, or transaction from this section.

(11) A person may file with the commissioner a disclaimer of affiliation with an authorized insurer, or an insurer or a member of an insurance holding company system may file the disclaimer. The disclaimer must fully disclose all material relationships and bases for affiliation between the person and the insurer as well as the basis for disclaiming the affiliation. After a disclaimer has been filed, the insurer is relieved of any duty to register or report under this section that may arise out of the insurer's relationship with the person unless and until the commissioner disallows the disclaimer. The commissioner shall disallow the [the] disclaimer only after furnishing all parties in interest with notice and opportunity to be heard and after making specific findings of fact to support the disallowance.

(12) Failure to file a registration statement or a summary of the registration statement required by this section within the time specified for the filing is a violation of this section. [1993 c 462 § 6.]

**48.31B.030 Insurer subject to registration—Standards for transactions within a holding company system—Extraordinary dividends or distributions—Insurer's surplus.** (1)(a) Transactions within a holding

company system to which an insurer subject to registration is a party are subject to the following standards:

(i) The terms must be fair and reasonable;  
(ii) Charges or fees for services performed must be fair and reasonable;

(iii) Expenses incurred and payment received must be allocated to the insurer in conformity with customary insurance accounting practices consistently applied;

(iv) The books, accounts, and records of each party to all such transactions must be so maintained as to clearly and accurately disclose the nature and details of the transactions, including such accounting information as is necessary to support the reasonableness of the charges or fees to the respective parties; and

(v) The insurer's surplus regarding policyholders after dividends or distributions to shareholders or affiliates must be reasonable in relation to the insurer's outstanding liabilities and adequate to its financial needs.

(b) The following transactions involving a domestic insurer and a person in its holding company system may not be entered into unless the insurer has notified the commissioner in writing of its intention to enter into the transaction and the commissioner declares the notice to be sufficient at least sixty days before, or such shorter period as the commissioner may permit, and the commissioner has not disapproved it within that period:

(i) Sales, purchases, exchanges, loans or extensions of credit, guarantees, or investments if the transactions are equal to or exceed: (A) With respect to nonlife insurers, the lesser of three percent of the insurer's admitted assets or twenty-five percent of surplus as regards policyholders; (B) with respect to life insurers, three percent of the insurer's admitted assets; each as of the 31st day of the previous December;

(ii) Loans or extensions of credit to any person who is not an affiliate, where the insurer makes the loans or extensions of credit with the agreement or understanding that the proceeds of the transactions, in whole or in substantial part, are to be used to make loans or extensions of credit to, to purchase assets of, or to make investments in, an affiliate of the insurer making the loans or extensions of credit if the transactions are equal to or exceed: (A) With respect to nonlife insurers, the lesser of three percent of the insurer's admitted assets or twenty-five percent of surplus as regards policyholders; (B) with respect to life insurers, three percent of the insurer's admitted assets; each as of the 31st day of the previous December;

(iii) Reinsurance agreements or modifications to them in which the reinsurance premium or a change in the insurer's liabilities equals or exceeds five percent of the insurer's surplus as regards policyholders, as of the 31st day of the previous December, including those agreements that may require as consideration the transfer of assets from an insurer to a nonaffiliate, if an agreement or understanding exists between the insurer and nonaffiliate that any portion of the assets will be transferred to one or more affiliates of the insurer;

(iv) Management agreements, service contracts, and cost-sharing arrangements; and

(v) Material transactions, specified by rule, that the commissioner determines may adversely affect the interests of the insurer's policyholders.

Nothing contained in this section authorizes or permits a transaction that, in the case of an insurer not a member of the same holding company system, would be otherwise contrary to law.

(c) A domestic insurer may not enter into transactions that are part of a plan or series of like transactions with persons within the holding company system if the purpose of those separate transactions is to avoid the statutory threshold amount and thus avoid the review that would occur otherwise. If the commissioner determines that the separate transactions were entered into over a twelve-month period for that purpose, the commissioner may apply for an order as described in RCW 48.31B.045(1).

(d) The commissioner, in reviewing transactions under (b) of this subsection, shall consider whether the transactions comply with the standards set forth in (a) of this subsection and whether they may adversely affect the interests of policyholders.

(e) The commissioner shall be notified within thirty days of an investment of the domestic insurer in any one corporation if the total investment in the corporation by the insurance holding company system exceeds ten percent of the corporation's voting securities.

(2)(a) No domestic insurer may pay an extraordinary dividend or make any other extraordinary distribution to its shareholders until: (i) Thirty days after the commissioner declares that he or she has received sufficient notice of the declaration thereof and has not within that period disapproved the payment; or (ii) the commissioner has approved the payment within the thirty-day period.

(b) For purposes of this section, an extraordinary dividend or distribution is a dividend or distribution of cash or other property whose fair market value, together with that of other dividends or distributions made within the period of twelve consecutive months ending on the date on which the proposed dividend is scheduled for payment or distribution, exceeds the greater of: (i) Ten percent of the company's surplus as regards policyholders as of the 31st day of the previous December; or (ii) the net gain from operations of the company if the company is a life insurance company, or the net income if the company is not a life insurance company, for the twelve month period ending the 31st day of the previous December, but does not include pro rata distributions of any class of the company's own securities.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an insurer may declare an extraordinary dividend or distribution that is conditional upon the commissioner's approval. The declaration confers no rights upon shareholders until: (i) The commissioner has approved the payment of the dividend or distribution; or (ii) the commissioner has not disapproved the payment within the thirty-day period referred to in (a) of this subsection.

(3) For purposes of this chapter, in determining whether an insurer's surplus as regards policyholders is reasonable in relation to the insurer's outstanding liabilities and adequate to its financial needs, the following factors, among others, may be considered:

(a) The size of the insurer as measured by its assets, capital and surplus, reserves, premium writings, insurance in force, and other appropriate criteria;

(b) The extent to which the insurer's business is diversified among the several lines of insurance;

(c) The number and size of risks insured in each line of business;

(d) The extent of the geographical dispersion of the insurer's insured risks;

(e) The nature and extent of the insurer's reinsurance program;

(f) The quality, diversification, and liquidity of the insurer's investment portfolio;

(g) The recent past and projected future trend in the size of the insurer's surplus as regards policyholders;

(h) The surplus as regards policyholders maintained by other comparable insurers;

(i) The adequacy of the insurer's reserves;

(j) The quality and liquidity of investments in affiliates.

The commissioner may discount any such investment or may treat any such investment as a disallowed asset for purposes of determining the adequacy of surplus as regards policyholders whenever in his or her judgment the investment so warrants; and

(k) The quality of the insurer's earnings and the extent to which the reported earnings include extraordinary items. [1993 c 462 § 7.]

**48.31B.035 Examination of insurers—Commissioner may order production of information—Failure to comply—Costs of examination.** (1) Subject to the limitation contained in this section and in addition to the powers that the commissioner has under chapter 48.03 RCW relating to the examination of insurers, the commissioner also may order an insurer registered under RCW 48.31B.025 to produce such records, books, or other information papers in the possession of the insurer or its affiliates as are reasonably necessary to ascertain the financial condition of the insurer or to determine compliance with this title. If the insurer fails to comply with the order, the commissioner may examine the affiliates to obtain the information.

(2) The commissioner may retain at the registered insurer's expense such attorneys, actuaries, accountants, and other experts not otherwise a part of the commissioner's staff as are reasonably necessary to assist in the conduct of the examination under subsection (1) of this section. Persons so retained are under the direction and control of the commissioner and shall act in a purely advisory capacity.

(3) Each registered insurer producing for examination records, books, and papers under subsection (1) of this section are liable for and shall pay the expense of the examination in accordance with RCW 48.03.060. [1993 c 462 § 8.]

**48.31B.040 Rule making.** The commissioner may, upon notice and opportunity for all interested persons to be heard, adopt rules and issue orders that are necessary to carry out this chapter. [1993 c 462 § 9.]

**48.31B.045 Violations of chapter—Commissioner may seek superior court order.** (1) Whenever it appears to the commissioner that an insurer or a director, officer, employee, or agent of the insurer has committed or is about to commit a violation of this chapter or any rule or order of the commissioner under this chapter, the commissioner may apply to the superior court for Thurston county or to the

court for the county in which the principal office of the insurer is located for an order enjoining the insurer or the director, officer, employee, or agent from violating or continuing to violate this chapter or any such rule or order, and for such other equitable relief as the nature of the case and the interest of the insurer's policyholders, creditors, and shareholders or the public may require.

(2) No security that is the subject of an agreement or arrangement regarding acquisition, or that is acquired or to be acquired, in contravention of this chapter or of a rule or order of the commissioner under this chapter may be voted at a shareholders' meeting, or may be counted for quorum purposes. Any action of shareholders requiring the affirmative vote of a percentage of shares may be taken as though the securities were not issued and outstanding, but no action taken at any such meeting may be invalidated by the voting of the securities, unless the action would materially affect control of the insurer or unless the courts of this state have so ordered. If an insurer or the commissioner has reason to believe that a security of the insurer has been or is about to be acquired in contravention of this chapter or of a rule or order of the commissioner under this chapter, the insurer or the commissioner may apply to the superior court for Thurston county or to the court for the county in which the insurer has its principal place of business to enjoin an offer, request, invitation, agreement, or acquisition made in contravention of RCW 48.31B.015 or a rule or order of the commissioner under that section to enjoin the voting of a security so acquired, to void a vote of the security already cast at a meeting of shareholders, and for such other relief as the nature of the case and the interest of the insurer's policyholders, creditors, and shareholders or the public may require.

(3) If a person has acquired or is proposing to acquire voting securities in violation of this chapter or a rule or order of the commissioner under this chapter, the superior court for Thurston county or the court for the county in which the insurer has its principal place of business may, on such notice as the court deems appropriate, upon the application of the insurer or the commissioner seize or sequester voting securities of the insurer owned directly or indirectly by the person, and issue such order with respect to the securities as may be appropriate to carry out this chapter.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, for the purposes of this chapter, the situs of the ownership of the securities of domestic insurers is in this state. [1993 c 462 § 10.]

**48.31B.050 Violations of chapter—Penalties—Civil forfeitures—Orders—Referral to prosecuting attorney—Imprisonment.** (1) The commissioner shall require, after notice and hearing, an insurer failing, without just cause, to file a registration statement as required in this chapter, to pay a penalty of not more than ten thousand dollars per day. The maximum penalty under this section is one million dollars. The commissioner may reduce the penalty if the insurer demonstrates to the commissioner that the imposition of the penalty would constitute a financial hardship to the insurer. The commissioner shall pay a fine collected under this section to the state treasurer for the account of the general fund.

(2) Every director or officer of an insurance holding company system who knowingly violates this chapter, or participates in, or assents to, or who knowingly permits an officer or agent of the insurer to engage in transactions or make investments that have not been properly reported or submitted under RCW 48.31B.025(1) or 48.31B.030(1)(b) or (2), or that violate this chapter, shall pay, in their individual capacity, a civil forfeiture of not more than ten thousand dollars per violation, after notice and hearing before the commissioner. In determining the amount of the civil forfeiture, the commissioner shall take into account the appropriateness of the forfeiture with respect to the gravity of the violation, the history of previous violations, and such other matters as justice may require.

(3) Whenever it appears to the commissioner that an insurer subject to this chapter or a director, officer, employee, or agent of the insurer has engaged in a transaction or entered into a contract that is subject to RCW 48.31B.030 and that would not have been approved had approval been requested, the commissioner may order the insurer to cease and desist immediately any further activity under that transaction or contract. After notice and hearing the commissioner may also order the insurer to void any such contracts and restore the status quo if that action is in the best interest of the policyholders, creditors, or the public.

(4) Whenever it appears to the commissioner that an insurer or a director, officer, employee, or agent of the insurer has committed a willful violation of this chapter, the commissioner may refer the matter to the prosecuting attorney of Thurston county or the county in which the principal office of the insurer is located. An insurer that willfully violates this chapter may be fined not more than one million dollars. Any individual who willfully violates this chapter may be fined in his or her individual capacity not more than ten thousand dollars, or be imprisoned for not more than three years, or both.

(5) An officer, director, or employee of an insurance holding company system who willfully and knowingly subscribes to or makes or causes to be made a false statement or false report or false filing with the intent to deceive the commissioner in the performance of his or her duties under this chapter, upon conviction thereof, shall be imprisoned for not more than three years or fined not more than ten thousand dollars or both. The officer, director, or employee upon whom the fine is imposed shall pay the fine in his or her individual capacity. [1993 c 462 § 11.]

**48.31B.055 Violations of chapter—Impairment of financial condition—Commissioner may take possession.** Whenever it appears to the commissioner that a person has committed a violation of this chapter that so impairs the financial condition of a domestic insurer as to threaten insolvency or make the further transaction of business by it hazardous to its policyholders, creditors, shareholders, or the public, the commissioner may proceed as provided in RCW 48.31.030 and 48.31.040 to take possession of the property of the domestic insurer and to conduct the business of the insurer. [1993 c 462 § 12.]

**48.31B.060 Order for liquidation or rehabilitation—Recovery of distributions or payments—Personal**

**liability—Maximum amount recoverable.** (1) If an order for liquidation or rehabilitation of a domestic insurer has been entered, the receiver appointed under the order may recover on behalf of the insurer: (a) From a parent corporation or holding company or person or affiliate who otherwise controlled the insurer, the amount of distributions, other than distributions of shares of the same class of stock, paid by the insurer on its capital stock; or (b) a payment in the form of a bonus, termination settlement, or extraordinary lump sum salary adjustment made by the insurer or its subsidiary to a director, officer, or employee, where the distribution or payment under (a) or (b) of this subsection is made at any time during the one year before the petition for liquidation, conservation, or rehabilitation, as the case may be, subject to the limitations of subsections (2), (3), and (4) of this section.

(2) No such distribution is recoverable if it is shown that when paid, the distribution was lawful and reasonable, and that the insurer did not know and could not reasonably have known that the distribution might adversely affect the ability of the insurer to fulfill its contractual obligations.

(3) A person who was a parent corporation or holding company or a person who otherwise controlled the insurer or affiliate when the distributions were paid is liable up to the amount of distributions or payments under subsection (1) of this section the person received. A person who controlled the insurer at the time the distributions were declared is liable up to the amount of distributions he or she would have received if they had been paid immediately. If two or more persons are liable with respect to the same distributions, they are jointly and severally liable.

(4) The maximum amount recoverable under this section is the amount needed in excess of all other available assets of the impaired or insolvent insurer to pay the contractual obligations of the impaired or insolvent insurer and to reimburse any guaranty funds.

(5) To the extent that a person liable under subsection (3) of this section is insolvent or otherwise fails to pay claims due from it under those provisions, its parent corporation or holding company or person who otherwise controlled it at the time the distribution was paid, is jointly and severally liable for a resulting deficiency in the amount recovered from the parent corporation or holding company or person who otherwise controlled it. [1993 c 462 § 13.]

**48.31B.065 Violations of chapter—Contrary to interests of policyholders or the public—Suspension, revocation, or nonrenewal of license.** Whenever it appears to the commissioner that a person has committed a violation of this chapter that makes the continued operation of an insurer contrary to the interests of policyholders or the public, the commissioner may, after giving notice and an opportunity to be heard, determine to suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew the insurer's license or authority to do business in this state for such period as he or she finds is required for the protection of policyholders or the public. Such a determination must be accompanied by specific findings of fact and conclusions of law. [1993 c 462 § 14.]

**48.31B.070 Person aggrieved by actions of commissioner.** (1) A person aggrieved by an act, determination,

rule, order, or any other action of the commissioner under this chapter may proceed in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 34.05 RCW.

(2) A person aggrieved by a failure of the commissioner to act or make a determination required by this chapter may petition the commissioner under the procedure described in RCW 34.05.330. [1993 c 462 § 15.]

**48.31B.900 Short title.** This chapter may be known and cited as the Insurer Holding Company Act. [1993 c 462 § 1.]

**48.31B.901 Severability—1993 c 462.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1993 c 462 § 112.]

**48.31B.902 Implementation—1993 c 462.** The insurance commissioner may take such steps as are necessary to ensure that this act is implemented on July 25, 1993. [1993 c 462 § 106.]

## Chapter 48.32

### WASHINGTON INSURANCE GUARANTY ASSOCIATION ACT

#### Sections

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**48.32.010 Purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is to provide a mechanism for the payment of covered claims under certain insurance policies to avoid excessive delay in payment and to avoid financial loss to claimants or policyholders because of the insolvency of an insurer, to assist in the detection and prevention of insurer insolvencies, and to provide an association to assess the cost of such protection among insurers. [1971 ex.s. c 265 § 1.]

**48.32.020 Scope.** This chapter shall apply to all kinds of direct insurance, except life, title, surety, disability, credit, mortgage guaranty, workers' compensation and ocean marine

insurance. [1987 c 185 § 29; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 109 § 2; 1971 ex.s. c 265 § 2.]

**Intent—Severability—1987 c 185:** See notes following RCW 51.12.130.

**48.32.030 Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

(1) "Account" means one of the two accounts created in RCW 48.32.040 as now or hereafter amended.

(2) "Association" means the Washington Insurance Guaranty Association created in RCW 48.32.040.

(3) "Commissioner" means the insurance commissioner of this state.

(4) "Covered claim" means an unpaid claim, including one for unearned premiums, which arises out of and is within the coverage of an insurance policy to which this chapter applies issued by an insurer, if such insurer becomes an insolvent insurer after the first day of April, 1971 and (a) the claimant or insured is a resident of this state at the time of the insured event; or (b) the property from which the claim arises is permanently located in this state. "Covered claim" shall not include any amount due any reinsurer, insurer, insurance pool, or underwriting association, as subrogation recoveries or otherwise: PROVIDED, That a claim for any such amount asserted against a person insured under a policy issued by an insurer which has become an insolvent insurer, which, if it were not a claim by or for the benefit of a reinsurer, insurer, insurance pool, or underwriting association, would be a "covered claim" may be filed directly with the receiver of the insolvent insurer, but in no event may any such claim be asserted in any legal action against the insured of such insolvent insurer. In addition, "covered claim" shall not include any claim filed with the association subsequent to the final date set by the court for the filing of claims against the liquidator or receiver of an insolvent insurer.

(5) "Insolvent insurer" means an insurer (a) authorized to transact insurance in this state either at the time the policy was issued or when the insured event occurred and (b) determined to be insolvent and ordered liquidated by a court of competent jurisdiction, and which adjudication was subsequent to the first day of April, 1971.

(6) "Member insurer" means any person who (a) writes any kind of insurance to which this chapter applies under RCW 48.32.020, including the exchange of reciprocal or interinsurance contracts, and (b) holds a certificate of authority to transact insurance in this state.

(7) "Net direct written premiums" means direct gross premiums written in this state on insurance policies to which this chapter applies, less return premiums thereon and dividends paid or credited to policyholders on such direct business. "Net direct written premiums" does not include premiums on contracts between insurers or reinsurers.

(8) "Person" means any individual, corporation, partnership, association, or voluntary organization. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 109 § 3; 1971 ex.s. c 265 § 3.]

**48.32.040 Creation of the association.** There is hereby created a nonprofit unincorporated legal entity to be known as the Washington Insurance Guaranty Association. All insurers defined as member insurers in RCW 48.32.030(6) as now or hereafter amended shall be and

remain members of the association as a condition of their authority to transact insurance in this state. The association shall perform its functions under a plan of operation established and approved under RCW 48.32.070 and shall exercise its powers through a board of directors established under RCW 48.32.050 as now or hereafter amended. For purposes of administration and assessment, the association shall be divided into two separate accounts: (1) The automobile insurance account; and (2) the account for all other insurance to which this chapter applies. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 109 § 4; 1971 ex.s. c 265 § 4.]

**48.32.050 Board of directors.** (1) The board of directors of the association shall consist of not less than five nor more than nine persons serving terms as established in the plan of operation. The members of the board shall be selected by member insurers subject to the approval of the commissioner. Vacancies on the board shall be filled for the remaining period of the term by a majority vote of the remaining board members, subject to the approval of the commissioner.

(2) In approving selections to the board, the commissioner shall consider among other things whether all member insurers are fairly represented.

(3) Members of the board may be reimbursed from the assets of the association for expenses incurred by them as members of the board of directors. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 109 § 5; 1971 ex.s. c 265 § 5.]

**48.32.060 Powers and duties of the association.** (1) The association shall:

(a) Be obligated to the extent of the covered claims existing prior to the order of liquidation and arising within thirty days after the order of liquidation, or before the policy expiration date if less than thirty days after the order of liquidation, or before the insured replaces the policy or on request effects cancellation, if he does so within thirty days of the order of liquidation, but such obligation shall include only that amount of each covered claim which is in excess of one hundred dollars and is less than three hundred thousand dollars. In no event shall the association be obligated to a policyholder or claimant in an amount in excess of the face amount of the policy from which the claim arises.

(b) Be deemed the insurer to the extent of its obligation on the covered claims and to such extent shall have all rights, duties, and obligations of the insolvent insurer as if the insurer had not become insolvent.

(c) Allocate claims paid and expenses incurred among the two accounts enumerated in RCW 48.32.040 as now or hereafter amended separately, and assess member insurers separately for each account amounts necessary to pay the obligations of the association under subsection (1)(a) above subsequent to an insolvency, the expenses of handling covered claims subsequent to an insolvency, the cost of examinations under RCW 48.32.110, and other expenses authorized by this chapter. The assessments of each member insurer shall be in the proportion that the net direct written premiums of the member insurer for the calendar year preceding the assessment on the kinds of insurance in the account bears to the net direct written premiums of all member

insurers for the calendar year preceding the assessment on the kinds of insurance in the account. Each member insurer shall be notified of the assessment not later than thirty days before it is due. No member insurer may be assessed in any year on any account an amount greater than two percent of that member insurer's net direct written premiums for the calendar year preceding the assessment on the kinds of insurance in the account. If the maximum assessment, together with the other assets of the association in any account, does not provide in any one year in any account an amount sufficient to make all necessary payments from that account, the funds available may be prorated and the unpaid portion shall be paid as soon thereafter as funds become available. The association shall pay claims in any order which it may deem reasonable, including the payment of claims in the order such claims are received from claimants or in groups or categories of claims, or otherwise. The association may exempt or defer, in whole or in part, the assessment of any member insurer, if the assessment would cause the member insurer's financial statement to reflect amounts of capital or surplus less than the minimum amounts required for a certificate of authority by any jurisdiction in which the member insurer is authorized to transact insurance. Each member insurer serving as a servicing facility may set off against any assessment, authorized payments made on covered claims and expenses incurred in the payment of such claims by such member insurer if they are chargeable to the account for which the assessment is made.

(d) Investigate claims brought against the association and adjust, compromise, settle, and pay covered claims to the extent of the association's obligation and deny all other claims.

(e) Notify such persons as the commissioner directs under RCW 48.32.080(2)(a).

(f) Handle claims through its employees or through one or more insurers or other persons designated as servicing facilities. Designation of a servicing facility is subject to the approval of the commissioner, but such designation may be declined by a member insurer.

(g) Reimburse each servicing facility for obligations of the association paid by the facility and for expenses incurred by the facility while handling claims on behalf of the association and shall pay the other expenses of the association authorized by this chapter.

(2) The association may:

(a) Appear in, defend, and appeal any action on a claim brought against the association.

(b) Employ or retain such persons as are necessary to handle claims and perform other duties of the association.

(c) Borrow funds necessary to effect the purposes of this chapter in accord with the plan of operation.

(d) Sue or be sued.

(e) Negotiate and become a party to such contracts as are necessary to carry out the purpose of this chapter.

(f) Perform such other acts as are necessary or proper to effectuate the purpose of this chapter.

(g) Refund to the member insurers in proportion to the contribution of each member insurer to that account that amount by which the assets of the account exceed the liabilities, if, at the end of any calendar year, the board of directors finds that the assets of the association in any

account exceed the liabilities of that account as estimated by the board of directors for the coming year. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 109 § 6; 1971 ex.s. c 265 § 6.]

**48.32.070 Plan of operation.** (1)(a) The association shall submit to the commissioner a plan of operation and any amendments thereto necessary or suitable to assure the fair, reasonable, and equitable administration of the association. The plan of operation and any amendments thereto shall become effective upon approval in writing by the commissioner.

(b) If the association fails to submit a suitable plan of operation within ninety days following May 21, 1971 or if at any time thereafter the association fails to submit suitable amendments to the plan, the commissioner shall, after notice and hearing, adopt and promulgate such reasonable rules as are necessary or advisable to effectuate the provisions of this chapter. Such rules shall continue in force until modified by the commissioner or superseded by a plan submitted by the association and approved by the commissioner.

(2) All member insurers shall comply with the plan of operation.

(3) The plan of operation shall:

(a) Establish the procedures whereby all the powers and duties of the association under RCW 48.32.060 will be performed.

(b) Establish procedures for handling assets of the association.

(c) Establish the amount and method of reimbursing members of the board of directors under RCW 48.32.050.

(d) Establish procedures by which claims may be filed with the association and establish acceptable forms of proof of covered claims. Notice of claims to the receiver or liquidator of the insolvent insurer shall be deemed notice to the association or its agent and a list of such claims shall be periodically submitted to the association or similar organization in another state by the receiver or liquidator.

(e) Establish regular places and times for meetings of the board of directors.

(f) Establish procedures for records to be kept of all financial transactions of the association, its agents, and the board of directors.

(g) Provide that any member insurer aggrieved by any final action or decision of the association may appeal to the commissioner within thirty days after the action or decision.

(h) Establish the procedures whereby selections for the board of directors will be submitted to the commissioner.

(i) Contain additional provisions necessary or proper for the execution of the powers and duties of the association.

(4) The plan of operation may provide that any or all powers and duties of the association, except those under RCW 48.32.060 subsections (1)(c) and (2)(c), are delegated to a corporation, association, or other organization which performs or will perform functions similar to those of this association, or its equivalent, in two or more states. Such a corporation, association or organization shall be reimbursed as a servicing facility would be reimbursed and shall be paid for its performance of any other functions of the association. A delegation under this subsection shall take effect only with the approval of both the board of directors and the commissioner, and may be made only to a corporation, association,

or organization which extends protection not substantially less favorable and effective than that provided by this chapter. [1971 ex.s. c 265 § 7.]

**48.32.080 Duties and powers of the commissioner.**

(1) The commissioner shall:

(a) Notify the association promptly whenever he or any of his examiners has, or comes into, possession of any data or information relative to any insurer under his jurisdiction for any purpose indicating that such insurer is in or is approaching a condition of impaired assets, imminent insolvency, or insolvency.

(b) Furnish to the association copies of all preliminary and final audits, investigations, memorandums, opinions, and reports relative to any insurer under his jurisdiction for any purpose, promptly upon the preparation of any thereof.

(c) Notify the association of the existence of an insolvent insurer not later than three days after he receives notice of the determination of the insolvency. The association shall be entitled to a copy of any complaint seeking an order of liquidation with a finding of insolvency against a member insurer at the same time such complaint is filed with a court of competent jurisdiction.

(d) Upon request of the board of directors, provide the association with a statement of the net direct written premiums of each member insurer.

(2) The commissioner may:

(a) Require that the association notify the insureds of the insolvent insurer and any other interested parties of the determination of insolvency and of their rights under this chapter. Such notification shall be by mail at their last known address, where available, but if sufficient information for notification by mail is not available, notice by publication or in a newspaper of general circulation shall be sufficient.

(b) Suspend or revoke, after notice and hearing, the certificate of authority to transact insurance in this state of any member insurer which fails to pay an assessment when due or fails to comply with the plan of operation. As an alternative, the commissioner may levy a fine on any member insurer which fails to pay an assessment when due. Such fine shall not exceed five percent of the unpaid assessment per month, except that no fine shall be less than one hundred dollars per month.

(c) Revoke the designation of any servicing facility if he finds claims are being handled unsatisfactorily.

(3) Whenever the commissioner or any of his examiners comes into possession of or obtains any data or information indicating that any insurer under his jurisdiction for any purpose is in or is approaching a condition of impaired assets, imminent insolvency, or insolvency, he shall within fifteen days of having such data or information commence investigation and/or take formal action relative to any such insurer, and in addition within said time shall notify the association of such condition. Upon failure of the commissioner so to act, the association is hereby authorized and directed to act and commence appropriate investigation or proceedings or may at its option refer the matter to the attorney general for appropriate action relative to which the attorney general shall keep the association advised throughout any such action or proceedings.

(4) Any final action or order of the commissioner under this chapter shall be subject to judicial review in a court of competent jurisdiction. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 109 § 7; 1971 ex.s. c 265 § 8.]

**48.32.090 Effect of paid claims.** (1) Any person recovering under this chapter shall be deemed to have assigned his rights under the policy to the association to the extent of his recovery from the association. Every insured or claimant seeking the protection of this chapter shall cooperate with the association to the same extent as such person would have been required to cooperate with the insolvent insurer. The association shall have no cause of action against the insured of the insolvent insurer for any sums it has paid out.

(2) The receiver, liquidator, or statutory successor of an insolvent insurer shall be bound by settlements of covered claims by the association or a similar organization in another state. The court having jurisdiction shall grant such claims priority equal to that which the claimant would have been entitled in the absence of this chapter against the assets of the insolvent insurer. The expenses of the association or similar organization in handling claims shall be accorded the same priority as the liquidator's expenses.

(3) The association shall periodically file with the receiver or liquidator of the insolvent insurer statements of the covered claims paid by the association and estimates of anticipated claims on the association which shall preserve the right of the association against the assets of the insolvent insurer. [1971 ex.s. c 265 § 9.]

**48.32.100 Nonduplication of recovery.** (1) Any person having a claim against his insurer under any provision in his insurance policy which is also a covered claim shall be required to exhaust first his right under such policy. Any amount payable on a covered claim under this chapter shall be reduced by the amount of such recovery under the claimant's insurance policy.

(2) Any person having a claim which may be recovered under more than one insurance guaranty association or its equivalent shall seek recovery first from the association of the place of residence of the insured except that if it is a first party claim for damage to property with a permanent location, from the association of the location of the property, and if it is a workers' compensation claim, from the association of the residence of the claimant. Any recovery under this chapter shall be reduced by the amount of the recovery from any other insurance guaranty association or its equivalent. [1987 c 185 § 30; 1971 ex.s. c 265 § 10.]

**Intent—Severability—1987 c 185:** See notes following RCW 51.12.130.

**48.32.110 Prevention of insolvencies.** To aid in the detection and prevention of insurer insolvencies:

(1) It shall be the duty of the board of directors, upon majority vote, to notify the commissioner of any information indicating any member insurer may be insolvent or in a financial condition hazardous to the policyholders or the public.

(2) The board of directors may, upon majority vote, request that the commissioner order an examination of any

member insurer which the board in good faith believes may be in a financial condition hazardous to the policyholders or the public. Within thirty days of the receipt of such request, the commissioner shall begin such examination. The examination may be conducted as a National Association of Insurance Commissioners examination or may be conducted by such persons as the commissioner designates. The cost of such examination shall be paid by the association and the examination report shall be treated as are other examination reports. In no event shall such examination report be released to the board of directors prior to its release to the public, but this shall not preclude the commissioner from complying with subsection (3) of this section. The commissioner shall notify the board of directors when the examination is completed. The request for an examination shall be kept on file by the commissioner but it shall not be open to public inspection prior to the release of the examination report to the public.

(3) It shall be the duty of the commissioner to report to the board of directors when he has reasonable cause to believe that any member insurer examined or being examined at the request of the board of directors may be insolvent or in a financial condition hazardous to the policyholders or the public.

(4) The board of directors may, upon majority vote, make reports and recommendations to the commissioner upon any matter germane to the solvency, liquidation, rehabilitation or conservation of any member insurer. Such reports and recommendations shall not be considered public documents.

(5) The board of directors may, upon majority vote, make recommendations to the commissioner for the detection and prevention of insurer insolvencies.

(6) The board of directors shall, at the conclusion of any insurer insolvency in which the association was obligated to pay covered claims, prepare a report on the history and causes of such insolvency, based on the information available to the association, and submit such report to the commissioner. [1971 ex.s. c 265 § 11.]

**48.32.120 Examination of the association.** The association shall be subject to examination and regulation by the commissioner. The board of directors shall submit, not later than March 30th of each year, a financial report for the preceding calendar year in a form approved by the commissioner. [1971 ex.s. c 265 § 12.]

**48.32.130 Tax exemption.** The association shall be exempt from payment of all fees and all taxes levied by this state or any of its subdivisions except taxes levied on real or personal property. [1971 ex.s. c 265 § 13.]

**48.32.145 Credit against premium tax for assessments paid pursuant to RCW 48.32.060(1)(c)—Expiration of section.** Every member insurer that prior to April 1, 1993, shall have paid one or more assessments levied pursuant to RCW 48.32.060(1)(c) shall be entitled to take, as a credit against any premium tax falling due under RCW 48.14.020, one-fifth of the aggregate amount of such aggregate assessments during such calendar year for each of the five consecutive calendar years beginning with the

calendar year following the calendar year in which such assessments are paid. Whenever an assessment or uncredited portion of an assessment is or becomes less than one thousand dollars, the entire amount may be credited against the premium tax at the next time the premium tax is paid.

This section shall expire January 1, 1999. [1993 sp.s. c 25 § 901; 1977 ex.s. c 183 § 1; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 109 § 11.]

**Severability—Effective dates—Part headings, captions not law—1993 sp.s. c 25:** See notes following RCW 82.04.230.

**48.32.150 Immunity.** There shall be no liability on the part of and no cause of action of any nature shall arise against any member insurer, the association or its agents or employees, the board of directors, or the commissioner or his representatives for any action taken by them in the performance of their powers and duties under this chapter. [1971 ex.s. c 265 § 15.]

**48.32.160 Stay of proceedings—Setting aside judgment.** All proceedings in which the insolvent insurer is a party or is obligated to defend a party in any court in this state shall be stayed for one hundred eighty days and such additional time thereafter as may be fixed by the court from the date the insolvency is determined to permit proper defense by the association of all pending causes of action. Any judgment under any decision, verdict, or finding based on default of the insolvent insurer or on its failure to defend an insured which is unsatisfied at the date the insolvency is determined shall be set aside on the motion of the association and the association shall be permitted to defend such claim on the merits. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 109 § 8; 1971 ex.s. c 265 § 16.]

**48.32.170 Termination, distribution of fund.** (1) The commissioner shall by order terminate the operation of the Washington insurers insolvency pool as to any kind of insurance afforded by property or casualty insurance policies with respect to which he has found, after hearing, that there is in effect a statutory or voluntary plan which:

(a) Is a permanent plan which is adequately funded or for which adequate funding is provided; and

(b) Extends, or will extend to state policyholders and residents protection and benefits with respect to insolvent insurers not substantially less favorable and effective to such policyholders and residents than the protection and benefits provided with respect to such kind of insurance under this chapter.

(2) The commissioner shall by the same such order authorize discontinuance of future payments by insurers to the Washington insurers insolvency pool with respect to the same kinds of insurance: PROVIDED, That assessments and payments shall continue, as necessary, to liquidate covered claims of insurers adjudged insolvent prior to said order and the related expenses not covered by such other plan.

(3) In the event the operation of any account of the Washington insurers insolvency pool shall be so terminated as to all kinds of insurance otherwise within its scope, the pool as soon as possible thereafter shall distribute the balance of the moneys and assets remaining in said account (after discharge of the functions of the pool with respect to



prior insurer insolvencies not covered by such other plan, together with related expenses) to the insurers which are then writing in this state policies of the kinds of insurance covered by such account, and which had made payments into such account, pro rata upon the basis of the aggregate of such payments made by the respective insurers to such account during the period of five years next preceding the date of such order. Upon completion of such distribution with respect to all of the accounts specified in RCW 48.32.060, this chapter shall be deemed to have expired. [1971 ex.s. c 265 § 17.]

**48.32.900 Short title.** This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the Washington Insurance Guaranty Association Act. [1971 ex.s. c 265 § 18.]

**48.32.910 Construction—1971 ex.s. c 265.** This chapter shall be liberally construed to effect the purpose under RCW 48.32.010 which shall constitute an aid and guide to interpretation. [1971 ex.s. c 265 § 19.]

**48.32.920 Section headings not part of law.** Section headings as used in this chapter do not constitute any part of the law. [1971 ex.s. c 265 § 22.]

**48.32.930 Severability—1971 ex.s. c 265.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provisions to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1971 ex.s. c 265 § 23.]

## Chapter 48.32A

### WASHINGTON LIFE AND DISABILITY INSURANCE GUARANTY ASSOCIATION ACT

#### Sections

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*Group stop loss insurance exemption: RCW 48.21.015.*

**48.32A.010 Purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is the creation of funds arising from assessments upon all insurers authorized to transact life or disability insurance business in the state of Washington, to be used to assure to the extent prescribed herein the performance of the insurance contractual obligations of insurers becoming impaired or insolvent to residents of this state, and to promote thereby the

stability of domestic insurers. In the judgment of the legislature, the foregoing purpose not being capable of accomplishment by a corporation created under general laws, the creation of the nonprofit association hereinafter in this chapter described is deemed essential for the protection of the general welfare. [1994 c 149 § 1; 1990 c 51 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 259 § 1.]

**48.32A.020 Scope—Obligations of association.** This chapter shall apply as follows to life insurance policies, disability insurance policies, and annuity contracts of impaired or insolvent insurers, other than separate account variable policies and contracts authorized by chapter 48.18A RCW:

(1) To persons, regardless of where they reside, except for nonresident certificate holders under group policies or contracts, who are the beneficiaries, assignees, or payees of the persons covered under subsection (2) of this section.

(2) To persons who are owners of or certificate holders under such policies or contracts; or, in the case of unallocated annuity contracts, to the persons who are the contract holders, and who:

(a) Are residents; or

(b) Are not residents, but only under all of the following conditions:

(i) The insurers that issued the policies or contracts are domiciled in this state;

(ii) The insurers never held a certificate of authority in the states in which the persons reside;

(iii) The states have associations similar to the association created by this chapter; and

(iv) These persons are not eligible for coverage by these associations.

(3) To policies and contracts only of impaired or insolvent insurers.

(4) The obligations of the association created under this chapter shall apply only as to contractual obligations of the insurer under insurance policies and annuity contracts, and shall be no greater than such obligations of the impaired or insolvent insurer. However, the liability of the association shall in no event exceed:

(a) With respect to any one life, regardless of the number of policies or contracts:

(i) Five hundred thousand dollars in life insurance death benefits, including any net cash surrender and net cash withdrawal values for life insurance;

(ii) Five hundred thousand dollars in disability insurance benefits, including any net cash surrender and net cash withdrawal values; or

(iii) Five hundred thousand dollars in the present value of allocated annuity benefits and annuities established under section 403(b) of the United States internal revenue code.

The association shall not be liable to expend more than five hundred thousand dollars in the aggregate with respect to any one individual under this subsection; or

(b) With respect to any one contract owner covered by any unallocated annuity contract, including governmental retirement plans established under section 401 or 457 of the United States internal revenue code, five million dollars in benefits, irrespective of the number of such contracts held by that contract owner.

- (5) This chapter shall not apply to:
- (a) Fraternal benefit societies;
  - (b) Health care service contractors;
  - (c) Insurance or liability assumed by the impaired or insolvent insurer under a contract of reinsurance other than bulk reinsurance;
  - (d) Any unallocated annuity contract issued to an employee benefit plan protected under the federal pension benefit guaranty corporation; or
  - (e) Any portion of any unallocated annuity contract which is not issued to or in connection with a specific employee, union, association of natural persons benefit plan, or a government lottery. [1996 c 98 § 1; 1994 c 149 § 2; 1990 c 51 § 2; 1971 ex.s. c 259 § 2.]

**48.32A.030 Definitions.** Within the meaning of this chapter:

- (1) "Account" means any one of the three guaranty fund accounts created under RCW 48.32A.080(1).
- (2) "Assessment" means a charge made upon an insurer by the board under this chapter for payment into a guaranty fund. The charge constitutes a legal liability of the insurer so assessed.
- (3) "Association" means "the Washington life and disability insurance guaranty association."
- (4) "Board" means the board of directors of the Washington life and disability insurance guaranty association.
- (5) "Certificate" means a certificate of contribution provided for in RCW 48.32A.090.
- (6) "Commissioner" means the insurance commissioner of this state.
- (7) "Contributor" means an insurer that has paid an assessment.
- (8) "Fund" means a guaranty fund provided for in RCW 48.32A.080.
- (9) "Impaired insurer" means an insurer that, after June 9, 1994, is not an insolvent insurer, and is placed under an order of rehabilitation or conservation, or a substantially similar order, by a court of competent jurisdiction.
- (10) "Insolvent insurer" means an insurer with respect to which an order of liquidation has been entered by a court of competent jurisdiction.
- (11) "Member insurer" means any insurer that holds a certificate of authority to transact life insurance, disability insurance, or annuity insurance business in this state, and includes any insurer whose license or certificate of authority in this state has been suspended, revoked, not renewed, or voluntarily withdrawn.
- (12) "Policies" means life or disability insurance policies; "contracts" means annuity contracts and contracts supplemental to such insurance policies and annuity contracts.
- (13) "Resident" means a person who resides and is domiciled in this state at the time an insurer is determined to be an impaired or insolvent insurer and to whom a contractual obligation is owed. A person may be resident of only one state, which in the case of a person other than an individual is its principal place of business.

(14) "Unallocated annuity contract" means any annuity contract or group annuity certificate which is not issued to and owned by an individual, except to the extent of any

annuity benefits guaranteed to an individual by an insurer under such contract or certificate. [1996 c 98 § 2; 1994 c 149 § 3; 1990 c 51 § 3; 1971 ex.s. c 259 § 3.]

**48.32A.040 Guaranty association created.** (1) There is hereby created a nonprofit unincorporated legal entity to be known as the Washington life and disability insurance guaranty association, which shall be composed of the commissioner, ex officio, and of each member insurer authorized to transact life insurance, or disability insurance, or annuity business in this state. All such insurers shall be and remain members of the association during the continuance of, and as a condition to, their authority to transact such business in this state.

(2) The association shall be managed by a board of directors composed of the commissioner, ex officio, and of not less than five nor more than nine member insurers, each of whom shall initially be appointed by the commissioner to serve for terms of one, two, or three years. After the initial board is appointed, the board shall provide in its bylaws for selection of board members by member insurers subject to the commissioner's approval; members so selected shall serve for three year terms, acceding to office upon expiration of the terms of the respective initial board members; and board members shall thereafter serve for three year terms and shall continue in office until their respective successors be selected, approved, and have qualified. At least a majority of the members of the board shall be domestic insurers. In case of a vacancy for any reason on the initial board appointed, the commissioner shall appoint a member insurer to fill the unexpired term; vacancies on the board thereafter shall be filled in the same manner as in the original selection and approval. Board members may be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in connection with the performance of their duties.

(3) A director, officer, employee, agent or other representative of the association or of a member insurer, or the commissioner or his representative shall in no event be individually liable to any person, including the association, for any act or omission to act, or for any liability incurred or assumed, on behalf of the association or by virtue thereof, any such liability so incurred or assumed to be collectible only out of a fund; nor shall any insurer member of the association be subject to any liability except for assessment as in this chapter provided.

(4) The association shall be under the immediate supervision of the commissioner and shall be subject to such provisions of the insurance code of the state of Washington as may be applicable and not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter.

(5) The board may, upon majority vote, make recommendations to the commissioner for the detection and prevention of insurer insolvencies. [1996 c 98 § 3; 1971 ex.s. c 259 § 4.]

**48.32A.050 Powers of the association.** The association shall have the power:

(1) To use a seal, to contract, to sue and be sued and, in addition, possess and exercise all powers necessary or convenient for the purposes of this chapter.

(2) With the approval of the commissioner and as provided in RCW 48.32A.060, to assume, reinsure, or guarantee or cause to be assumed, reinsured, or guaranteed, partially or wholly, any or all of the policies or contracts of any impaired or insolvent domestic life or disability insurer or any policy or contract to which this chapter applies, and to make available from a fund, the creation of which is hereinafter in RCW 48.32A.080 provided, such sum or sums as may be necessary for such purpose.

(3) To carry out the provisions of this section, the association shall have, and may exercise, all necessary rights, powers, privileges, and franchises of a domestic insurer, except that it shall not be authorized to issue contracts or policies unless such contracts or policies are pursuant to contracts and policies representing obligations in whole or in part of the impaired or insolvent insurer or of the association.

(4) To borrow money for the purposes of the fund, either with or without security, and pledge such assets in a fund as security for such loans, and in connection therewith, rehypothecate any securities or collateral pledged to it by an insurer. Any notes or other evidence of indebtedness of the association shall be legal investments for domestic insurers and may be carried as admitted assets.

(5) To collect or enforce by legal proceedings, if necessary, the payment of all assessments for which any insurer may be liable under this chapter; and to collect any other debt or obligation due to the association or a fund created in this chapter.

(6) To make bylaws and regulations for the conduct of the affairs of the association, not inconsistent with this chapter. [1994 c 149 § 4; 1971 ex.s. c 259 § 5.]

**48.32A.060 Reinsurance—Guaranty of policies—Contracts.** (1) Subject to such terms and conditions as it may impose with the approval of the commissioner, as to an insolvent domestic, foreign, or alien life or disability insurer the association shall, and as to an impaired domestic, foreign, or alien life or disability insurer the association may, for a resident, assume, reinsure, or guarantee the performance of the policies and contracts of that insurer, and shall have power to receive, own, and administer any assets acquired in connection with such assumption, reinsurance, or guaranty. The association, as to any such policy or contract under which there is no default in payment of premiums subsequent to such assumption, reinsurance, or guaranty, shall make or cause to be made prompt payment of the benefits due under the terms of the policy or contract.

(2)(a) If the association acts under this section with respect to an impaired insurer, the impaired insurer shall not solicit or accept new business in Washington or have any suspended certificate of authority restored until all payments of or on account of the impaired insurer's contractual obligations by the association, along with all expenses thereof and interest at a rate determined by the commissioner on all such payments and expenses, are repaid to the guaranty association or a plan of repayment by the impaired insurer is approved by the commissioner and the association.

(b) The association may act under this section as to an impaired domestic insurer only if that insurer has been placed under an order of rehabilitation or the like by a court

of competent jurisdiction in this state. The association may act under this section as to an impaired foreign or alien insurer only if that insurer has been prohibited from soliciting or accepting new business in this state, its certificate of authority has been suspended or revoked in this state, and an order for rehabilitation, conservation of assets, or liquidation, or the like, has been entered by a court of competent jurisdiction in its state of domicile or in Washington.

(3) In determining benefits to be paid with respect to the policies and contracts of a particular impaired or insolvent insurer the board may give due consideration to amounts reasonably recoverable or deductible because of the contingent liability, if any, of policyholders of the insurer (if a mutual insurer) or recoverable because of the assessment liability, if any, of the insurer's stockholders (if a stock insurer).

(4) With respect to an insolvent domestic insurer, the board shall have power to petition the court in which the delinquency proceedings are pending for, and the court shall have authority to order and effectuate, such modifications in the terms, benefits, values, and premiums thereafter to be in effect of policies and contracts of the insurer as may reasonably be necessary to effect a bulk reinsurance of such policies and contract in a solvent insurer. In the event, after the entry of an order of liquidation, an assessment on the members is necessary to increase the assets of the insolvent company to an extent that a bulk reinsurance of such policies may be effected, the court shall have authority to order such assessment.

(5) In addition to any other rights of the association acquired by assignment or otherwise, the association shall be subrogated to the rights of any person entitled to receive benefits under this chapter against the impaired or insolvent insurer, or the receiver, rehabilitator, liquidator, or conservator, as the case may be, under the policy or contract with respect to which a payment is made or guaranteed, or obligation assumed by the association pursuant to this section, and the association may require an assignment to it of such rights by any such persons as a condition precedent to the receipt by such person of payment of any benefits under this chapter. The rights of the association to payment from the impaired or insolvent insurer, or its receiver, rehabilitator, liquidator, or conservator, are subordinate to those of the persons protected under this chapter. Where the association is entitled to payment because of subrogation or assignment or because of its status as a creditor, no such payment may be made to it until either (a) the person from whom its claim arises has received benefits practically equivalent to all the benefits to which he or she is entitled under the terms of the policy or contract, or (b) it appears that amounts not paid to the association would instead be paid entirely or disproportionately to persons other than residents protected under this chapter.

(6) For the purpose of carrying out its obligations under this chapter, the association shall be deemed to be a creditor of the impaired or insolvent insurer to the extent of assets attributable to covered policies and contracts reduced by any amounts to which the association is entitled as a subrogee. All assets of the impaired or insolvent insurer attributable to covered policies and contracts shall be used to continue all covered policies and contracts and pay all contractual obligations of the impaired or insolvent insurer as required

by this chapter. Assets attributable to covered policies and contracts, as used in this subsection, are those in that proportion of the assets which the reserves that should have been established for such policies and contracts bear to the reserves that should have been established for all insurances written by the impaired or insolvent insurer.

(7) The association shall have the power to petition the superior court for an order appointing the commissioner as receiver of a domestic insurer upon any of the grounds set forth in RCW 48.31.030. [1994 c 149 § 5; 1990 c 51 § 4; 1975 1st ex.s. c 133 § 2; 1971 ex.s. c 259 § 6.]

#### 48.32A.070 Duplication of benefits prohibited.

Whenever a guaranty or payment of proceeds or benefits of a policy or contract otherwise provided for under this chapter is also provided for by a similar law of another jurisdiction, there shall be only one recovery of values or benefits, and the association or other entity established by such law in the domiciliary jurisdiction or state of entry of the impaired or insolvent insurer shall be solely responsible for such guaranty and payment. [1994 c 149 § 6; 1971 ex.s. c 259 § 7.]

**48.32A.080 Guaranty funds—Assessment of member insurers.** (1) For purposes of administration and assessment, the association shall establish and maintain three guaranty fund accounts:

(a) The life insurance and annuity account, which shall be divided into three subaccounts:

- (i) The life insurance subaccount;
- (ii) The allocated annuity subaccount; and
- (iii) The unallocated annuity subaccount which shall include contracts qualified under section 403(b) of the United States internal revenue code;

- (b) The disability insurance account; and
- (c) The general account.

(2) For the purpose of providing the funds necessary to carry out the powers and duties of the association, the board shall assess the member insurers, separately for each account, at such times and for such amounts as the board finds necessary. The board shall collect the assessment after thirty days written notice to the member insurers before payment is due. The board may charge reasonable interest for delinquent payment of the assessment.

(3)(a) The amount of any assessment for each account and subaccount shall be determined by the board, and shall be divided among the accounts and subaccounts in the proportion that the premiums received by the impaired or insolvent insurer on the policies or contracts covered by each account and subaccount bears to the premiums received by such insurer on all covered policies and contracts.

(b) Assessments against member insurers for each account and subaccount shall be in the proportion that the premiums received on business in this state by each assessed member insurer on policies or contracts covered by each account or subaccount bears to such premiums received on business in this state by all assessed member insurers.

(c) Assessments for funds to meet the requirements of the association with respect to a particular impaired or insolvent insurer shall not be made until necessary, in the board's opinion, to implement the purposes of this chapter; and in no event shall such an assessment be made with

respect to an insolvent insurer until an order of liquidation has been entered against the insurer by a court of competent jurisdiction of the insurer's state or country of domicile. Computation of assessments under this subsection shall be made with a reasonable degree of accuracy, recognizing that exact determination may not always be possible.

(d) The board may make an assessment of up to one hundred fifty dollars for each member insurer to be deposited in the general account and used for administrative and general expenses in carrying out the provisions of this chapter.

(4)(a) The total of all assessments upon a member insurer for the life and annuity account and for each subaccount shall not in any one calendar year exceed two percent and for the disability account shall not in any one calendar year exceed two percent of such insurer's average premiums received in this state on the policies and contracts covered by the account during the three calendar years preceding the year in which the insurer became an impaired or insolvent insurer.

(b) The board may provide a method of allocating funds among claims, whether relating to one or more impaired or insolvent insurers, when the maximum assessment will be insufficient to cover anticipated claims.

(c) If a one percent assessment for any subaccount of the life and annuity account in any one year does not provide an amount sufficient to carry out the responsibilities of the association, then pursuant to subsection (3) of this section, the board shall access all subaccounts of the life and annuity account for the necessary additional amount, subject to the maximum stated in (a) of this subsection.

(5) The association may abate or defer, in whole or in part, the assessment of a member insurer if, in the opinion of the board, payment of the assessment would endanger the ability of the insurer to fulfill its contractual obligations. In the event an assessment against a member insurer is abated or deferred, in whole or in part, the amount by which such assessment is abated or deferred may be assessed against the other member insurers in a manner consistent with the basis for assessments set forth in this section. If the maximum assessment, together with the other assets of the association in an account, does not provide in any one year an amount sufficient to carry out the responsibilities of the association with respect to such account, the necessary additional funds shall be assessed as soon thereafter as permitted by this chapter.

(6) The amount in a fund shall be kept at such a sum as in the opinion of the board will enable the association to meet the immediate obligations and liabilities of such fund. Whenever in the opinion of the board the amount in a fund is in excess of such immediate obligations and liabilities, with the approval of the commissioner the association may distribute such excess by retirement of certificates previously issued against the fund. Such distribution shall be made pro rata upon the basis of outstanding certificates, except that by unanimous consent of all directors and with the approval of the commissioner any other reasonable method of retirement of such certificates may be adopted.

(7) As used in this section, "premiums" are those for the calendar year preceding the year in which the insurer became an impaired or insolvent insurer, and shall be direct gross insurance premiums and annuity considerations received on

policies and contracts to which this chapter applies, less return premiums and considerations and less dividends paid or credited to policyholders.

(8) Upon dissolution of a fund by the repeal of this chapter or otherwise, the fund shall be distributed in the same manner as is provided for the repayment or retirement of certificates. If the amount in the fund at the time of dissolution is in excess of outstanding certificates issued against the fund, such excess shall be distributed among contributing member insurers in such equitable manner as is approved by the commissioner. [1994 c 149 § 7; 1990 c 51 § 5; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 119 § 5; 1971 ex.s. c 259 § 8.]

**48.32A.090 Certificates of contribution—Allowance as asset—Offset against premium taxes.** (1) The association shall issue to each insurer paying an assessment under this chapter certificates of contribution, in appropriate form and terms as prescribed or approved by the commissioner, for the amounts so paid into the respective funds. All outstanding certificates against a particular fund shall be of equal dignity and priority without reference to amounts or dates of issue.

(2) An outstanding certificate of contribution issued prior to April 1, 1993, shall be shown by the insurer in its financial statements as an admitted asset for such amount and period of time as the commissioner may approve. Unless a longer period has been allowed by the commissioner the insurer shall in any event at its option have the right to so show a certificate of contribution as an admitted asset at percentages of original face amount for calendar years as follows:

- 100% for the calendar year of issuance;
- 80% for the first calendar year after the year of issuance;
- 60% for the second calendar year after the year of issuance;
- 40% for the third calendar year after the year of issuance;
- 20% for the fourth calendar year after the year of issuance; and
- 0% for the fifth and subsequent calendar years after the year of issuance.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the value of a certificate of contribution is or becomes less than one thousand dollars, the entire amount may be written off by the insurer in that year.

(3) The insurer shall offset the amount written off by it in a calendar year under subsection (2) of this section against its premium tax liability to this state accrued with respect to business transacted in such year.

(4) Any sums recovered by the association representing sums which have theretofore been written off by contributing insurers and offset against premium taxes as provided in subsection (3) of this section, shall be paid by the association to the commissioner and then deposited with the state treasurer for credit to the general fund of the state of Washington.

(5) No distribution to stockholders, if any, of a liquidating insurer shall be made unless and until the total amount of assessments levied by the association with respect to such

insurer have been fully recovered by the association. [1993 sp.s. c 25 § 902; 1990 c 51 § 6; 1977 ex.s. c 183 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 133 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 259 § 9.]

**Severability—Effective dates—Part headings, captions not law—**1993 sp.s. c 25: See notes following RCW 82.04.230.

**48.32A.100 Taxation.** (1) The association shall be exempt from premium tax. Any domestic insurer whose policies or contracts have been assumed, reinsured, or guaranteed by the association under this chapter shall remain liable for premium taxes on all premiums received on policies and contracts issued by it, but payment of such taxes shall be suspended. Payment of or on account of such taxes shall be made under such terms and conditions as the commissioner may prescribe. No distribution to stockholders, if any, of the liquidating insurer shall be made unless all premium taxes, the payment of which has been suspended hereunder, have been fully paid.

(2) The association shall be exempt from all taxes and fees now or hereafter imposed by the state of Washington or by any county, municipality, or local authority or subdivision; except that any real property owned by the association shall be subject to taxation to the same extent according to its value as other real property is taxed.

(3) Assessments made upon domestic insurers pursuant to a law of another jurisdiction similar to this chapter, shall be excluded from the application of RCW 48.14.040 (retaliatory provision). [1971 ex.s. c 259 § 10.]

**48.32A.110 Prohibited use of chapter.** No person shall make use in any manner of the protection afforded under this chapter in the solicitation of insurance or annuity business. [1971 ex.s. c 259 § 11.]

**48.32A.120 Recapture of excessive dividends to affiliates.** (1) If an order for liquidation or rehabilitation of a domestic insurer has been entered, the receiver appointed or existing under such order shall have a right to recover, and upon request of the board or without such request shall take such action as he or she deems advisable to recover, on behalf of the insurer from any affiliate that controlled it the amount of distributions, other than stock dividends paid by the insurer on its capital stock, at any time during the five years preceding the petition for liquidation or rehabilitation of the insurer subject to the limitations of subsections (2) through (4) of this section.

(2) No such dividend shall be recoverable if the insurer shows that when paid the distribution was lawful and reasonable, and that the insurer did not know and could not reasonably have known that the distribution might adversely affect the ability of the insurer to fulfill its contractual obligations.

(3) Any person who was an affiliate in control of the insurer at the time a distribution was paid shall be liable up to the amount of distribution that person received. Any person who was an affiliate in control of the insurer at the time a distribution was declared shall be liable up to the amount of distribution the person would have received if it had been paid immediately. If two persons are liable with respect to the same distribution they shall be jointly and severally liable.

(4) The maximum amount recoverable by the receiver under this section shall be the amount needed in excess of all other available assets to pay the contractual obligations of the insurer.

(5) If any person liable under subsection (3) of this section is insolvent, all its affiliates that controlled it at the time the distribution was paid shall be jointly and severally liable for any resulting deficiency in the amount recovered from the insolvent affiliate. [1994 c 149 § 8; 1971 ex.s. c 259 § 12.]

**48.32A.900 Short title.** This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the Washington Life and Disability Insurance Guaranty Association Act. [1971 ex.s. c 259 § 13.]

**48.32A.910 Construction—1971 ex.s. c 259.** This chapter shall be liberally construed to effect the purpose stated in RCW 48.32A.010, which shall constitute an aid and guide to interpretation. [1971 ex.s. c 259 § 14.]

**48.32A.920 Section headings not part of law.** Section headings in this chapter do not constitute any part of the law. [1971 ex.s. c 259 § 15.]

**48.32A.930 Severability—1971 ex.s. c 259.** If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of this act shall for any reason be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment has been rendered. [1971 ex.s. c 259 § 17.]

**48.32A.931 Severability—1990 c 51.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1990 c 51 § 7.]

### Chapter 48.34

#### CREDIT LIFE INSURANCE AND CREDIT ACCIDENT AND HEALTH INSURANCE

##### Sections

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48.34.910 Small loan act [Consumer finance act] not affected.

**48.34.010 Declaration of purpose—Liberal construction.** The purpose of this chapter is to promote the public welfare by regulating credit life insurance and credit accident and health insurance. Nothing in this chapter is intended to prohibit or discourage reasonable competition. The provisions of this chapter shall be liberally construed. [1961 c 219 § 1.]

**48.34.020 Chapter part of insurance code—What insurance subject to chapter.** (1) This chapter is a part of the insurance code.

(2) All life insurance and all accident and health insurance in connection with loans or other credit transactions shall be subject to the provisions of this chapter, except such insurance under an individual policy in connection with a loan or other credit transaction of more than ten years duration. Insurance shall not be subject to the provisions of this chapter where its issuance is an isolated transaction on the part of the insurer not related to an agreement or a plan for insuring debtors of the creditor. [1969 ex.s. c 241 § 14; 1961 c 219 § 2.]

**48.34.030 Definitions.** For the purpose of this chapter: (1) "Credit life insurance" means insurance on the life of a debtor pursuant to or in connection with a specific loan or other credit transaction;

(2) "Credit accident and health insurance" means insurance on a debtor to provide indemnity for payments becoming due on a specific loan or other credit transaction while the debtor is disabled as defined in the policy;

(3) "Creditor" means the lender of money or vendor or lessor of goods, services, properties, rights, or privileges, for which payment is arranged through a credit transaction, or any successor to the right, title, or interest of any such lender, vendor, or lessor, and an affiliate, associate, or subsidiary of any of them or a director, officer, or employee of any of them or any other person in any way associated with any of them;

(4) "Debtor" means a borrower of money or a purchaser or lessee of goods, services, properties, rights, or privileges for which payment is arranged through a credit transaction;

(5) "Indebtedness" means the total amount payable by a debtor to a creditor in connection with the loan or other credit transaction. [1961 c 219 § 3.]

**48.34.040 Authorized forms.** Credit life insurance and credit accident and health insurance shall be issued only in the following forms:

(1) Individual policies of life insurance issued to debtors on the term plan;

(2) Individual policies of accident and health insurance issued to debtors on a term plan, or disability benefit provisions in individual policies of credit life insurance;

(3) Group policies of life insurance issued to creditors providing insurance upon the lives of debtors on the term plan;

(4) Group policies of accident and health insurance issued to creditors on a term plan insuring debtors, or

disability benefit provisions in group credit life insurance policies to provide such coverage. [1961 c 219 § 4.]

**48.34.050 Life—Limitation on amount under individual policy.** The initial amount of credit life insurance under an individual policy shall not exceed the total amount repayable under the contract of indebtedness. Where an indebtedness is repayable in substantially equal installments, the amount of insurance shall at no time exceed the scheduled or actual amount of unpaid indebtedness, whichever is greater. [1961 c 219 § 5.]

**48.34.060 Life—Limitation on amount repayable under group policy.** The initial amount of credit life insurance under a group policy shall at no time exceed the amount owed by the debtor which is repayable in installments to the creditor. [1987 c 130 § 1; 1983 1st ex.s. c 32 § 23; 1977 c 61 § 2; 1967 ex.s. c 82 § 1; 1961 c 219 § 6.]

**48.34.070 Accident and health—Limitation on amount.** The total amount of periodic indemnity payable by credit accident and health insurance in the event of disability, as defined in the policy, shall not exceed the aggregate of the periodic scheduled unpaid installments of the indebtedness; and the amount of such periodic indemnity payment shall not exceed the original indebtedness divided by the number of periodic installments. [1961 c 219 § 7.]

**48.34.080 Commencement, termination date of term.** The term of any credit life insurance or credit accident and health insurance shall, subject to acceptance by the insurer, commence on the date when the debtor becomes obligated to the creditor: PROVIDED, That, where a group policy provides coverage with respect to existing obligations, the insurance on a debtor with respect to such indebtedness shall commence on the effective date of the policy. Where evidence of insurability is required and such evidence is furnished more than thirty days after the date when the debtor becomes obligated to the creditor, the term of the insurance may commence on the date on which the insurance company determines the evidence to be satisfactory, and in such event there shall be an appropriate refund or adjustment of any charge to the debtor for insurance. The term of such insurance shall not extend more than fifteen days beyond the scheduled maturity date of indebtedness, except when extended without additional cost to the debtor. If the indebtedness is discharged due to renewal or refinancing prior to the scheduled maturity date, the insurance in force shall be terminated before any new insurance may be issued in connection with renewed or refinanced indebtedness. In all cases of termination prior to scheduled maturity, a refund shall be paid or credited as provided in RCW 48.34.110. [1961 c 219 § 8.]

**48.34.090 Policy or certificate—Contents—Delivery, copy of application or notice in lieu—Substitute insurer, premium, etc., on rejection.** (1) All credit life insurance and credit accident and health insurance shall be evidenced by an individual policy, or in the case of group insurance by a certificate of insurance, which individual policy or group certificate of insurance shall be delivered to the debtor.

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(2) Each individual policy or group certificate of credit life insurance, and/or credit accident and health insurance shall, in addition to other requirements of law, set forth the name and home office address of the insurer, the name or names of the debtor or in the case of a certificate under a group policy, the identity by name or otherwise of the debtor, the premium or amount of payment, if any, by the debtor separately for credit life insurance and credit accident and health insurance, a description of the coverage including the amount and term thereof, and any exceptions, limitations and restrictions, and shall state that the benefits shall be paid to the creditor to reduce or extinguish the unpaid indebtedness and, wherever the amount of insurance exceeds the unpaid indebtedness, that any such excess shall be payable to a beneficiary, other than the creditor, named by the debtor or to the debtor's estate. With respect to any policy issued after September 8, 1975, credit life insurance shall not be subject to any exceptions or reductions other than for fraud, or for suicide occurring within two years of the effective date of the insurance.

(3) The individual policy or group certificate of insurance shall be delivered to the insured debtor at the time the indebtedness is incurred except as provided in subsections (4) and (5).

(4) If such individual policy or group certificate of insurance is not delivered to the debtor at the time the indebtedness is incurred, a copy of the application for such policy or a notice of proposed insurance, signed by the debtor and setting forth the name and home office address of the insurer; the name or names of the debtor; the premium or amount of payment by the debtor, if any, separately for credit life insurance and credit accident and health insurance; the amount, term and a brief description of the coverage provided, shall be delivered to the debtor at the time such indebtedness is incurred. The copy of the application for, or notice of proposed insurance, shall also refer exclusively to insurance coverage, and shall be separate and apart from the loan, sale or other credit statement of account, instrument, or agreement, or the application for any such loan, sale or credit, unless the information required by this subsection is prominently set forth therein under a descriptive heading which shall be underlined and printed in capital letters. Upon acceptance of the insurance by the insurer and within thirty days of the date upon which the indebtedness is incurred, the insurer shall cause the individual policy or group certificate of insurance to be delivered to the debtor. The application or notice of proposed insurance shall state that upon acceptance by the insurer, the insurance shall become effective as provided in RCW 48.34.080.

(5) If the named insurer does not accept the risk, then the debtor shall receive a policy or certificate of insurance setting forth the name and home office address of the substituted insurer and the amount of the premium to be charged, and if the amount of premium is less than that set forth in the notice of proposed insurance an appropriate refund shall be made. [1975 1st ex.s. c 266 § 13; 1961 c 219 § 9.]

**Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 266:** See note following RCW 48.01.010.

**48.34.100 Filing policies, notices, riders, etc.—Approval by commissioner—Preexisting policies—Forms.**

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(1) All policies, certificates of insurance, notices of proposed insurance, applications for insurance, endorsements, and riders delivered or issued for delivery in this state and the schedules of premium rates pertaining thereto shall be filed with the commissioner.

(2) No such policies, certificates of insurance, notices of proposed insurance, applications for insurance, endorsements, or riders shall be used in this state until approved by the commissioner pursuant to RCW 48.18.100 and RCW 48.18.110. In addition to any grounds for disapproval provided therein, the form shall be disapproved both as to credit life and credit accident and health insurance if the benefits provided therein are not reasonable in relation to the premium charged.

(3) If a group policy of credit life insurance or credit accident and health insurance has been delivered in this state before midnight, June 7, 1961, on the first anniversary date following such time the terms of the policy as they apply to persons newly insured thereafter shall be rewritten to conform with the provisions of this chapter.

(4) If a group policy has been or is delivered in another state before or after August 11, 1969, the forms to be filed by the insurer with the commissioner are the group certificates and notices of proposed insurance delivered or issued for delivery in this state. He shall approve them if:

(a) They provide the information that would be required if the group policy was delivered in this state; and

(b) The applicable premium rates or charges do not exceed those established by his rules or regulations. [1969 ex.s. c 241 § 15; 1961 c 219 § 10.]

#### 48.34.110 Refunds—Credits—Charges to debtor.

(1) Each individual policy, or group certificate shall provide that in the event of termination of the insurance prior to the scheduled maturity date of the indebtedness, any refund of an amount paid by the debtor for insurance shall be paid or credited promptly to the person entitled thereto. The formula to be used in computing such refund shall be filed with and approved by the commissioner.

(2) If a creditor requires a debtor to make any payment for credit life insurance or credit accident and health insurance and an individual policy or group certificate of insurance is not issued, the creditor shall immediately give written notice to such debtor and shall promptly make an appropriate credit to the account.

(3) The amount charged to a debtor for any credit life or credit accident and health insurance shall not exceed the premiums charged by the insurer, as computed at the time the charge to the debtor is determined. [1961 c 219 § 11.]

**48.34.120 Debtor's right to furnish and obtain own insurance.** When the credit life insurance or credit accident and health insurance is required in connection with any credit transaction, the debtor shall, upon request to the creditor, have the option of furnishing the required amount of insurance through existing policies of insurance owned or controlled by him or of procuring and furnishing the required coverage through any insurer authorized to transact an insurance business within this state. [1961 c 219 § 12.]

**48.34.900 Severability—1961 c 219.** If any provision of this chapter, or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance, shall be held invalid, the remainder of the chapter and the application of such provision to any person or circumstance other than those as to which it is held invalid, shall not be affected thereby. [1961 c 219 § 13.]

**48.34.910 Small loan act [Consumer finance act] not affected.** Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to permit any practice prohibited by \*chapter 31.08 RCW, nor is it intended that this chapter shall amend or repeal any provision of chapter 31.08 RCW, known as the \*\*"Small Loan Act". [1961 c 219 § 14.]

Reviser's note: \*(1) Chapter 31.08 RCW was repealed by 1991 c 208 § 24, effective January 1, 1993.

\*\*\*(2) "Small loan act" changed to "consumer finance act" by 1979 c 18.

## Chapter 48.35 ALIEN INSURERS

### Sections

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48.35.030	Deposit required—Duration.
48.35.040	Trusts created before May 17, 1991.
48.35.050	Alien insurer—State authorization required.
48.35.060	Trusteed assets—Creation—Commissioner's approval of trust agreement.
48.35.070	Trust agreement—Amendment.
48.35.080	Trust agreement—Withdrawal of commissioner's approval.
48.35.090	Trust agreement—Vesting of trustee assets.
48.35.100	Trusteed assets—Trustee's records.
48.35.110	Trusteed assets—Trustee's statements—Commissioner's approval.
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48.35.160	United States manager—Mexican or Canadian insurers.
48.35.170	Domestication of alien insurer—Commissioner's approval.
48.35.180	Domestication agreement—Necessary authorization.
48.35.190	Domestication agreement—Commissioner's approval of corporate proceedings.
48.35.200	Domestication—When effective—Deposits—Transfer of assets.

**48.35.010 Application—Definition.** This chapter applies to all alien insurers using this state as a state of entry to transact insurance in the United States.

For the purposes of this chapter, "alien insurer" has the definition supplied in RCW 48.05.010. [1991 c 268 § 1.]

**48.35.020 Deposit required—Amount.** (1) An alien insurer may use this state as a state of entry to transact insurance in the United States by maintaining in this state a deposit of assets in a solvent trust company or other solvent financial institution having trust powers domiciled in this state and so designated by the commissioner. The commissioner's designated depositories are authorized to receive and hold a deposit of assets. A deposit so held is at the expense of the insurer. A solvent financial institution domiciled in this state, the deposits of which are insured by



the federal deposit insurance corporation and which is a member of the federal reserve system, may be designated as the commissioner's depository to receive and hold a deposit of assets.

(2) The deposit, together with other trust deposits of the insurer held in the United States for the same purpose, must be in an amount not less than the higher of deposits required of an alien insurer under RCW 48.05.090 or five hundred thousand dollars and consist of eligible assets as set forth in RCW 48.16.030.

(3) The deposit may be referred to as "trusteed assets." [1991 c 268 § 2.]

**48.35.030 Deposit required—Duration.** The deposit required by this chapter must be for the benefit, security, and protection of the policyholders or creditors, or both, of the insurer in the United States. It shall be maintained as long as there is outstanding any liability of the insurer arising out of its insurance transactions in the United States. [1991 c 268 § 4.]

**48.35.040 Trusts created before May 17, 1991.** All trusts of trusteed assets created before May 17, 1991, must be continued under the instruments creating those trusts. If the commissioner determines that the instruments are inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter, the insurer shall correct those inconsistencies within six months of the commissioner's determination. [1991 c 268 § 3.]

**48.35.050 Alien insurer—State authorization required.** An alien insurer proposing to use this state as a state of entry to transact insurance in the United States, must be authorized to transact insurance in this state and may make and execute any trust agreement required by this chapter. [1991 c 268 § 6.]

**48.35.060 Trusteed assets—Creation—Commissioner's approval of trust agreement.** (1) The alien insurer shall create the trusteed assets required by this chapter under a written trust agreement between the insurer and the trustee, consistent with the provisions of this chapter, and in such form and manner as the commissioner may designate or approve.

(2) The agreement is effective when filed with and approved in writing by the commissioner. The commissioner shall not approve any trust agreement not found to be in compliance with state or federal law or the terms of which do not in fact provide reasonably adequate protection for the insurer's policyholders or creditors, or both, in the United States. [1991 c 268 § 5.]

**48.35.070 Trust agreement—Amendment.** A trust agreement may be amended. However, the amendment is not effective until filed with the commissioner and the commissioner finds and states in writing that the amendment is in compliance with this chapter. [1991 c 268 § 7.]

**48.35.080 Trust agreement—Withdrawal of commissioner's approval.** The commissioner may withdraw his or her approval of a trust agreement, or of an

amendment to the agreement, if the commissioner determines that the requisites for the approval no longer exist. The determination shall be made after notice and a hearing as provided in chapter 48.04 RCW. [1991 c 268 § 8.]

**48.35.090 Trust agreement—Vesting of trusteed assets.** The trust agreement must provide that title to the trusteed assets vests and remains vested in the trustees and their successors for the purposes of the trust deposit. [1991 c 268 § 9.]

**48.35.100 Trusteed assets—Trustee's records.** The trustee shall keep the trusteed assets separate from other assets and shall maintain a record sufficient to identify the trusteed assets at all times. [1991 c 268 § 10.]

**48.35.110 Trusteed assets—Trustee's statements—Commissioner's approval.** (1) The trustee of trusteed assets shall file statements with the commissioner, in a form required by the commissioner, certifying the character and amount of the assets.

(2) If the trustee fails to file a requested statement after a reasonable time has expired, the commissioner may suspend or revoke the certificate of authority of the insurer required under RCW 48.05.030. [1991 c 268 § 11.]

**48.35.120 Trusteed assets—Examination—Commissioner's approval of assignment or transfer.** (1) The commissioner may examine trusteed assets of any insurer at any time in accordance with the same conditions and procedures governing the examination of insurers provided in chapter 48.03 RCW.

(2) The depositing insurer shall not assign or transfer, voluntarily, involuntarily, or by operation of law, all or a part of its interest in the trusteed assets without the prior written approval of the commissioner, and a transfer or assignment occurring without approval is void. The assignee or transferee of the trusteed assets shall irrevocably and automatically assume all of the obligations and liabilities of the assignor or transferor. [1991 c 268 § 12.]

**48.35.130 Trusteed assets—Commissioner's approval of withdrawals.** (1) The trust agreement must provide that the commissioner shall authorize and approve in writing all withdrawals of trusteed assets in advance except as follows:

(a) Any or all income, earnings, dividends, or interest accumulations of the trusteed assets may be paid over to the United States manager of the insurer upon request of the insurer or the manager;

(b) Withdrawals coincident with substitutions of securities or assets that are at least equal in value to those being withdrawn, if the substituted securities or assets would be eligible for investment by domestic insurers, and the insurer's United States manager requests the withdrawal in writing under a general or specific written authority previously given or delegated by the insurer's board of directors, or other similar governing body, and a copy of such authority has been filed with the trustee;

(c) For the purpose of making deposits required by another state in which the insurer is, or becomes, an autho-

rized insurer and for the protection of the insurer's policyholders or creditors, or both, in the state or United States, if the withdrawal does not reduce the insurer's deposit in this state to an amount less than the minimum deposit required. The trustee shall transfer any assets withdrawn and in the amount required to be deposited in the other state, directly to the depository required to receive the deposit as certified in writing by the public official having supervision of insurance in that state; and

(d) For the purpose of transferring the trustee assets to an official liquidator, conservator, or rehabilitator under an order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

(2) The commissioner shall authorize a withdrawal of only those assets that are in excess of the amount of assets required to be held in trust, or as may otherwise be consistent with the provisions of this chapter.

(3) If at any time the insurer becomes insolvent or if its assets held in the United States are less than required as determined by the commissioner, the commissioner shall order in writing the trustee to suspend the withdrawal of assets until a further order of the commissioner releasing the assets. [1991 c 268 § 13.]

#### **48.35.140 Trusteed assets—Substitution of trustee.**

A new trustee may be substituted for the original trustee of trustee assets in the event of a vacancy or for other proper cause. Any such substitution is subject to the commissioner's approval. [1991 c 268 § 14.]

**48.35.150 Trusteed assets—Compensation and expenses of trustees.** The insurer shall provide for the compensation and expenses of the trustees of assets of an alien insurer under this chapter in an amount, or on a basis, as agreed upon by the insurer and the trustees in the trust agreement, subject to the prior approval of the commissioner. [1991 c 268 § 15.]

**48.35.160 United States manager—Mexican or Canadian insurers.** The provisions of this chapter applicable to a United States manager shall, in the case of insurers domiciled in Mexico or Canada, be deemed to refer to the president, vice-president, secretary, or treasurer of the Mexican or Canadian insurer. [1991 c 268 § 16.]

**48.35.170 Domestication of alien insurer—Commissioner's approval.** (1) Upon compliance with this chapter, an alien insurer authorized to do business in this state may, with the prior written approval of the commissioner, domesticate its United States branch by entering into an agreement in writing with a domestic insurer providing for the acquisition by the domestic insurer of all of the assets and the assumption of all of the liabilities of the United States branch.

(2) The acquisition of assets and assumption of liabilities of the United States branch by the domestic insurer is effected by filing with the commissioner an instrument or instruments of transfer and assumption in form satisfactory to the commissioner and executed by the alien insurer and the domestic insurer. [1991 c 268 § 17.]

**48.35.180 Domestication agreement—Necessary authorization.** (1) The domestication agreement shall be authorized, adopted, approved, signed, and acknowledged by the alien insurer in accordance with the laws of the country under which it is organized.

(2) In the case of a domestic insurer, the domestication agreement shall be approved, adopted, and authorized by its board of directors and executed by its president or a vice-president and attested by its secretary or assistant secretary under its corporate seal. [1991 c 268 § 18.]

**48.35.190 Domestication agreement—Commissioner's approval of corporate proceedings.** An executed counterpart of the domestication agreement, together with certified copies of the corporate proceedings of the domestic insurer and the alien insurer, approving, adopting, and authorizing the execution of the domestication agreement, shall be submitted to the commissioner for approval. The commissioner shall thereupon consider the agreement, and, if the commissioner finds that the same is in accordance with the provisions hereof and that the interests of the policyholders of the United States branch of the alien insurer and of the domestic insurer are not materially adversely affected, the commissioner shall approve the domestication agreement and authorize the consummation thereof. [1991 c 268 § 19.]

**48.35.200 Domestication—When effective—Deposits—Transfer of assets.** (1) Upon the filing with the commissioner of a certified copy of the instrument of transfer and assumption pursuant to which a domestic company succeeds to the business and assets of the United States branch of an alien insurer and assumes all its liabilities, the domestication of the United States branch is deemed effective; and all the rights, franchises, and interests of the United States branch in and to every species of property and things, in actions thereunder belonging, are deemed as transferred to and vested in the domestic insurer, and simultaneously the domestic insurer is deemed to have assumed all of the liabilities of the United States branch. The domestic insurer is considered as having the age as the oldest of the two parties to the domestication agreement for purposes of laws relating to age of company.

(2) All deposits of the United States branch held by the commissioner, or by state officers, or other state regulatory agencies pursuant to requirements of state laws, are deemed to be held as security for the satisfaction by the domestic insurer of all liabilities to policyholders within the United States assumed from the United States branch; and the deposits are deemed to be assets of the domestic insurer and are reported as such in the annual financial statements and other reports that the domestic insurer may be required to file. Upon the ultimate release by a state officer or agency of a deposit, the securities and cash constituting the released deposit is delivered and paid over to the domestic insurer as the lawful successor in interest to the United States branch.

(3) Contemporaneously with the consummation of the domestication of the United States branch, the commissioner shall direct the trustee, if any, of the United States branch's trustee assets, as set forth in RCW 48.35.020, to transfer

and deliver to the domestic insurer all assets, if any, held by such trustee. [1991 c 268 § 20.]

### Chapter 48.36A

## FRATERNAL BENEFIT SOCIETIES

### Sections

- 48.36A.010 Fraternal benefit society defined.
- 48.36A.020 Lodge system—Lodges for children.
- 48.36A.030 Representative form of government.
- 48.36A.040 Definitions.
- 48.36A.050 Beneficial operations—Laws and rules.
- 48.36A.060 Membership classes, rights, grievances.
- 48.36A.070 Location of office and meetings—Official publications, annual statement.
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- 48.36A.350 Service of process upon commissioner.
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- 48.36A.380 World War I societies.
- 48.36A.390 Fraternal mutual insurers.
- 48.36A.400 Fraternal mutual life insurers.
- 48.36A.410 Review of commissioner's decisions and findings.
- 48.36A.900 Severability—1987 c 366.
- 48.36A.901 Effective date—1987 c 366.

**48.36A.010 Fraternal benefit society defined.** Any incorporated society, order, or supreme lodge, without capital stock, including one exempted under the provisions of RCW 48.36A.370(1)(b) whether incorporated or not, conducted solely for the benefit of its members and their beneficiaries

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and not for profit, operated on a lodge system with ritualistic form of work, having a representative form of government, and which provides benefits in accordance with this chapter, is hereby declared to be a fraternal benefit society. [1987 c 366 § 1.]

### 48.36A.020 Lodge system—Lodges for children. (1)

A society is operating on the lodge system if it has a supreme governing body and subordinate lodges into which members are elected, initiated, or admitted in accordance with its laws, rules, and ritual. Subordinate lodges shall be required by the laws of the society to hold regular meetings at least once in each month in furtherance of the purposes of the society.

(2) A society may, at its option, organize and operate lodges for children under the minimum age for adult membership. Membership and initiation in local lodges shall not be required of the children, nor shall they have a voice or vote in the management of the society. [1987 c 366 § 2.]

**48.36A.030 Representative form of government.** A society has a representative form of government when:

(1) It has a supreme governing body constituted in one of the following ways:

(a) The supreme governing body is an assembly composed of delegates elected directly by the members or at intermediate assemblies or conventions of members or their representatives, together with other delegates as may be prescribed in the society's laws. A society may provide for election of delegates by mail. The elected delegates shall constitute a majority in number and shall not have less than two-thirds of the votes and not less than the number of votes required to amend the society's laws. The assembly shall be elected and shall meet at least once every four years and shall elect a board of directors to conduct the business of the society between meetings of the assembly. Vacancies on the board of directors between elections may be filled in the manner prescribed by the society's laws; or

(b) The supreme governing body is a board composed of persons elected by the members, either directly or by their representatives in intermediate assemblies, and any other persons prescribed in the society's laws. A society may provide for election of the board by mail. Each term of a board member may not exceed four years. Vacancies on the board between elections may be filled in the manner prescribed by the society's laws. Those persons elected to the board shall constitute a majority in number and not less than the number of votes required to amend the society's laws. A person filling the unexpired term of an elected board member shall be considered to be an elected member. The board shall meet at least quarterly to conduct the business of the society;

(2) The officers of the society are elected either by the supreme governing body or by the board of directors;

(3) Only benefit members are eligible for election to the supreme governing body and the board of directors; and

(4) Each voting member shall have one vote. No vote may be cast by proxy. [1987 c 366 § 3.]

**48.36A.040 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, the following terms have the meanings indicated unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

(1) "Benefit contract" means the agreement for provision of benefits authorized by RCW 48.36A.160, as that agreement is described in RCW 48.36A.190(1).

(2) "Benefit member" means an adult member who is designated by the laws or rules of the society to be a benefit member under a benefit contract.

(3) "Certificate" means the document issued as written evidence of the benefit contract.

(4) "Premiums" means premiums, rates, dues or other required contributions by whatever name known, which are payable under the certificate.

(5) "Laws" means the society's articles of incorporation, constitution, and bylaws, however designated.

(6) "Rules" means all rules, regulations, or resolutions adopted by the supreme governing body or board of directors which are intended to have general application to the members of the society.

(7) "Society" means fraternal benefit society, unless otherwise indicated.

(8) "Lodge" means subordinate member units of the society, known as camps, courts, councils, branches, or by any other designation. [1987 c 366 § 4.]

**48.36A.050 Beneficial operations—Laws and rules.**

(1) A society shall operate for the benefit of members and their beneficiaries by:

(a) Providing benefits as specified in RCW 48.36A.160; and

(b) Operating for one or more social, intellectual, educational, charitable, benevolent, moral, fraternal, patriotic, or religious purposes for the benefit of its members, which may also be extended to others.

These purposes may be carried out directly by the society, or indirectly through subsidiary corporations or affiliated organizations.

(2) Every society may adopt laws and rules for the government of the society, the admission of its members, and the management of its affairs. It may change, alter, add to, or amend such laws and rules and has such other powers as are necessary and incidental to carrying into effect the objects and purposes of the society. [1987 c 366 § 5.]

**48.36A.060 Membership classes, rights, grievances.**

(1) A society shall specify in its laws or rules:

(a) Eligibility standards for each and every class of membership, provided that if benefits are provided on the lives of children, the minimum age for adult membership shall be set at not less than age fifteen and not greater than age twenty-one;

(b) The process for admission to membership for each membership class; and

(c) The rights and privileges of each membership class, provided that only benefit members shall have the right to vote on the management of the insurance affairs of the society.

(2) A society may also admit social members who have no voice or vote in the management of the insurance affairs of the society.

(3) Membership rights in the society are personal to the member and are not assignable.

(4) A society may provide in its laws or rules for grievance or complaint procedures for members. [1987 c 366 § 6.]

**48.36A.070 Location of office and meetings—Official publications, annual statement.**

(1) The principal office of any domestic society shall be located in this state. The meetings of its supreme governing body may be held in any state, district, province, or territory where the society has at least one subordinate lodge, or in such other location as determined by the supreme governing body, and all business transacted at the meetings is as valid in all respects as if the meetings were held in this state. The minutes of the proceedings of the supreme governing body and of the board of directors shall be in the English language.

(2) (a) A society may provide in its laws for an official publication in which any notice, report, or statement required by law to be given to members, including notice of election, may be published. Required reports, notices, and statements shall be printed conspicuously in the publication. If the records of a society show that two or more members have the same mailing address, an official publication mailed to one member is deemed to be mailed to all members at the same address unless a member requests a separate copy.

(b) Not later than June 1st of each year, a synopsis of the society's annual statement providing an explanation of the facts concerning the condition of the society thereby disclosed shall be printed and mailed to each benefit member of the society or, in lieu thereof, the synopsis may be published in the society's official publication. [1987 c 366 § 7.]

**48.36A.080 Immunity of officers—Indemnification of person responsible—Insurance for liability.**

(1) The officers and members of the supreme governing body or any subordinate body of a society shall not be personally liable for any benefits provided by a society.

(2) Any person may be indemnified and reimbursed by any society for expenses reasonably incurred by, and liabilities imposed upon, the person in connection with or arising out of any action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative, or threat thereof, in which the person may be involved by reason of the fact that the person is or was a director, officer, employee, or agent of the society or of any firm, corporation, or organization which the person served in any capacity at the request of the society. A person shall not be so indemnified or reimbursed (a) in relation to any matter in such action, suit, or proceeding as to which the person shall finally be adjudged to be or have been guilty of breach of a duty as a director, officer, employee, or agent of the society; or (b) in relation to any matter in the action, suit, or proceeding, or threat thereof, which has been made the subject of a compromise settlement; unless in either case the person acted in good faith for a purpose the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the society and, in a criminal action or proceeding, in addition, had no reasonable cause to believe that their conduct was unlawful. The determination whether the conduct of the person met the standard required in order to justify indemnification and reimbursement in

relation to any matter described in (a) or (b) of this subsection may only be made by the supreme governing body or board of directors by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of persons who were not parties to the action, suit, or proceeding or by a court of competent jurisdiction. The termination of any action, suit, or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or upon a plea of no contest, as to the person shall not in itself create a conclusive presumption that the person did not meet the standard of conduct required in order to justify indemnification and reimbursement. The foregoing right of indemnification and reimbursement shall not be exclusive of other rights to which the person may be entitled as a matter of law and shall inure to the benefit of the person's heirs, executors, and administrators.

(3) A society may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a director, officer, employee, or agent of the society, or who is or was serving at the request of the society as a director, officer, employee, or agent of any other firm, corporation, or organization against any liability asserted against the person and incurred by the person in any capacity or arising out of the person's status as such, whether or not the society would have the power to indemnify the person against the liability under this section. [1987 c 366 § 8.]

**48.36A.090 Nonwaiver provisions.** The laws of the society may provide that no subordinate body, nor any of its subordinate officers or members shall have the power or authority to waive any of the provisions of the laws of the society. Such provision shall be binding on the society and every member and beneficiary of a member. [1987 c 366 § 9.]

**48.36A.100 Formation of domestic society—Procedures and requirements.** A domestic society organized on or after January 1, 1988, shall be formed as follows, but not until it has and continues to maintain unimpaired surplus in the minimum amount of total capital and surplus required by RCW 48.05.340:

(1) Seven or more citizens of the United States, a majority of whom are citizens of this state, who desire to form a fraternal benefit society, may make, sign, and acknowledge before some officer competent to take acknowledgment of deeds, articles of incorporation, in which shall be stated:

(a) The proposed corporate name of the society, which shall not so closely resemble the name of any society or insurance company as to be misleading or confusing;

(b) The purposes for which it is being formed and the mode in which its corporate powers are to be exercised. The purposes shall not include more liberal powers than are granted by this chapter;

(c) The names and residences of the incorporators and the names, residences, and official titles of all the officers, trustees, directors, or other persons who are to have and exercise the general control of the management of the affairs and funds of the society for the first year or until the ensuing election at which all the officers shall be elected by the supreme governing body, which election shall be held not

later than one year from the date of issuance of the permanent certificate of authority.

(2) The articles of incorporation, duly certified copies of the society's bylaws and rules, copies of all proposed forms of certificates, applications therefor, and circulars to be issued by the society, and a bond conditioned upon the return to applicants of the advanced payments if the organization is not completed within one year shall be filed with the commissioner, who may require further information as the commissioner deems necessary. The bond with sureties approved by the commissioner shall be in an amount, not less than three hundred thousand dollars nor more than one million five hundred thousand dollars as required by the commissioner. All documents filed are to be in the English language. If the purposes of the society conform to the requirements of this chapter and all provisions of the law have been complied with, the commissioner shall so certify, retain, and file the articles of incorporation and furnish the incorporators a preliminary certificate of authority authorizing the society to solicit members as hereinafter provided.

(3) No preliminary certificate of authority granted under the provisions of this section shall be valid after one year from its date or after a further period, not exceeding one year, as may be authorized by the commissioner upon cause shown, unless the five hundred applicants required by subsection (4) of this section have been secured and the organization has been completed under this chapter. The articles of incorporation and all other proceedings thereunder shall become null and void in one year from the date of the preliminary certificate of authority, or at the expiration of the extended period, unless the society shall have completed its organization and received a certificate of authority to do business under this chapter.

(4) Upon receipt of a preliminary certificate of authority from the commissioner, the society may solicit members for the purpose of completing its organization, shall collect from each applicant the amount of not less than one regular monthly premium in accordance with its table of rates, and shall issue to each applicant a receipt for the amount collected. No society shall incur any liability other than for the return of the advance premium, nor issue any certificate, nor pay, allow, or offer or promise to pay or allow, any benefit to any person until:

(a) Actual bona fide applications for benefits have been secured on not less than five hundred applicants, and any necessary evidence of insurability has been furnished to and approved by the society;

(b) At least ten subordinate lodges have been established into which the five hundred applicants have been admitted;

(c) There has been submitted to the commissioner, under oath of the president or secretary, or corresponding officer of the society, a list of the applicants, giving their names, addresses, date each was admitted, name and number of the subordinate lodge of which each applicant is a member, amount of benefits to be granted, and premiums therefor; and

(d) It has been shown to the commissioner, by sworn statement of the treasurer, or corresponding officer of the society, that at least five hundred applicants have each paid in cash at least one regular monthly premium and the total amount of collected premiums equals at least one hundred fifty thousand dollars. The advance premiums shall be held

in trust during the period of organization and if the society has not qualified for a certificate of authority within one year, the premiums shall be returned to the applicants.

(5) The commissioner may make such examination and require such further information as the commissioner deems advisable. Upon presentation of satisfactory evidence that the society has complied with all the provisions of this chapter, the commissioner shall issue to the society a certificate of authority to that effect and that the society is authorized to transact business pursuant to the provisions of this chapter. The certificate of authority shall be prima facie evidence of the existence of the society at the date of the certificate. The commissioner shall cause a record of the certificate of authority to be made. A certified copy of the record may be given in evidence with like effect as the original certificate of authority.

(6) Any incorporated society authorized to transact business in this state at the time this chapter becomes effective shall not be required to reincorporate.

(7) The commissioner may, by rule, require domestic fraternal societies to have and maintain a larger amount of surplus than the minimum amount of capital and surplus prescribed under RCW 48.05.340, based upon the type, volume, and nature of insurance business transacted, consistent with the principles of risk-based capital modified to recognize the special characteristics of fraternal benefit societies. [1996 c 236 § 1; 1987 c 366 § 10.]

**48.36A.110 Amendment of society's laws.** (1) A domestic society may amend its laws in accordance with the provisions thereof by action of its supreme governing body at any regular or special meeting thereof or, if its laws so provide, by referendum. The referendum may be held in accordance with the provisions of its laws by the vote of the voting members of the society, by the vote of delegates or representatives of voting members, or by the vote of local lodges. A society may provide for voting by mail. No amendment submitted for adoption by referendum shall be adopted unless, within six months from the date of submission, a majority of the members voting shall have signified their consent to the amendment by one of the specified methods.

(2) No amendment to the laws of any domestic society shall take effect unless approved by the commissioner. The commissioner shall approve the amendment if the commissioner finds that it has been duly adopted and is not inconsistent with any requirement of the laws of this state or with the character, objects, and purposes of the society. Unless the commissioner disapproves any amendment within sixty days after the filing of same, the amendment shall be considered approved. The approval or disapproval by the commissioner shall be in writing and mailed to the secretary or corresponding officer of the society at its principal office. In case the commissioner disapproves the amendment, the reasons for the disapproval shall be stated in the written notice.

(3) Within ninety days from the approval by the commissioner, all amendments, or a synopsis thereof, shall be furnished to all members of the society either by mail or by publication in full in the official publication of the society. The affidavit of any officer of the society or of

anyone authorized by it to mail any amendments or synopsis thereof, stating facts which show that same have been duly addressed and mailed, shall be prima facie evidence that the amendments or synopsis thereof, have been furnished to the addressee.

(4) Every foreign or alien society authorized to do business in this state shall file with the commissioner a certified copy of all amendments of, or additions to, its laws within ninety days after their enactment.

(5) Printed copies of the laws as amended, certified by the secretary or corresponding officer of the society, shall be prima facie evidence of their legal adoption. [1987 c 366 § 11.]

**48.36A.120 Not-for-profit institutions authorized—Funeral homes prohibited.** (1) A society may create, maintain, and operate, or establish organizations to operate, not-for-profit institutions to further the purposes permitted by RCW 48.36A.050(1)(b). The institutions may furnish services free or at a reasonable charge. Any real or personal property owned, held or leased by the society for this purpose shall be reported in every annual statement.

(2) No society shall own or operate funeral homes or undertaking establishments. [1987 c 366 § 12.]

**48.36A.130 Reinsurance.** (1) A domestic society may, by a reinsurance agreement, transfer any individual risk or risks in whole or in part to an insurer, other than another fraternal benefit society, having the power to make such reinsurance and authorized to do business in this state, or if not so authorized, one which is approved by the commissioner, but no domestic society may reinsure substantially all of its insurance in force without the written permission of the commissioner. It may take credit for the reserves on the transferred risks to the extent reinsured, but no credit shall be allowed as an admitted asset or as a deduction from liability, to a transferring society for reinsurance made, transferred, renewed, or otherwise becoming effective after January 1, 1988, unless the reinsurance is payable by the assuming insurer on the basis of the liability of the transferring society under the contract or contracts reinsured without diminution because of the insolvency of the transferring society.

(2) Notwithstanding the limitation in subsection (1) of this section, a society may reinsure the risks of another society in a consolidation or merger approved by the commissioner under RCW 48.36A.140. [1987 c 366 § 13.]

**48.36A.140 Consolidation and merger.** (1) A domestic society may consolidate or merge with any other society by complying with the provisions of this section. It shall file with the commissioner:

(a) A certified copy of the written contract containing in full the terms and conditions of the consolidation or merger;

(b) A sworn statement by the president and secretary or corresponding officers of each society showing their financial condition on a date fixed by the commissioner but not earlier than December 31st next preceding the date of the contract;

(c) A certificate of the officers, duly verified by their respective oaths, that the consolidation or merger has been

approved by a two-thirds vote of the supreme governing body of each society, such vote being conducted at a regular or special meeting of each such body, or, if the society's laws so permit, by mail; and

(d) Evidence that at least sixty days prior to the action of the supreme governing body of each society, the text of the contract has been furnished to all members of each society either by mail or by publication in full in the official publication of each society.

(2) If the commissioner finds that the contract is in conformity with the provisions of this section, that the financial statements are correct, and that the consolidation or merger is just and equitable to the members of each society, the commissioner shall approve the contract and issue a certificate to that effect. Upon approval, the contract shall be in full force and effect unless any society which is a party to the contract is incorporated under the laws of any other state or territory. In such event, the consolidation or merger shall not become effective unless and until it has been approved as provided by the laws of such state or territory and a certificate of such approval is filed with the commissioner of this state or, if the laws of the state or territory contain no such provision, then the consolidation or merger shall not become effective unless and until it has been approved by the commissioner of insurance of the state or territory and a certificate of such approval is filed with the commissioner of this state.

(3) Upon the consolidation or merger becoming effective, all the rights, franchises, and interests of the consolidated or merged societies in and to every species of property, real, personal, or mixed, and things in action thereunto belonging shall be vested in the society resulting from or remaining after the consolidation or merger without any other instrument, except that conveyances of real property may be evidenced by proper deeds, and the title to any real estate or interest therein, vested under the laws of this state in any of the societies consolidated or merged, shall not revert or be in any way impaired by reason of the consolidation or merger, but shall vest absolutely in the society resulting from or remaining after the consolidation or merger.

(4) The affidavit of any officer of the society or of anyone authorized by it to mail any notice or document, stating that the notice or document has been duly addressed and mailed, shall be prima facie evidence that the notice or document has been furnished to the addressees. [1987 c 366 § 14.]

**48.36A.150 Conversion to mutual life insurance company.** Any domestic fraternal benefit society may be converted and licensed as a mutual life insurance company by compliance with all the requirements of the insurance laws of this state for mutual life insurance companies. A plan of conversion shall be prepared in writing by the board of directors setting forth in full the terms and conditions of conversion. The affirmative vote of two-thirds of all members of the supreme governing body at a regular or special meeting shall be necessary for the approval of such plan, or if the society is organized under the direct election method pursuant to RCW 48.36A.030(1)(b), the plan of conversion shall be submitted by mail to the benefit mem-

bers or the plan may be published in the official publication authorized by RCW 48.36A.070(2)(a). The affirmative vote of two-thirds of the benefit members voting thereon shall be necessary for the approval of the plan. No conversion shall take effect unless and until approved by the commissioner who may give approval if the commissioner finds that the proposed change is in conformity with the requirements of law and not prejudicial to the certificate holders of the society. [1987 c 366 § 15.]

**48.36A.160 Contractual benefits.** (1) A society may provide the following contractual benefits in any form:

- (a) Death benefits;
- (b) Endowment benefits;
- (c) Annuity benefits;
- (d) Temporary or permanent disability benefits;
- (e) Hospital, medical, or nursing benefits;
- (f) Monument or tombstone benefits to the memory of deceased members; and

(g) Such other benefits as authorized for life insurers and which are not inconsistent with this chapter.

(2) A society shall specify in its rules those persons who may be issued, or covered by, the contractual benefits in subsection (1) of this section, consistent with providing benefits to members and their dependents. A society may provide benefits on the lives of children under the minimum age for adult membership upon application of an adult person. [1987 c 366 § 16.]

**48.36A.170 Designation of beneficiary—Funeral benefits.** (1) The owner of a benefit contract shall have the right at all times to change the beneficiary or beneficiaries in accordance with the laws or rules of the society unless the owner waives this right by specifically requesting in writing that the beneficiary designation be irrevocable. A society may, through its laws or rules, limit the scope of beneficiary designations and shall provide that no revocable beneficiary shall have or obtain any vested interest in the proceeds of any certificate until the certificate has become due and payable in conformity with the provisions of the benefit contract.

(2) A society may make provision for the payment of funeral benefits to the extent of such portion of any payment under a certificate as might reasonably appear to be due to any person equitably entitled thereto by reason of having incurred expense occasioned by the burial of the member, provided the portion paid shall not exceed the sum of one thousand dollars.

(3) If, at the death of any person insured under a benefit contract, there is no lawful beneficiary to whom the proceeds shall be payable, the amount of the benefit, except to the extent that funeral benefits may be paid under this section, shall be payable to the personal representative of the deceased insured, provided that if the owner of the certificate is other than the insured, the proceeds shall be payable to the owner. [1987 c 366 § 17.]

**48.36A.180 Protection of benefits.** No money or other benefit, charity, relief, or aid to be paid, provided or rendered by any society, shall be liable to attachment, garnishment, or other process, or to be seized, taken, ap-

propriated, or applied by any legal or equitable process or operation of law to pay any debt or liability of a member or beneficiary, or any other person who may have a right thereunder, either before or after payment by the society. [1987 c 366 § 18.]

**48.36A.190 Benefit certificates—Impaired reserves.**

(1) Every society authorized to do business in this state shall issue to each owner of a benefit contract a certificate specifying the amount of benefits provided. The certificate, together with any riders or endorsements attached thereto, the laws of the society, the application for membership, the application for insurance and declaration of insurability, if any, signed by the applicant, and all amendments, shall constitute the benefit contract, as of the date of issuance, between the society and the owner, and the certificate shall so state. A copy of the application for insurance and declaration of insurability, if any, shall be endorsed upon or attached to the certificate. All statements on the application shall be representations and not warranties. Any waiver of this provision shall be void.

(2) Except as provided in RCW 48.36A.220, any changes, additions, or amendments to the laws of the society duly made or enacted subsequent to the issuance of the certificate, shall bind the owner and the beneficiaries, and shall govern and control the benefit contract in all respects the same as though the changes, additions, or amendments had been made prior to and were in force at the time of the application for insurance, except that no change, addition, or amendment shall destroy or diminish benefits which the society contracted to give the owner as of the date of issuance.

(3) Any person upon whose life a benefit contract is issued prior to attaining the age of majority shall be bound by the terms of the application and certificate and by all the laws and rules of the society to the same extent as though the age of majority had been attained at the time of application.

(4) Except as provided in RCW 48.36A.220, a society shall provide in its laws that if its reserves as to all or any class of certificates become impaired, its board of directors or corresponding body may require that there shall be paid by the owner to the society the amount of the owner's equitable proportion of the deficiency as ascertained by its board, and that if the payment is not made, either (a) it shall stand as an indebtedness against the certificate and draw interest not to exceed the rate specified for certificate loans under the certificates; or (b) in lieu of or in combination with (a) of this subsection, the owner may accept a proportionate reduction in benefits under the certificate. The society may specify the manner of the election and which alternative is to be presumed if no election is made.

(5) Copies of any of the documents mentioned in this section, certified by the secretary or corresponding officer of the society, shall be received in evidence of the terms and conditions thereof.

(6) No certificate shall be delivered or issued for delivery in this state unless a copy of the form has been filed with the commissioner in the manner provided for like policies issued by life insurers in this state. Every life, accident, health, or disability insurance certificate and every

annuity certificate issued on or after one year from January 1, 1988, shall be approved by the commissioner and shall meet the standard contract provision requirements not inconsistent with this chapter for like policies issued by life insurers in this state, except that a society may provide for a grace period for payment of premiums of one full month in its certificates. The certificates shall also contain a provision stating the amount of premiums which are payable under the certificate and a provision reciting or setting forth the substance of any sections of the society's laws or rules in force at the time of issuance of the certificate which, if violated, will result in the termination or reduction of benefits payable under the certificate. If the laws of the society provide for expulsion or suspension of a member, the certificate shall also contain a provision that any member so expelled or suspended, except for nonpayment of a premium or within the contestable period for material misrepresentation in the application for membership or insurance, shall have the privilege of maintaining the certificate in force by continuing payment of the required premium.

(7) Benefit contracts issued on the lives of persons below the society's minimum age for adult membership may provide for transfer of control or ownership to the insured at an age specified in the certificate. A society may require approval of an application for membership in order to effect this transfer, and may provide in all other respects for the regulation, government, and control of such certificates and all rights, obligations, and liabilities incident thereto and connected therewith. Ownership rights prior to the transfer shall be specified in the certificate.

(8) A society may specify the terms and conditions on which benefit contracts may be assigned. [1987 c 366 § 19.]

**48.36A.200 Paid-up nonforfeiture benefits and cash surrender values.**

(1) For certificates issued prior to one year after January 1, 1988, the value of every paid-up nonforfeiture benefit and the amount of any cash surrender value, loan, or other option granted shall comply with the provisions of law applicable immediately prior to January 1, 1988.

(2) For certificates issued on or after one year from January 1, 1988, for which reserves are computed on the commissioner's 1941 standard ordinary mortality table, the commissioner's 1941 standard industrial table or the commissioner's 1958 standard ordinary mortality table, or the commissioner's 1980 standard mortality table, or any more recent table made applicable to life insurers, every paid-up nonforfeiture benefit and the amount of any cash surrender value, loan, or other option granted shall not be less than the corresponding amount ascertained in accordance with the laws of this state applicable to life insurers issuing policies containing like benefits based upon such tables.

(3) For annuity certificates issued on or after one year from January 1, 1988, every paid-up nonforfeiture benefit and the amount of any cash surrender value, loan, or other option granted shall not be less than the corresponding amount ascertained in accordance with the laws of this state applicable to life insurers issuing annuities. [1987 c 366 § 20.]



**48.36A.210 Authorized investments.** A society shall invest its funds only in investments that are authorized by the laws of this state for the investment of assets of life insurers and subject to the limitations thereon. Any foreign or alien society permitted or seeking to do business in this state which invests its funds in accordance with the laws of the state, district, territory, country, or province in which it is incorporated, shall be deemed to have met the requirements of this section for the investment of funds. [1987 c 366 § 21.]

**48.36A.220 Assets—Investment and disbursement.**

(1) All assets shall be held, invested, and disbursed for the use and benefit of the society and no member or beneficiary shall have or acquire individual rights therein or become entitled to any apportionment on the surrender of any part thereof, except as provided in the benefit contract.

(2) A society may create, maintain, invest, disburse, and apply any special fund or funds necessary to carry out any purpose permitted by the laws of the society.

(3) A society may, pursuant to resolution of its supreme governing body, establish and operate one or more separate accounts and issue contracts on a variable basis, subject to all the provisions of law regulating life insurers establishing such accounts and issuing such contracts, as provided in chapter 48.18A RCW. To the extent the society deems it necessary in order to comply with any applicable federal or state laws, or any rules issued thereunder, the society may adopt special procedures for the conduct of the business and affairs of a separate account, may, for persons having beneficial interests therein, provide special voting and other rights, including without limitation special rights and procedures relating to investment policy, investment advisory services, selection of certified public accountants, and selection of a committee to manage the business and affairs of the account, and may issue contracts on a variable basis to which RCW 48.36A.190 (2) and (4) shall not apply. [1987 c 366 § 22.]

**48.36A.230 Chapter exclusive.** Societies shall be governed by this chapter and shall be exempt from all other provisions of the insurance laws of this state unless they are expressly designated therein, or unless it is specifically made applicable by this chapter. [1987 c 366 § 23.]

**48.36A.240 Funds tax exempt, exception.** Every society organized or licensed under this chapter is hereby declared to be a charitable and benevolent institution, and all of its funds shall be exempt from all and every state, county, district, municipal, and school tax, other than taxes on real estate and office equipment. [1987 c 366 § 24.]

**48.36A.250 Valuation standards—Reserves.** (1) Standards of valuation for certificates issued prior to one year after January 1, 1988, shall be those provided by the laws applicable immediately prior to January 1, 1988.

(2) The minimum standards of valuation for certificates issued on or after one year from January 1, 1988, shall be based on the following tables:

(a) For certificates of life insurance: The commissioner's 1941 standard ordinary mortality table, the

commissioner's 1941 standard industrial mortality table, the commissioner's 1958 standard ordinary mortality table, the commissioner's 1980 standard ordinary mortality table, or any more recent table made applicable to life insurers;

(b) For annuity and pure endowment certificates, for total and permanent disability benefits, for accidental death benefits, and for noncancellable accident and health benefits: Such tables as are authorized for use by life insurers in this state.

All of the above shall be under valuation methods and standards, including interest assumptions, in accordance with the laws of this state applicable to life insurers issuing policies containing like benefits.

(3) The commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion, accept other standards for valuation if the commissioner finds that the reserves produced thereby will not be less in the aggregate than reserves computed in accordance with the minimum valuation standard herein prescribed. The commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion, vary the standards of mortality applicable to all benefit contracts on substandard lives or other extra hazardous lives by any society authorized to do business in this state.

(4) Any society, with the consent of the commissioner of insurance of the state of domicile of the society and under the conditions, if any, which the commissioner may impose, may establish and maintain reserves on its certificates in excess of the reserves required by this section, but the contractual rights of any benefit member shall not be affected thereby. [1987 c 366 § 25.]

**48.36A.260 Annual financial statement.** (1) Every society transacting business in this state shall annually, on or before the first day of March, unless for cause shown such time has been extended by the commissioner, file with the commissioner a true statement of its financial condition, transactions, and affairs for the preceding calendar year and pay a fee of ten dollars for filing. The statement shall be in general form and context as approved by the national association of insurance commissioners for fraternal benefit societies and as supplemented by additional information required by the commissioner.

(2) As part of the required annual statement, each society shall, on or before the first day of March, file with the commissioner a valuation of its certificates in force on December 31st last preceding, provided the commissioner may, in the commissioner's discretion for cause shown, extend the time for filing the valuation for not more than two calendar months. The valuation shall be done in accordance with the standards specified in RCW 48.36A.250. The valuation and underlying data shall be certified by a qualified actuary or, at the expense of the society, verified by the actuary of the department of insurance of the state of domicile of the society.

(3) A society neglecting to file the annual statement in the form and within the time provided by this section shall forfeit one hundred dollars for each day during which the neglect continues, and, upon notice by the commissioner, its authority to do business in this state shall cease while the default continues. [1987 c 366 § 26.]

**48.36A.270 Licenses and renewals—Fees—Existing societies.** A license under this chapter continues in force until suspended, revoked, or not renewed. A license is subject to renewal annually on the first day of July upon payment of the fee for the license. If not so renewed, the certificate expires as of the thirtieth day of June of the same year. Licenses existing on June 9, 1994, continue in force until July 1, 1995, unless revoked or suspended. For each license or renewal the society shall pay the commissioner the fee established pursuant to RCW 48.14.010, subject to the retaliatory provision of RCW 48.14.040. A certified copy or duplicate of the license shall be prima facie evidence that the licensee is a fraternal benefit society within the meaning of this chapter. [1994 c 131 § 1; 1987 c 366 § 27.]

**48.36A.272 Notice of intent to suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew a license.** The commissioner shall give a society notice of his or her intention to suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew its license not less than ten days before the effective date of the order of suspension, revocation or refusal, except that advance notice of intention is not required where the order results from a domestic society's failure to make good a deficiency of assets as required by the commissioner. [1996 c 236 § 4.]

**48.36A.274 Duration of suspension.** The commissioner shall not suspend a society's license for a period in excess of one year, and shall state in his or her order of suspension the period during which the order is effective. [1996 c 236 § 5.]

**48.36A.276 Reauthorization of license.** A society whose license has been suspended, revoked, or refused may not subsequently be authorized unless the grounds for the suspension, revocation, or refusal no longer exist and the society is otherwise fully qualified. [1996 c 236 § 6.]

**48.36A.278 Notice to agents of loss of authority.** Upon the suspension, revocation, or refusal of a society's license, the commissioner shall give notice to the society and shall suspend, revoke, or refuse the authority of its agents to represent it in this state and give notice to the agents. [1996 c 236 § 7.]

**48.36A.280 Examinations.** (1) The commissioner, or any person the commissioner may appoint, may examine any domestic, foreign, or alien society transacting or applying for admission to transact business in this state in the same manner as authorized by chapter 48.03 RCW. Requirements of notice and an opportunity to respond before findings are made public as provided in the laws regulating insurers shall also be applicable to the examination of societies.

(2) The expense of each examination and of each valuation, including the compensation and actual expense of examiners, shall be paid by the society examined or whose certificates are valued. The payments shall be made upon receipt of statements furnished by the commissioner. [1987 c 366 § 28.]

**48.36A.282 Transactions hazardous to certificate holders or creditors—Standards for consideration.** The following standards may be considered by the commissioner to determine whether the continued operation of any society transacting an insurance business in this state might be deemed to be hazardous to the certificate holders or creditors. The commissioner may consider:

(1) Adverse findings reported in either a financial condition or market conduct examination report, or both, of a state insurance department that could lead to impairment of surplus;

(2) The national association of insurance commissioners insurance regulatory information system and its related reports;

(3) The ratios of commission expense, general insurance expense, policy benefits, and reserve increases as to annual premium and net investment income that could lead to an impairment of surplus;

(4) The society's asset portfolio when viewed in light of current economic conditions is not of sufficient value, liquidity, or diversity to assure the society's ability to meet its outstanding obligations as they mature;

(5) The ability of an assuming reinsurer to perform and whether the society's reinsurance program provides sufficient protection for the society's remaining surplus after taking into account the society's cash flow and the classes of business written as well as the financial condition of the assuming reinsurer;

(6) The society's operating loss in the last twelve-month period or any shorter period of time, including but not limited to net capital gain or loss, change in nonadmitted assets, and cash refunds paid to members, is greater than fifty percent of the society's remaining surplus as regards certificate holders in excess of the minimum required;

(7) Whether any affiliate, subsidiary, or reinsurer is insolvent, threatened with insolvency, or delinquent in payment of its monetary or other obligation;

(8) Contingent liabilities, pledges, or guaranties which either individually or collectively involve a total amount that in the opinion of the commissioner may affect the solvency of the society;

(9) The age and collectibility of receivables;

(10) Whether the management of a society, including officers, trustees, directors, or any other person who directly or indirectly controls the operation of the society, fails to possess and demonstrate the competence, fitness, and reputation deemed necessary to serve the society in such a position;

(11) Whether management of a society has failed to respond to inquiries relative to the condition of the society or has furnished misleading information concerning an inquiry;

(12) Whether management of a society either has filed any false or misleading sworn financial statement, or has released a false or misleading financial statement to lending institutions or to the general public, or has made a false or misleading entry, or has omitted an entry of material amount in the books of the society;

(13) Whether the society has grown so rapidly and to such an extent that it lacks adequate financial and administrative capacity to meet its obligations in a timely manner; and

(14) Whether the society has experienced or will experience in the foreseeable future, either cash flow problems or liquidity problems, or both. [1996 c 236 § 8.]

**48.36A.284 Determination of financial condition—Hazardous to certificate holders—Commissioner's order—Hearing.** (1) For the purpose of making a determination of a society's financial condition, the commissioner may:

(a) Disregard any credit or amount receivable resulting from transactions with a reinsurer that is insolvent, impaired, or otherwise subject to a delinquency proceeding;

(b) Make appropriate adjustments to asset values attributable to investments in or transactions with parents, subsidiaries, or affiliates;

(c) Refuse to recognize the stated value of accounts receivable if the ability to collect receivables is highly speculative in view of the age of the account or the financial condition of the debtor; or

(d) Increase the society's liability in an amount equal to any contingent liability, pledge, or guarantee not otherwise included if there is a substantial risk that the society will be called upon to meet the obligation undertaken within the next twelve-month period.

(2) If the commissioner determines that the continued operation of the society authorized to transact business in this state may be hazardous to the certificate holders, then the commissioner may, in conjunction with or in lieu of a notice required or permitted by RCW 48.36A.272, issue an order requiring the society to:

(a) Reduce the total amount of present and potential liability for policy benefits by reinsurance;

(b) Reduce, suspend, or limit the volume of business being accepted or renewed;

(c) Reduce general insurance and commission expenses by specified methods;

(d) Increase the society's surplus;

(e) Suspend or limit the declaration and payment of refunds by a society to its members;

(f) File reports in a form acceptable to the commissioner concerning the market value of a society's assets;

(g) Limit or withdraw from certain investments or discontinue certain investment practices to the extent the commissioner deems necessary;

(h) Document the adequacy of premium rates in relation to the risks insured; or

(i) File, in addition to regular annual statements, interim financial reports on the form adopted by the national association of insurance commissioners or on a format promulgated by the commissioner.

(3) Any society subject to an order under subsection (2) of this section may make a written demand for a hearing, subject to the requirements of RCW 48.04.010, by specifying in what respects it is aggrieved and the grounds to be relied upon as basis for the relief to be demanded at the hearing. [1996 c 236 § 9.]

**48.36A.286 Rehabilitation, liquidation, or conservation of society—Same as insurance companies—Priority of distribution of claims.** (1) Any rehabilitation, liquidation, or conservation of a domestic fraternal benefit society

is the same as the rehabilitation, liquidation, or conservation of an insurance company and shall be conducted under the supervision of the commissioner pursuant to the law governing the rehabilitation, liquidation, or conservation of insurance companies. The commissioner may apply for an order directing the commissioner to rehabilitate, liquidate, or conserve a domestic fraternal benefit society upon any one or more of the following grounds: That the domestic fraternal benefit society:

(a) Is insolvent; or

(b) Has ceased transacting insurance business for a period of one year; or

(c) Is insolvent and has commenced voluntary liquidation or dissolution, or attempts to commence or prosecute any action or proceeding to liquidate its business or affairs, or to dissolve its corporate charter, or to procure the appointment of a receiver, trustee, custodian, or sequestrator under any law except this code; or

(d) Any of the matters set forth in RCW 48.36A.310.

(2) The priority of the distribution of claims from a domestic fraternal benefit society's estate shall be as set forth in RCW 48.31.280. [1996 c 236 § 10.]

**48.36A.290 License required—Obtaining.** (1) No foreign or alien society shall transact business in this state without a license issued by the commissioner. Any society desiring admission to this state shall comply substantially with the requirements and limitations of this chapter applicable to domestic societies and must have and continue to maintain unimpaired surplus in the minimum amount of total capital and surplus required by RCW 48.05.340. A society may be licensed to transact business in this state upon filing with the commissioner:

(a) A duly certified copy of its articles of incorporation;

(b) A copy of its bylaws, certified by its secretary or corresponding officer;

(c) A power of attorney to the commissioner as prescribed in RCW 48.36A.410;

(d) A statement of its business under oath by its president and secretary, or corresponding officers, in a form prescribed by the commissioner, verified by an examination made by the supervising insurance official of its home state or other state, territory, province, or country, satisfactory to the commissioner;

(e) Certification from the proper official of its home state, territory, province, or country that the society is legally incorporated and licensed to transact business;

(f) Copies of its certificate forms; and

(g) Such other information as the commissioner may deem necessary; and upon a showing that its assets are invested in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

(2) After June 30, 1997, a foreign or alien society which does not have unimpaired surplus in the minimum amount of total capital and surplus required by RCW 48.05.340 may not issue any new policies or certificates until the society has unimpaired surplus in the minimum amount of total capital and surplus required by RCW 48.05.340; however, a foreign or alien society may continue to issue new policies or certificates to members of the society who have an existing policy or certificate in force with the society on June 30, 1997. Once such a foreign or alien society obtains unim-

paired surplus in the minimum amount of total capital and surplus required by RCW 48.05.340, the society must continue to maintain unimpaired surplus in the minimum amount of total capital and surplus required by RCW 48.05.340.

(3) After June 30, 1997, a foreign or alien society which had unimpaired surplus in the minimum amount of total capital and surplus required by RCW 48.05.340 on December 31, 1996, must continue to maintain unimpaired surplus in the minimum amount of total capital and surplus required by RCW 48.05.340.

(4) The commissioner may, by rule, require foreign or alien fraternal societies to have and maintain a larger amount of surplus than the minimum amount of capital and surplus prescribed under RCW 48.05.340, based upon the type, volume, and nature of insurance business transacted, consistent with the principles of risk-based capital modified to recognize the special characteristics of fraternal benefit societies. [1996 c 236 § 2; 1987 c 366 § 29.]

**48.36A.310 Deficiencies, noncompliance by societies—Actions against license.** (1) The commissioner may refuse, suspend, or revoke a fraternal benefit society's license, if the society:

- (a) Has exceeded its powers;
- (b) Has failed to comply with any of the provisions of this chapter;
- (c) Is not fulfilling its contracts in good faith;
- (d) Is conducting its business fraudulently;
- (e) Has a membership of less than four hundred after an existence of one year or more;
- (f) Is found by the commissioner to be in such a condition that its further transaction of insurance in this state would be hazardous to certificate holders and the people in this state;
- (g) Refuses to remove or discharge a trustee, director, or officer who has been convicted of any crime involving fraud, dishonesty, or like moral turpitude;
- (h) Refuses to be examined, or if its trustees, directors, officers, employees, or representatives refuse to submit to examination or to produce its accounts, records, and files for examination by the commissioner when required, or refuse to perform any legal obligation relative to the examination;
- (i) Fails to pay any final judgment rendered against it in this state upon any certificate, or undertaking issued by it, within thirty days after the judgment became final or within thirty days after time for taking an appeal has expired, or within thirty days after dismissal of an appeal before final determination, whichever date is the later;
- (j) Is found by the commissioner, after investigation or upon receipt of reliable information, to be managed by persons, whether by its trustees, directors, officers, or by any other means, who are incompetent or untrustworthy or so lacking in fraternal benefit society managerial experience as to make a proposed operation hazardous to its members; or that there is good reason to believe it is affiliated directly or indirectly through ownership, control, or business relations, with any person or persons whose business operations are or have been found to be in violation of any law or rule, to the detriment of the members of the society or of the public, by

bad faith or by manipulation of the assets, or of accounts, or of reinsurance of the society; or

(k) Does business through agents or other representatives in this state or in any other state who are not properly licensed under applicable laws and rules.

(2) Nothing in this section shall prevent a society from continuing, in good faith, all contracts made in this state during the time the society was legally authorized to transact business herein. [1996 c 236 § 3; 1987 c 366 § 31.]

**48.36A.320 Requirements for injunction.** No application or petition for injunction against any domestic, foreign, or alien society, or lodge thereof, shall be maintained in any court of this state unless made by the attorney general upon request of the commissioner. [1987 c 366 § 32.]

**48.36A.330 Agents.** (1) Agents of societies shall be licensed in accordance with the applicable provisions of chapter 48.17 RCW regulating the licensing, revocation, suspension, or termination of licenses of resident and nonresident agents. Persons who are so authorized by a fraternal benefit society for a period of one year immediately prior to June 13, 1963, shall not be required to take and pass an examination as required by RCW 48.17.110.

(2) The following individuals shall not be deemed an agent of a fraternal benefit society within the provisions of subsection (1) of this section:

(a) Any regular salaried officer or employee of a licensed society who devotes substantially all of their services to activities other than the solicitation of fraternal insurance contracts from the public, and who receives for the solicitation of such contracts no commission or other compensation directly dependent upon the amount of business obtained; or

(b) Any agent or representative of a society who devotes, or intends to devote, less than fifty percent of their time to the solicitation and procurement of insurance contracts for such society: PROVIDED, That any person who in the preceding calendar year has solicited and procured life insurance contracts on behalf of any society in an amount of insurance in excess of fifty thousand dollars shall be conclusively presumed to be devoting, or intending to devote, fifty percent of the person's time to the solicitation or procurement of insurance contracts for such society. [1987 c 366 § 33.]

**48.36A.340 Unfair trade practices.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, every society authorized to do business in this state shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 48.30 RCW relating to unfair trade practices.

(2) Nothing in chapter 48.30 RCW shall be construed as applying to or affecting the right of any society to determine its eligibility requirements for membership, or be construed as applying to or affecting the offering of benefits exclusively to members or persons eligible for membership in the society by a subsidiary corporation or affiliated organization of the society. [1987 c 366 § 34.]

**48.36A.350 Service of process upon commissioner.**

(1) Every society authorized to do business in this state shall:

(a) Appoint in writing the commissioner and each successor in office to be its true and lawful attorney upon whom all lawful process in any action or proceeding against it shall be served;

(b) Agree in writing that any lawful process against it which is served on the commissioner shall be of the same legal force and validity as if served upon the society; and

(c) Agree that the authority shall continue in force so long as any liability remains outstanding in this state.

Copies of such appointment, certified by said commissioner, shall be deemed sufficient evidence thereof and shall be admitted in evidence with the same force and effect as the original.

(2) Service shall only be made upon the commissioner, or if absent, upon the person in charge of the commissioner's office. It shall be made in duplicate and shall constitute sufficient service upon the society. When legal process against a society is served upon the commissioner, the commissioner shall forward one of the duplicate copies by registered mail, prepaid, directed to the secretary or corresponding officer. No service shall require a society to file its answer, pleading, or defense in less than forty days from the date of mailing the copy of the service to a society. Legal process shall not be served upon a society except in the manner provided in this section. At the time of serving any process upon the commissioner, the plaintiff or complainant in the action shall pay to the commissioner the fee established pursuant to RCW 48.05.210. [1987 c 366 § 35.]

**48.36A.360 Penalties.** (1) Any person who wilfully makes a false or fraudulent statement in or relating to an application for membership or for the purpose of obtaining money from or a benefit in any society, shall upon conviction be fined not less than one hundred dollars nor more than five hundred dollars or imprisonment in the county jail not less than thirty days nor more than one year, or both.

(2) Any person who wilfully makes a false or fraudulent statement in any verified report or declaration under oath required or authorized by this chapter, or of any material fact or thing contained in a sworn statement concerning the death or disability of an insured for the purpose of procuring payment of a benefit named in the certificate, shall be guilty of false swearing and shall be subject to the penalties under RCW 9A.72.040.

(3) Any person who solicits membership for, or in any manner assists in procuring membership in, any society not licensed to do business in this state shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction be fined not less than fifty dollars nor more than two hundred dollars.

(4) Any person guilty of a wilful violation of, or neglect or refusal to comply with, the provisions of this chapter for which a penalty is not otherwise prescribed, shall upon conviction, be subject to a fine not exceeding two hundred dollars. [1987 c 366 § 36.]

**48.36A.370 Exemptions.** (1) Nothing contained in this chapter shall be so construed as to affect or apply to:

(a) Grand or subordinate lodges of Masons, Odd Fellows, Improved Order of Red Men, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Loyal Order of Moose, or Knights of Pythias, exclusive of the insurance department of the Supreme Lodge of Knights of Pythias, the Grand Aerie Fraternal Order of Eagles, and the Junior Order of United American Mechanics, exclusive of the beneficiary degree of insurance branch of the National Council Junior Order [of] United American Mechanics, or similar societies which do not issue insurance certificates;

(b) Orders, societies, or associations which admit to membership only persons engaged in one or more crafts or hazardous occupations, in the same or similar lines of business, insuring only their own members and their families, and the ladies' societies or ladies' auxiliaries to such orders, societies, or associations;

(c) Any association of local lodges of a society now doing business in this state which provides death benefits not exceeding three hundred dollars to any one person, or disability benefit not exceeding three hundred dollars in any one year to any one person, or both; or any contracts of reinsurance business on such plan in this state;

(d) Domestic societies which limit their membership to the employees of a particular city or town, designated firm, business house, or corporation;

(e) Domestic lodges, orders, or associations of a purely religious, charitable, and benevolent description, which do not provide for a death benefit of more than one hundred dollars, or for disability benefits of more than one hundred fifty dollars to any one person in any one year: PROVIDED, That any such domestic order or society which has more than five hundred members and provides for death or disability benefits, and any such domestic lodge, order, or society which issues to any person a certificate providing for the payment of benefits, shall not be exempt by the provisions of this section, but shall comply with all the requirements of this chapter.

The commissioner may require from any society such information as will enable the commissioner to determine whether the society is exempt from the provisions of this chapter.

(2) No society, which is exempt by the provisions of this section from the requirements of this chapter shall give or allow or promise to give or allow to any person any compensation for procuring new members.

(3) Any fraternal benefit society, heretofore organized and incorporated and operating as set forth in RCW 48.36A.010, 48.36A.020, and 48.36A.030, providing for benefits in case of death or disability resulting solely from accidents, but which does not obligate itself to pay other death or sick benefits, may be licensed under the provisions of this chapter, and shall have all the privileges and shall be subject to all the provisions and regulations of this chapter, except that the provisions of this chapter requiring medical examinations, valuations of benefit certificates, and that the certificate shall specify the amount of benefits, shall not apply to such society.

(4) The commissioner may require from any society or association, by examination or otherwise, such information as will enable the commissioner to determine whether the society or association is exempt from the provisions of this chapter.

(5) Societies, exempted under the provisions of this section, shall also be exempt from all other provisions of the insurance laws of this state. [1987 c 366 § 37.]

**48.36A.380 World War I societies.** Any corporation, society, order, or voluntary association operating as set forth in RCW 48.36A.010, 48.36A.020, and 48.36A.030, organized during the war in which the United States entered on April 6, 1917, with the purposes of assisting the government of the United States in maintaining and increasing the production of commodities essential for the prosecution of that war, and of developing loyalty to the United States, or whose membership is limited to veterans of that war, may be licensed under the provisions of this chapter and shall have all the privileges and shall be subject to all the provisions and regulations of this chapter, except that the provisions of this chapter requiring death benefits of at least one thousand dollars, medical examinations, and valuations of benefit certificates, shall not apply to such society, but the society may provide benefits in case of death or disability resulting solely from accidents in an amount not exceeding one thousand dollars and may also provide for death or funeral benefits, or both, not exceeding one hundred dollars each, and for sick or disability benefits not exceeding five hundred dollars to any one person, in any one year. Any corporation, society, order, or voluntary association organized under the provisions of this section shall file with the insurance commissioner a copy of all its rates and policy forms. Rates and policy forms must be approved by the insurance commissioner before becoming effective. All rates and forms approved by the commissioner shall be observed by the society until amended rates or forms shall have been filed with and approved by the insurance commissioner. [1987 c 366 § 38.]

**48.36A.390 Fraternal mutual insurers.** (1) A domestic mutual property insurer which is affiliated with and is comprised exclusively of members of a specified fraternal society that conducts its business and secures its membership on the lodge system, having ritualistic work and ceremonies, is herein designated as a fraternal mutual insurer.

(2) Only fraternal mutual property insurers which were authorized insurers immediately prior to October 1, 1947, may hereafter be so authorized.

(3) A fraternal mutual insurer shall be subject to the applicable provisions of this title governing domestic mutual insurers except only as to the provisions relative to taxes, fees, and licenses. The bylaws of such insurer shall be as adopted or amended by majority vote of its members present at a duly held meeting of its members, and a copy thereof shall be filed with the commissioner. Such an insurer shall pay for its annual license and filing its annual statement, the sum of ten dollars. Such an insurer shall pay the expense of examinations of it by the commissioner. The payment shall be made upon receipt of statements furnished by the commissioner.

(4) A fraternal mutual insurer may insure corporations, associations, and firms owned by and affiliated with such society and operated for the benefit of its members, and may insure corporations and firms a majority of whose shareholders or members are members of such society.

(5) A fraternal mutual insurer shall participate in and accept its equitable share of insurance to be issued to applicants under any assigned risk plan operating pursuant to RCW 48.22.020, and may participate in and accept its equitable share of insurance to be issued to applicants under any similar plan lawfully existing in any state in which the insurer is authorized to transact insurance, notwithstanding that the applicants are not otherwise qualified for insurance under subsection (4) of this section. Applicants who are not qualified by membership or otherwise for acceptance by the insurer, shall be so assigned to the insurer except to make up the deficiency, if any, between the number of qualified applicants available for assignment and the maximum quota of applicants to be assigned to the insurer within the current period.

(6) A fraternal mutual insurer doing business on the assessment premium plan:

(a) Shall be exempt also from the provisions of this chapter governing financial qualifications;

(b) Shall not be authorized to transact any kind of insurance other than property insurance, nor have authority to accept reinsurance.

(7) A fraternal mutual insurer doing business on the cash premium plan:

(a) May be authorized to transact additional kinds of insurance, other than life or title insurance, subject to the same requirements as to surplus funds and reserves as apply to domestic mutual insurers on the cash premium plan;

(b) May accept reinsurance only of such kinds of insurance as it is authorized to transact direct and only from insurers likewise affiliated with and composed solely of the members of the same designated fraternal society. [1987 c 366 § 39.]

**48.36A.400 Fraternal mutual life insurers.** (1) A mutual life insurer which is affiliated with and insures exclusively members of a specified fraternal society, which society conducts its business and secures its membership on the lodge system, having ritualistic work and ceremonies, is herein designated as a fraternal mutual life insurer.

(2) Such an insurer shall be subject to the applicable provisions of this title governing mutual life insurers except only as to the provisions relative to annual meeting, taxes, fees, and licenses. Such an insurer shall pay for its annual license and filing its annual statement, the sum of ten dollars. Such an insurer shall pay the expense of examinations of it by the commissioner, upon statement furnished by the commissioner. [1987 c 366 § 40.]

**48.36A.410 Review of commissioner's decisions and findings.** All decisions and findings of the commissioner made under the provisions of this chapter shall be subject to review as provided in chapter 34.05 RCW. [1987 c 366 § 41.]

**48.36A.900 Severability—1987 c 366.** If any provision of this chapter or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the chapter or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1987 c 366 § 43.]

**48.36A.901 Effective date—1987 c 366.** This act shall take effect January 1, 1988. [1987 c 366 § 45.]

### Chapter 48.38

#### CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY BUSINESS

##### Sections

48.38.010	Certificate of exemption—Qualification for—Application, contents—"Qualified actuary" defined.
48.38.020	Reserve fund—Minimum contents—Revocation of certificate upon violation.
48.38.030	Charitable annuity contract or policy form—Contents.
48.38.040	Certificate holder as exempt from title provisions.
48.38.050	Grounds for denial, revocation, or suspension of certificate of exemption.
48.38.060	Hearings and appeals provisions inapplicable.
48.38.070	Enforcement powers and duties.

**48.38.010 Certificate of exemption—Qualification for—Application, contents—"Qualified actuary" defined.** The commissioner may grant a certificate of exemption to any insurer or educational, religious, charitable, or scientific institution conducting a charitable gift annuity business:

(1) Which is organized and operated exclusively as, or for the purpose of aiding, an educational, religious, charitable, or scientific institution which is organized as a nonprofit organization without profit to any person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, or other entity;

(2) Which possesses a current tax exempt status under the laws of the United States;

(3) Which serves such purpose by issuing charitable gift annuity contracts only for the benefit of such educational, religious, charitable, or scientific institution;

(4) Which appoints the insurance commissioner as its true and lawful attorney upon whom may be served lawful process in any action, suit, or proceeding in any court, which appointment shall be irrevocable, shall bind the insurer or institution or any successor in interest, shall remain in effect as long as there is in force in this state any contract made or issued by the insurer or institution, or any obligation arising therefrom, and shall be processed in accordance with RCW 48.05.210;

(5) Which is fully and legally organized and qualified to do business and has been actively doing business under the laws of the state of its domicile for a period of at least three years prior to its application for a certificate of exemption;

(6) Which files with the insurance commissioner its application for a certificate of exemption showing:

(a) Its name, location, and organization date;

(b) The kinds of charitable annuities it proposes to offer;

(c) A statement of the financial condition, management, and affairs of the organization and any affiliate thereof, as that term is defined in \*RCW 48.31A.010, on a form satisfactory to, or furnished by the insurance commissioner;

(d) Such other documents, stipulations, or information as the insurance commissioner may reasonably require to evidence compliance with the provisions of this chapter;

(7) Which subjects itself and any affiliate thereof, as that term is defined in \*RCW 48.31A.010, to periodic examinations as may be deemed necessary by the insurance commissioner;

(8) Which files with the insurance commissioner for the commissioner's advance approval a copy of any policy or contract form to be offered or issued to residents of this state. The grounds for disapproval of the policy or contract form shall be those set forth in RCW 48.18.110; and

(9) Which:

(a) Files with the insurance commissioner on or before March 1 of each year a copy of its annual statement prepared pursuant to the laws of its state of domicile, as well as such other financial material as may be requested, including the annual statement or other such financial materials as may be requested relating to any affiliate, as that term is defined in \*RCW 48.31A.010; and

(b) Coincident with the filing of its annual statement, pays an annual filing fee of twenty-five dollars plus five dollars for each charitable gift annuity contract written for residents of this state during the previous calendar year; and

(c) Which includes on or attaches to the first page of the annual statement the statement of a qualified actuary setting forth the actuary's opinion relating to annuity reserves and other actuarial items. "Qualified actuary" as used in this subsection means a member in good standing of the American academy of actuaries or a person who has otherwise demonstrated actuarial competence to the satisfaction of the insurance regulatory official of the domiciliary state. [1979 c 130 § 6.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 48.31A.010 was repealed by 1993 c 462 § 105.

**Severability—1979 c 130:** See note following RCW 28B.10.485.

**48.38.020 Reserve fund—Minimum contents—Revocation of certificate upon violation.** (1) Upon granting to such insurer or institution under RCW 48.38.010 a certificate of exemption to conduct a charitable gift annuity business, the insurance commissioner shall require it to establish and maintain a reserve fund adequate to meet the future payments under its charitable gift annuity contracts and, in any event, the reserve fund shall not be less than an amount computed in accordance with the standard of valuation based on the 1971 individual annuity mortality table, or any modification of this table approved by the insurance commissioner, with six percent interest for single premium immediate annuity contracts and four percent interest for all other individual annuity contracts.

(2) For any failure on its part to establish and maintain the reserve fund, the insurance commissioner shall revoke its certificate of exemption. [1979 c 130 § 7.]

**Severability—1979 c 130:** See note following RCW 28B.10.485.

**48.38.030 Charitable annuity contract or policy form—Contents.** Each charitable annuity contract or policy form shall include the following information:

(1) The value of the property to be transferred;

(2) The amount of the annuity to be paid to the transferor or the transferor's nominee;

(3) The manner in which and the intervals at which payment is to be made;

(4) The age of the person during whose life payment is to be made; and

(5) The reasonable value as of the date of the agreement of the benefits thereby created. This value shall not exceed

by more than fifteen percent the net single premium for the benefits, determined in accordance with the standard of valuation set forth in RCW 48.38.020(1). [1979 c 130 § 8.]

**Severability—1979 c 130:** See note following RCW 28B.10.485.

**48.38.040 Certificate holder as exempt from title provisions.** An insurer or institution holding a certificate of exemption under this chapter shall be exempt from all other provisions of this title except as specifically enumerated in this chapter by reference. [1979 c 130 § 9.]

**Severability—1979 c 130:** See note following RCW 28B.10.485.

**48.38.050 Grounds for denial, revocation, or suspension of certificate of exemption.** The insurance commissioner may refuse to grant, or may revoke or suspend, a certificate of exemption if the insurance commissioner finds that the insurer or institution does not meet the requirements of this chapter or if the insurance commissioner finds that the insurer or institution has violated RCW 48.01.030 or any provisions of chapter 48.30 RCW. [1979 c 130 § 10.]

**Severability—1979 c 130:** See note following RCW 28B.10.485.

**48.38.060 Hearings and appeals provisions inapplicable.** For purposes of this chapter, the provisions of chapter 48.04 RCW are applicable. [1979 c 130 § 11.]

**Severability—1979 c 130:** See note following RCW 28B.10.485.

**48.38.070 Enforcement powers and duties.** For the purposes of this chapter, the insurance commissioner has the same powers and duties of enforcement as are provided in RCW 48.02.080. [1979 c 130 § 12.]

**Severability—1979 c 130:** See note following RCW 28B.10.485.

## Chapter 48.41

### HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE ACCESS ACT

#### Sections

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**48.41.010 Short title.** This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Washington state health insurance coverage access act". [1987 c 431 § 1.]

**48.41.020 Intent.** It is the purpose and intent of the legislature to provide access to health insurance coverage to all residents of Washington who are denied adequate health insurance for any reason. It is the intent of the legislature that adequate levels of health insurance coverage be made available to residents of Washington who are otherwise considered uninsurable or who are underinsured. It is the intent of the Washington state health insurance coverage access act to provide a mechanism to insure the availability of comprehensive health insurance to persons unable to obtain such insurance coverage on either an individual or group basis directly under any health plan. [1987 c 431 § 2.]

**48.41.030 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, the following terms have the meaning indicated, unless the context requires otherwise:

(1) "Accounting year" means a twelve-month period determined by the board for purposes of record-keeping and accounting. The first accounting year may be more or less than twelve months and, from time to time in subsequent years, the board may order an accounting year of other than twelve months as may be required for orderly management and accounting of the pool.

(2) "Administrator" means the entity chosen by the board to administer the pool under RCW 48.41.080.

(3) "Board" means the board of directors of the pool.

(4) "Commissioner" means the insurance commissioner.

(5) "Health care facility" has the same meaning as in RCW 70.38.025.

(6) "Health care provider" means any physician, facility, or health care professional, who is licensed in Washington state and entitled to reimbursement for health care services.

(7) "Health care services" means services for the purpose of preventing, alleviating, curing, or healing human illness or injury.

(8) "Health insurance" means any group or individual disability insurance policy, health care service contract, and health maintenance agreement, except those contracts entered into for the provision of health care services pursuant to Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1395 et seq. The term does not include short-term care, long-term care, dental, vision, accident, fixed indemnity, disability income contracts, civilian health and medical program for the uniform services (CHAMPUS), 10 U.S.C. 55, limited benefit or credit insurance, coverage issued as a supplement to liability insurance, insurance arising out of the worker's compensation or similar law, automobile medical payment insurance, or insurance under which benefits are payable with or without regard to fault and which is statutorily required to be contained in any liability insurance policy or equivalent self-insurance.

(9) "Health plan" means any arrangement by which persons, including dependents or spouses, covered or making



application to be covered under this pool, have access to hospital and medical benefits or reimbursement including any group or individual disability insurance policy; health care service contract; health maintenance agreement; uninsured arrangements of group or group-type contracts including employer self-insured, cost-plus, or other benefit methodologies not involving insurance or not governed by Title 48 RCW; coverage under group-type contracts which are not available to the general public and can be obtained only because of connection with a particular organization or group; and coverage by medicare or other governmental benefits. This term includes coverage through "health insurance" as defined under this section, and specifically excludes those types of programs excluded under the definition of "health insurance" in subsection (8) of this section.

(10) "Insured" means any individual resident of this state who is eligible to receive benefits from any member, or other health plan.

(11) "Medical assistance" means coverage under Title XIX of the federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C., Sec. 1396 et seq.) and chapter 74.09 RCW.

(12) "Medicare" means coverage under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, (42 U.S.C. Sec. 1395 et seq., as amended).

(13) "Member" means any commercial insurer which provides disability insurance, any health care service contractor, and any health maintenance organization licensed under Title 48 RCW. "Member" shall also mean, as soon as authorized by federal law, employers and other entities, including a self-funding entity and employee welfare benefit plans that provide health plan benefits in this state on or after May 18, 1987. "Member" does not include any insurer, health care service contractor, or health maintenance organization whose products are exclusively dental products or those products excluded from the definition of "health insurance" set forth in subsection (8) of this section.

(14) "Plan of operation" means the pool, including articles, by-laws, and operating rules, adopted by the board pursuant to RCW 48.41.050.

(15) "Pool" means the Washington state health insurance pool as created in RCW 48.41.040.

(16) "Substantially equivalent health plan" means a "health plan" as defined in subsection (9) of this section which, in the judgment of the board or the administrator, offers persons including dependents or spouses covered or making application to be covered by this pool an overall level of benefits deemed approximately equivalent to the minimum benefits available under this pool. [1989 c 121 § 1; 1987 c 431 § 3.]

**48.41.040 Health insurance pool—Creation, membership, organization, operation, rules.** (1) There is hereby created a nonprofit entity to be known as the Washington state health insurance pool. All members in this state on or after May 18, 1987, shall be members of the pool. When authorized by federal law, all self-insured employers shall also be members of the pool.

(2) Pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW the commissioner shall, within ninety days after May 18, 1987, give notice to all members of the time and place for the initial organiza-

tional meetings of the pool. A board of directors shall be established, which shall be comprised of nine members. The commissioner shall select three members of the board who shall represent (a) the general public, (b) health care providers, and (c) health insurance agents. The remaining members of the board shall be selected by election from among the members of the pool. The elected members shall, to the extent possible, include at least one representative of health care service contractors, one representative of health maintenance organizations, and one representative of commercial insurers which provides disability insurance. When self-insured organizations become eligible for participation in the pool, the membership of the board shall be increased to eleven and at least one member of the board shall represent the self-insurers.

(3) The original members of the board of directors shall be appointed for intervals of one to three years. Thereafter, all board members shall serve a term of three years. Board members shall receive no compensation, but shall be reimbursed for all travel expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

(4) The board shall submit to the commissioner a plan of operation for the pool and any amendments thereto necessary or suitable to assure the fair, reasonable, and equitable administration of the pool. The commissioner shall, after notice and hearing pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW, approve the plan of operation if it is determined to assure the fair, reasonable, and equitable administration of the pool and provides for the sharing of pool losses on an equitable, proportionate basis among the members of the pool. The plan of operation shall become effective upon approval in writing by the commissioner consistent with the date on which the coverage under this chapter must be made available. If the board fails to submit a plan of operation within one hundred eighty days after the appointment of the board or any time thereafter fails to submit acceptable amendments to the plan, the commissioner shall, within ninety days after notice and hearing pursuant to chapters 34.05 and 48.04 RCW, adopt such rules as are necessary or advisable to effectuate this chapter. The rules shall continue in force until modified by the commissioner or superseded by a plan submitted by the board and approved by the commissioner. [1989 c 121 § 2; 1987 c 431 § 4.]

**48.41.050 Operation plan—Contents.** The plan of operation submitted by the board to the commissioner shall:

(1) Establish procedures for the handling and accounting of assets and moneys of the pool;

(2) Establish regular times and places for meetings of the board of directors;

(3) Establish procedures for records to be kept of all financial transactions and for an annual fiscal reporting to the commissioner;

(4) Contain additional provisions necessary and proper for the execution of the powers and duties of the pool;

(5) Establish procedures for the collection of assessments from all members to provide for claims paid under the plan and for administrative expenses incurred or estimated to be incurred during the period for which the assessment is made;

(6) Establish the amount of assessment pursuant to RCW 48.41.060, which shall occur after March 1st of each calendar year, and which shall be due and payable within thirty days of the receipt of the assessment notice;

(7) Select an administrator in accordance with RCW 48.41.080;

(8) Develop and implement a program to publicize the existence of the plan, the eligibility requirements and procedures for enrollment, and to maintain public awareness of the plan; and

(9) Establish procedures under which applicants and participants may have grievances reviewed by an impartial body and reported to the board. [1987 c 431 § 5.]

**48.41.060 Board powers.** The board shall have the general powers and authority granted under the laws of this state to insurance companies licensed to transact the kinds of insurance defined under this title. In addition thereto, the board may:

(1) Enter into contracts as are necessary or proper to carry out the provisions and purposes of this chapter including the authority, with the approval of the commissioner, to enter into contracts with similar pools of other states for the joint performance of common administrative functions, or with persons or other organizations for the performance of administrative functions;

(2) Sue or be sued, including taking any legal action as necessary to avoid the payment of improper claims against the pool or the coverage provided by or through the pool;

(3) Establish appropriate rates, rate schedules, rate adjustments, expense allowances, agent referral fees, claim reserve formulas and any other actuarial functions appropriate to the operation of the pool. Rates shall not be unreasonable in relation to the coverage provided, the risk experience, and expenses of providing the coverage. Rates and rate schedules may be adjusted for appropriate risk factors such as age and area variation in claim costs and shall take into consideration appropriate risk factors in accordance with established actuarial underwriting practices;

(4) Assess members of the pool in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, and make advance interim assessments as may be reasonable and necessary for the organizational or interim operating expenses. Any interim assessments will be credited as offsets against any regular assessments due following the close of the year;

(5) Issue policies of insurance in accordance with the requirements of this chapter;

(6) Appoint appropriate legal, actuarial and other committees as necessary to provide technical assistance in the operation of the pool, policy, and other contract design, and any other function within the authority of the pool; and

(7) Conduct periodic audits to assure the general accuracy of the financial data submitted to the pool, and the board shall cause the pool to have an annual audit of its operations by an independent certified public accountant. [1989 c 121 § 3; 1987 c 431 § 6.]

**Report on implementation of 1987 c 431:** "The board shall report to the commissioner and the appropriate committees of the legislature by April 1, 1990, on the implementation of \*this act. The report shall include information regarding enrollment, coverage utilization, cost, and any problems with the program and suggest remedies." [1987 c 431 § 26.]

\*Reviser's note: This act [1987 c 431] consisted of chapter 48.41 RCW and RCW 48.14.022 and 82.04.4329.

**48.41.070 Examination and reports.** The pool shall be subject to examination by the commissioner as provided under chapter 48.03 RCW. The board of directors shall submit to the commissioner, not later than one hundred twenty days after the end of each accounting year, a financial report for the year in a form approved by the commissioner. The board of directors shall further report to the appropriate standing committees of each house of the legislature by March 1st of each year. [1989 c 121 § 4; 1987 c 431 § 7.]

**48.41.080 Pool administrator—Selection, term, duties, pay.** The board shall select an administrator from the membership of the pool whether domiciled in this state or another state through a competitive bidding process to administer the pool.

(1) The board shall evaluate bids based upon criteria established by the board, which shall include:

(a) The administrator's proven ability to handle accident and health insurance;

(b) The efficiency of the administrator's claim-paying procedures;

(c) An estimate of the total charges for administering the plan; and

(d) The administrator's ability to administer the pool in a cost-effective manner.

(2) The administrator shall serve for a period of three years subject to removal for cause. At least six months prior to the expiration of each three-year period of service by the administrator, the board shall invite all interested parties, including the current administrator, to submit bids to serve as the administrator for the succeeding three-year period. Selection of the administrator for this succeeding period shall be made at least three months prior to the end of the current three-year period.

(3) The administrator shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the board including:

(a) All eligibility and administrative claim payment functions relating to the pool;

(b) Establishing a premium billing procedure for collection of premiums from insured persons. Billings shall be made on a periodic basis as determined by the board, which shall not be more frequent than a monthly billing;

(c) Performing all necessary functions to assure timely payment of benefits to covered persons under the pool including:

(i) Making available information relating to the proper manner of submitting a claim for benefits to the pool, and distributing forms upon which submission shall be made; and

(ii) Evaluating the eligibility of each claim for payment by the pool;

(d) Submission of regular reports to the board regarding the operation of the pool. The frequency, content, and form of the report shall be as determined by the board;

(e) Following the close of each accounting year, determination of net paid and earned premiums, the expense of administration, and the paid and incurred losses for the year and reporting this information to the board and the commissioner on a form as prescribed by the commissioner.

(4) The administrator shall be paid as provided in the contract between the board and the administrator for its expenses incurred in the performance of its services. [1989 c 121 § 5; 1987 c 431 § 8.]

**48.41.090 Financial participation in pool—Computation, deficit assessments.** (1) Following the close of each accounting year, the pool administrator shall determine the net premium (premiums less administrative expense allowances), the pool expenses of administration, and incurred losses for the year, taking into account investment income and other appropriate gains and losses.

(2)(a) Each member's proportion of participation in the pool shall be determined annually by the board based on annual statements and other reports deemed necessary by the board and filed by the member with the commissioner; and shall be determined by multiplying the total cost of pool operation by a fraction, the numerator of which equals that member's total number of resident insured persons, including spouse and dependents under the member's health plan in the state during the preceding calendar year, and the denominator of which equals the total number of resident insured persons including spouses and dependents insured under all health plans in the state by pool members.

(b) Any deficit incurred by the pool shall be recouped by assessments among members apportioned under this subsection pursuant to the formula set forth by the board among members.

(3) The board may abate or defer, in whole or in part, the assessment of a member if, in the opinion of the board, payment of the assessment would endanger the ability of the member to fulfill its contractual obligations. If an assessment against a member is abated or deferred in whole or in part, the amount by which such assessment is abated or deferred may be assessed against the other members in a manner consistent with the basis for assessments set forth in subsection (2) of this section. The member receiving such abatement or deferment shall remain liable to the pool for the deficiency.

(4) If assessments exceed actual losses and administrative expenses of the pool, the excess shall be held at interest and used by the board to offset future losses or to reduce pool premiums. As used in this subsection, "future losses" includes reserves for incurred but not reported claims. [1989 c 121 § 6; 1987 c 431 § 9.]

**48.41.100 Eligibility for coverage.** (1) Any individual person who is a resident of this state is eligible for coverage upon providing evidence of rejection for medical reasons, a requirement of restrictive riders, an up-rated premium, or a preexisting conditions limitation on health insurance, the effect of which is to substantially reduce coverage from that received by a person considered a standard risk, by at least one member within six months of the date of application. Evidence of rejection may be waived in accordance with rules adopted by the board.

(2) The following persons are not eligible for coverage by the pool:

(a) Any person having terminated coverage in the pool unless (i) twelve months have lapsed since termination, or (ii) that person can show continuous other coverage which

has been involuntarily terminated for any reason other than nonpayment of premiums;

(b) Any person on whose behalf the pool has paid out five hundred thousand dollars in benefits;

(c) Inmates of public institutions and persons whose benefits are duplicated under public programs.

(3) Any person whose health insurance coverage is involuntarily terminated for any reason other than nonpayment of premium may apply for coverage under the plan. [1995 c 34 § 5; 1989 c 121 § 7; 1987 c 431 § 10.]

**48.41.110 Policy coverage—Eligible expenses, cost containment, limits—Explanatory brochure.** (1) The administrator shall prepare a brochure outlining the benefits and exclusions of the pool policy in plain language. After approval by the board of directors, such brochure shall be made reasonably available to participants or potential participants. The health insurance policy issued by the pool shall pay only usual, customary, and reasonable charges for medically necessary eligible health care services rendered or furnished for the diagnosis or treatment of illnesses, injuries, and conditions which are not otherwise limited or excluded. Eligible expenses are the usual, customary, and reasonable charges for the health care services and items for which benefits are extended under the pool policy. Such benefits shall at minimum include, but not be limited to, the following services or related items:

(a) Hospital services, including charges for the most common semiprivate room, for the most common private room if semiprivate rooms do not exist in the health care facility, or for the private room if medically necessary, but limited to a total of one hundred eighty inpatient days in a calendar year, and limited to thirty days inpatient care for mental and nervous conditions, or alcohol, drug, or chemical dependency or abuse per calendar year;

(b) Professional services including surgery for the treatment of injuries, illnesses, or conditions, other than dental, which are rendered by a health care provider, or at the direction of a health care provider, by a staff of registered or licensed practical nurses, or other health care providers;

(c) The first twenty outpatient professional visits for the diagnosis or treatment of one or more mental or nervous conditions or alcohol, drug, or chemical dependency or abuse rendered during a calendar year by one or more physicians, psychologists, or community mental health professionals, or, at the direction of a physician, by other qualified licensed health care practitioners;

(d) Drugs and contraceptive devices requiring a prescription;

(e) Services of a skilled nursing facility, excluding custodial and convalescent care, for not more than one hundred days in a calendar year as prescribed by a physician;

(f) Services of a home health agency;

(g) Chemotherapy, radioisotope, radiation, and nuclear medicine therapy;

(h) Oxygen;

(i) Anesthesia services;

(j) Prostheses, other than dental;

(k) Durable medical equipment which has no personal use in the absence of the condition for which prescribed;

(l) Diagnostic x-rays and laboratory tests;

(m) Oral surgery limited to the following: Fractures of facial bones; excisions of mandibular joints, lesions of the mouth, lip, or tongue, tumors, or cysts excluding treatment for temporomandibular joints; incision of accessory sinuses, mouth salivary glands or ducts; dislocations of the jaw; plastic reconstruction or repair of traumatic injuries occurring while covered under the pool; and excision of impacted wisdom teeth;

(n) Services of a physical therapist and services of a speech therapist;

(o) Hospice services;

(p) Professional ambulance service to the nearest health care facility qualified to treat the illness or injury; and

(q) Other medical equipment, services, or supplies required by physician's orders and medically necessary and consistent with the diagnosis, treatment, and condition.

(2) The board shall design and employ cost containment measures and requirements such as, but not limited to, preadmission certification and concurrent inpatient review which may make the pool more cost-effective.

(3) The pool benefit policy may contain benefit limitations, exceptions, and reductions that are generally included in health insurance plans and are approved by the insurance commissioner; however, no limitation, exception, or reduction may be approved that would exclude coverage for any disease, illness, or injury. [1987 c 431 § 11.]

#### **48.41.120 Deductibles—Coinsurance—Carryover.**

(1) Subject to the limitation provided in subsection (3) of this section, a pool policy offered in accordance with this chapter shall impose a deductible. Deductibles of five hundred dollars and one thousand dollars on a per person per calendar year basis shall initially be offered. The board may authorize deductibles in other amounts. The deductible shall be applied to the first five hundred dollars, one thousand dollars, or other authorized amount of eligible expenses incurred by the covered person.

(2) Subject to the limitations provided in subsection (3) of this section, a mandatory coinsurance requirement shall be imposed at the rate of twenty percent of eligible expenses in excess of the mandatory deductible.

(3) The maximum aggregate out of pocket payments for eligible expenses by the insured in the form of deductibles and coinsurance shall not exceed in a calendar year:

(a) One thousand five hundred dollars per individual, or three thousand dollars per family, per calendar year for the five hundred dollar deductible policy;

(b) Two thousand five hundred dollars per individual, or five thousand dollars per family per calendar year for the one thousand dollar deductible policy; or

(c) An amount authorized by the board for any other deductible policy.

(4) Eligible expenses incurred by a covered person in the last three months of a calendar year, and applied toward a deductible, shall also be applied toward the deductible amount in the next calendar year. [1989 c 121 § 8; 1987 c 431 § 12.]

**48.41.130 Policy forms—Double coverage prohibited.** All policy forms issued by the pool shall conform in substance to prototype forms developed by the pool, and shall in all other respects conform to the requirements of this chapter, and shall be filed with and approved by the commissioner before they are issued. The pool shall not issue a pool policy to any individual who, on the effective date of the coverage applied for, already has or would have coverage substantially equivalent to a pool policy as an insured or covered dependent, or who would be eligible for such coverage if he elected to obtain it at a lesser premium rate. [1987 c 431 § 13.]

**48.41.140 Coverage for children, unmarried dependents—Preexisting condition exclusion.** (1) Coverage shall provide that health insurance benefits are applicable to children of the person in whose name the policy is issued including adopted and newly born natural children. Coverage shall also include necessary care and treatment of medically diagnosed congenital defects and birth abnormalities. If payment of a specific premium is required to provide coverage for the child, the policy may require that notification of the birth or adoption of a child and payment of the required premium must be furnished to the pool within thirty-one days after the date of birth or adoption in order to have the coverage continued beyond the thirty-one day period. For purposes of this subsection, a child is deemed to be adopted, and benefits are payable, when the child is physically placed for purposes of adoption under the laws of this state with the person in whose name the policy is issued; and, when the person in whose name the policy is issued assumes financial responsibility for the medical expenses of the child. For purposes of this subsection, "newly born" means, and benefits are payable, from the moment of birth.

(2) A pool policy shall provide that coverage of a dependent, unmarried person shall terminate when the person becomes nineteen years of age: PROVIDED, That coverage of such person shall not terminate at age nineteen while he or she is and continues to be both (a) incapable of self-sustaining employment by reason of developmental disability or physical handicap and (b) chiefly dependent upon the person in whose name the policy is issued for support and maintenance, provided proof of such incapacity and dependency is furnished to the pool by the policy holder within thirty-one days of the dependent's attainment of age nineteen and subsequently as may be required by the pool but not more frequently than annually after the two-year period following the dependent's attainment of age nineteen.

(3) A pool policy may contain provisions under which coverage is excluded during a period of six months following the effective date of coverage as to a given covered individual for preexisting conditions, as long as medical advice or treatment was recommended or received within a period of six months before the effective date of coverage.

These preexisting condition exclusions shall be waived to the extent to which similar exclusions have been satisfied under any prior health insurance which was for any reason other than nonpayment of premium involuntarily terminated, if the application for pool coverage is made not later than thirty days following the involuntary termination. In that case, with payment of appropriate premium, coverage in the

pool shall be effective from the date on which the prior coverage was terminated. [1987 c 431 § 14.]

**48.41.150 Medical supplement policy.** (1) The board shall offer a medical supplement policy for persons receiving medicare parts A and B. The supplement policy shall provide benefits of one hundred percent of the deductible and copayment required under medicare and eighty percent of the charges for covered services under this chapter that are not paid by medicare. The coverage shall include a limitation of one thousand dollars per person on total annual out-of-pocket expenses for the covered services.

(2) If federal law is adopted that addresses this subject, the board shall offer a policy that is consistent with that federal law. [1989 c 121 § 9; 1987 c 431 § 15.]

**48.41.160 Renewal, termination, dependents' coverage—Rate changes—Continuation.** (1) A pool policy offered under this chapter shall contain provisions under which the pool is obligated to renew the policy until the day on which the individual in whose name the policy is issued first becomes eligible for medicare coverage. At that time, coverage of dependents shall terminate if such dependents are eligible for coverage under a different health plan. Dependents who become eligible for medicare prior to the individual in whose name the policy is issued, shall receive benefits in accordance with RCW 48.41.150.

(2) The pool may not change the rates for pool policies except on a class basis, with a clear disclosure in the policy of the pool's right to do so.

(3) A pool policy offered under this chapter shall provide that, upon the death of the individual in whose name the policy is issued, every other individual then covered under the policy may elect, within a period specified in the policy, to continue coverage under the same or a different policy. [1987 c 431 § 16.]

**48.41.170 Required rule making.** The commissioner shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW that:

(1) Provide for disclosure by the member of the availability of insurance coverage from the pool; and

(2) Implement this chapter. [1987 c 431 § 17.]

**48.41.180 Offer of coverage to eligible persons.** (1) Commencing with May 18, 1987, every member shall provide a notice and an application for coverage by the pool to any person who receives a rejection of coverage for health insurance or health care services, or has any health condition limited or excluded. The notice shall state that the person is eligible to apply for health insurance provided by the pool.

(2) Members of the pool shall provide the brochure outlining the benefits and exclusions of the pool policy to any person who is rejected by a member or who is offered a policy containing restrictive riders, up-rated premiums, or a preexisting conditions limitation on a health insurance plan. [1987 c 431 § 18.]

**48.41.190 Civil and criminal immunity.** Neither the participation by members, the establishment of rates, forms, or procedures for coverages issued by the pool, nor any other joint or collective action required by this chapter or the

state of Washington shall be the basis of any legal action, civil or criminal liability or penalty against the pool, any member of the board of directors, or members of the pool either jointly or separately. [1989 c 121 § 10; 1987 c 431 § 19.]

**48.41.200 Rates—Standard risk and maximum.** The pool shall determine the standard risk rate by calculating the average group standard rate for groups comprised of up to ten persons charged by the five largest members offering coverages in the state comparable to the pool coverage. In the event five members do not offer comparable coverage, the standard risk rate shall be established using reasonable actuarial techniques and shall reflect anticipated experience and expenses for such coverage. Maximum rates for pool coverage shall be one hundred fifty percent of the rates established as applicable for group standard risks in groups comprised of up to ten persons. All rates and rate schedules shall be submitted to the commissioner for approval. [1987 c 431 § 20.]

**48.41.210 Last payor of benefits.** It is the express intent of this chapter that the pool be the last payor of benefits whenever any other benefit is available.

(1) Benefits otherwise payable under pool coverage shall be reduced by all amounts paid or payable through any other health insurance, or health benefit plans, including but not limited to self-insured plans and by all hospital and medical expense benefits paid or payable under any worker's compensation coverage, automobile medical payment or liability insurance whether provided on the basis of fault or nonfault, and by any hospital or medical benefits paid or payable under or provided pursuant to any state or federal law or program.

(2) The administrator or the pool shall have a cause of action against an eligible person for the recovery of the amount of benefits paid which are not for covered expenses. Benefits due from the pool may be reduced or refused as a set-off against any amount recoverable under this subsection. [1987 c 431 § 21.]

**48.41.900 Federal supremacy.** If any part of this chapter is found to be in conflict with federal requirements which are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state, the conflicting part of this chapter is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict and with respect to the agencies directly affected, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this chapter in its application to the agencies concerned. The rules under this chapter shall meet federal requirements which are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state. [1987 c 431 § 22.]

**48.41.910 Severability—1987 c 431.** If any provision of this chapter or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the chapter or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1987 c 431 § 25.]

## Chapter 48.42

**PERSONAL COVERAGE, GENERAL AUTHORITY**

(Formerly: Health care coverage, general authority)

## Sections

- 48.42.010 Personal coverage, authority of commissioner.
- 48.42.020 Showing regulation by other agency, how done.
- 48.42.030 Examination by commissioner—When required, scope of.
- 48.42.040 Application of this title to otherwise unregulated entities.
- 48.42.050 Notice to purchasers by uninsured production agency—  
Notice to production agency by administrator of coverage.
- 48.42.060 Mandated health coverage—Legislative finding.
- 48.42.070 Mandated health coverage—Reports and recommendations.
- 48.42.080 Mandated health coverage—Guidelines for assessing impact.
- 48.42.090 Prenatal testing—Limitation on changes to coverage.
- 48.42.100 Women's health care services—Duties of health care carriers.

**48.42.010 Personal coverage, authority of commissioner.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and except as provided in this chapter, any person or other entity which provides coverage in this state for life insurance, annuities, loss of time, medical, surgical, chiropractic, physical therapy, speech pathology, audiology, professional mental health, dental, hospital, or optometric expenses, whether the coverage is by direct payment, reimbursement, the providing of services, or otherwise, shall be subject to the authority of the state insurance commissioner, unless the person or other entity shows that while providing the services it is subject to the jurisdiction and regulation of another agency of this state, any subdivisions thereof, or the federal government. [1985 c 264 § 15; 1983 c 36 § 1.]

**48.42.020 Showing regulation by other agency, how done.** A person or entity may show that it is subject to the jurisdiction and regulation of another agency of this state, any subdivision thereof, or the federal government, by providing to the insurance commissioner the appropriate certificate, license, or other document issued by the other governmental agency which permits or qualifies it to provide the coverage as defined in RCW 48.42.010. [1983 c 36 § 2.]

**48.42.030 Examination by commissioner—When required, scope of.** Any person or entity which is unable to show under RCW 48.42.020 that it is subject to the jurisdiction and regulation of another agency of this state, any subdivision thereof, or the federal government, shall submit to an examination by the insurance commissioner to determine the organization and solvency of the person or the entity, and to determine whether or not such person or entity complies with the applicable provisions of this title. [1983 c 36 § 3.]

**48.42.040 Application of this title to otherwise unregulated entities.** Any person or entity unable to show that it is subject to the jurisdiction and regulation of another agency of this state, any subdivision thereof, or the federal government, shall be subject to all appropriate provisions of this title regarding the conduct of its business. [1983 c 36 § 4.]

**48.42.050 Notice to purchasers by uninsured production agency—Notice to production agency by administrator of coverage.** Any production agency or administrator which advertises, sells, transacts, or administers the coverage in this state described in RCW 48.42.010 and which is required to submit to an examination by the insurance commissioner under RCW 48.42.030, shall, if the coverage is not fully insured or otherwise fully covered by an admitted life or disability insurer or health care service contractor or health maintenance organization agreement, advise every purchaser, prospective purchaser, and covered person of the lack of insurance or other coverage.

Any administrator which advertises or administers the coverage in this state described in RCW 48.42.010 and which is subject to an examination by the insurance commissioner under RCW 48.42.030 shall advise any production agency of the elements of the coverage, including the amount of "stop-loss" insurance in effect. [1983 c 36 § 5.]

**48.42.060 Mandated health coverage—Legislative finding.** The legislature takes notice of the increasing number of proposals for the mandating of certain health coverages or offering of health coverages by insurance carriers, health care service contractors, and health maintenance organizations as a component of individual or group policies. Improved access to these health care services to segments of the population which desire them can provide beneficial social and health consequences which may be in the public interest.

However, the cost ramifications of expanding health coverages is resulting in a growing concern. The way that such coverages are structured and the steps taken to create incentives to provide cost-effective services or to take advantage of cost off-setting features of services can significantly influence the cost impact of mandating particular coverages.

The merits of a particular coverage mandate must be balanced against a variety of consequences which may go far beyond the immediate impact upon the cost of insurance coverage. The legislature hereby finds and declares that a systematic review of proposed mandated or mandatorily offered health coverage, which explores all the ramifications of such proposed legislation, will assist the legislature in determining whether mandating a particular coverage or offering is in the public interest. This chapter provides for a set of guidelines which should be addressed in the consideration of all such mandated coverage proposals coming before the legislature. [1984 c 56 § 1.]

**48.42.070 Mandated health coverage—Reports and recommendations.** Every person or organization which seeks sponsorship of a legislative proposal which would mandate a health coverage or offering of a health coverage by an insurance carrier, health care service contractor, or health maintenance organization as a component of individual or group policies, shall submit a report to the legislative committees having jurisdiction, assessing both the social and financial impacts of such coverage, including the efficacy of the treatment or service proposed, according to the guidelines enumerated in RCW 48.42.080. Copies of the report shall be sent to the state department of health for review and

comment. The state department of health shall make recommendations based on the report to the extent requested by the legislative committees. [1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 221; 1987 c 150 § 79; 1984 c 56 § 2.]

**Effective date—Severability—1989 1st ex.s. c 9:** See RCW 43.70.910 and 43.70.920.

**Severability—1987 c 150:** See RCW 18.122.901.

**48.42.080 Mandated health coverage—Guidelines for assessing impact.** Guidelines for assessing the impact of proposed mandated or mandatorily offered health coverage to the extent that information is available, shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) The social impact: (a) To what extent is the treatment or service generally utilized by a significant portion of the population? (b) To what extent is the insurance coverage already generally available? (c) If coverage is not generally available, to what extent does the lack of coverage result in persons avoiding necessary health care treatments? (d) If the coverage is not generally available, to what extent does the lack of coverage result in unreasonable financial hardship? (e) What is the level of public demand for the treatment or service? (f) What is the level of public demand for insurance coverage of treatment or service? (g) What is the level of interest of collective bargaining agents in negotiating privately for inclusion of this coverage in group contracts?

(2) The financial impact: (a) To what extent will the coverage increase or decrease the cost of treatment or service? (b) To what extent will the coverage increase the appropriate use of the treatment or service? (c) To what extent will the mandated treatment or service be a substitute for more expensive treatment or service? (d) To what extent will the coverage increase or decrease the administrative expenses of insurance companies and the premium and administrative expenses of policyholders? (e) What will be the impact of this coverage on the total cost of health care? [1984 c 56 § 3.]

**48.42.090 Prenatal testing—Limitation on changes to coverage.** The carrier or provider of any group disability contract, health care services contract or health maintenance agreement shall not cancel, reduce, limit or otherwise alter or change the coverage provided solely on the basis of the result of any prenatal test. [1988 c 276 § 9.]

**48.42.100 Women’s health care services—Duties of health care carriers.** (1) For purposes of this section, health care carriers includes disability insurers regulated under chapter 48.20 or 48.21 RCW, health care services contractors regulated under chapter 48.44 RCW, health maintenance organizations regulated under chapter 48.46 RCW, plans operating under the health care authority under chapter 41.05 RCW, the state health insurance pool operating under chapter 48.41 RCW, and insuring entities regulated under chapter 48.43 RCW.

(2) For purposes of this section and consistent with their lawful scopes of practice, types of health care practitioners that provide women’s health care services shall include, but need not be limited by a health care carrier to, the following: Any generally recognized medical specialty of practitioners

licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW who provides women’s health care services; practitioners licensed under chapters 18.57A and 18.71A RCW when providing women’s health care services; and advanced registered nurse practitioner specialists in women’s health and midwifery under chapter 18.79 RCW.

(3) For purposes of this section, women’s health care services shall include, but need not be limited by a health care carrier to, the following: Maternity care; reproductive health services; gynecological care; general examination; and preventive care as medically appropriate and medically appropriate follow-up visits for the services listed in this subsection.

(4) Health care carriers shall ensure that enrolled female patients have direct access to timely and appropriate covered women’s health care services from the type of health care practitioner of their choice in accordance with subsection (5) of this section.

(5)(a) Health care carrier policies, plans, and programs written, amended, or renewed after July 23, 1995, shall provide women patients with direct access to the type of health care practitioner of their choice for appropriate covered women’s health care services without the necessity of prior referral from another type of health care practitioner.

(b) Health care carriers may comply with this section by including all the types of health care practitioners listed in this section for women’s health care services for women patients.

(c) Nothing in this section shall prevent health care carriers from restricting women patients to seeing only health care practitioners who have signed participating provider agreements with the health care carrier. [1995 c 389 § 1.]

**Chapter 48.43**

**INSURANCE REFORM**

(Formerly: Certified health plans)

Sections

- 48.43.001 Intent.
- 48.43.005 Definitions.
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48.43.225	Report of a material nonrenewal, cancellation, or revision of ceded reinsurance agreements—Information required.
48.43.901	Captions not law—1996 c 312.
48.43.902	Effective date—1996 c 312.

**48.43.001 Intent.** It is the intent of the legislature to ensure that all enrollees in managed care settings have access to adequate information regarding health care services covered by health carriers' health plans, and provided by health care providers and health care facilities. It is only through such disclosure that Washington state citizens can be fully informed as to the extent of health insurance coverage, availability of health care service options, and necessary treatment. With such information, citizens are able to make knowledgeable decisions regarding their health care. [1996 c 312 § 1.]

**48.43.005 Definitions.** Unless otherwise specifically provided, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Adjusted community rate" means the rating method used to establish the premium for health plans adjusted to reflect actuarially demonstrated differences in utilization or cost attributable to geographic region, age, family size, and use of wellness activities.

(2) "Covered person" or "enrollee" means a person covered by a health plan including an enrollee, subscriber, policyholder, beneficiary of a group plan, or individual covered by any other health plan.

(3) "Eligible employee" means an employee who works on a full-time basis with a normal work week of thirty or more hours. The term includes a self-employed individual, including a sole proprietor, a partner of a partnership, and may include an independent contractor, if the self-employed individual, sole proprietor, partner, or independent contractor is included as an employee under a health benefit plan of a small employer, but does not work less than thirty hours per week and derives at least seventy-five percent of his or her income from a trade or business through which he or she has attempted to earn taxable income and for which he or she has filed the appropriate internal revenue service form. Persons covered under a health benefit plan pursuant to the consolidated omnibus budget reconciliation act of 1986 shall not be considered eligible employees for purposes of minimum participation requirements of chapter 265, Laws of 1995.

(4) "Enrollee point-of-service cost-sharing" means amounts paid to health carriers directly providing services, health care providers, or health care facilities by enrollees and may include copayments, coinsurance, or deductibles.

(5) "Health care facility" or "facility" means hospices licensed under chapter 70.127 RCW, hospitals licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW, rural health care facilities as defined in RCW 70.175.020, psychiatric hospitals licensed under chapter 71.12 RCW, nursing homes licensed under chapter 18.51 RCW, community mental health centers licensed under chapter 71.05 or 71.24 RCW, kidney disease treatment

centers licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW, ambulatory diagnostic, treatment, or surgical facilities licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW, drug and alcohol treatment facilities licensed under chapter 70.96A RCW, and home health agencies licensed under chapter 70.127 RCW, and includes such facilities if owned and operated by a political subdivision or instrumentality of the state and such other facilities as required by federal law and implementing regulations.

(6) "Health care provider" or "provider" means:

(a) A person regulated under Title 18 or chapter 70.127 RCW, to practice health or health-related services or otherwise practicing health care services in this state consistent with state law; or

(b) An employee or agent of a person described in (a) of this subsection, acting in the course and scope of his or her employment.

(7) "Health care service" means that service offered or provided by health care facilities and health care providers relating to the prevention, cure, or treatment of illness, injury, or disease.

(8) "Health carrier" or "carrier" means a disability insurer regulated under chapter 48.20 or 48.21 RCW, a health care service contractor as defined in RCW 48.44.010, or a health maintenance organization as defined in RCW 48.46.020.

(9) "Health plan" or "health benefit plan" means any policy, contract, or agreement offered by a health carrier to provide, arrange, reimburse, or pay for health care service except the following:

(a) Long-term care insurance governed by chapter 48.84 RCW;

(b) Medicare supplemental health insurance governed by chapter 48.66 RCW;

(c) Limited health care service offered by limited health care service contractors in accordance with RCW 48.44.035;

(d) Disability income;

(e) Coverage incidental to a property/casualty liability insurance policy such as automobile personal injury protection coverage and homeowner guest medical;

(f) Workers' compensation coverage;

(g) Accident only coverage;

(h) Specified disease and hospital confinement indemnity when marketed solely as a supplement to a health plan;

(i) Employer-sponsored self-funded health plans; and

(j) Dental only and vision only coverage.

(10) "Basic health plan services" means that schedule of covered health services, including the description of how those benefits are to be administered, that are required to be delivered to an enrollee under the basic health plan, as revised from time to time.

(11) "Preexisting condition" means any medical condition, illness, or injury that existed any time prior to the effective date of coverage.

(12) "Premium" means all sums charged, received, or deposited by a health carrier as consideration for a health plan or the continuance of a health plan. Any assessment or any "membership," "policy," "contract," "service," or similar fee or charge made by a health carrier in consideration for a health plan is deemed part of the premium. "Premium" shall not include amounts paid as enrollee point-of-service cost-sharing.



(13) "Small employer" means any person, firm, corporation, partnership, association, political subdivision except school districts, or self-employed individual that is actively engaged in business that, on at least fifty percent of its working days during the preceding calendar quarter, employed no more than fifty eligible employees, with a normal work week of thirty or more hours, the majority of whom were employed within this state, and is not formed primarily for purposes of buying health insurance and in which a bona fide employer-employee relationship exists. In determining the number of eligible employees, companies that are affiliated companies, or that are eligible to file a combined tax return for purposes of taxation by this state, shall be considered an employer. Subsequent to the issuance of a health plan to a small employer and for the purpose of determining eligibility, the size of a small employer shall be determined annually. Except as otherwise specifically provided, a small employer shall continue to be considered a small employer until the plan anniversary following the date the small employer no longer meets the requirements of this definition. The term "small employer" includes a self-employed individual or sole proprietor. The term "small employer" also includes a self-employed individual or sole proprietor who derives at least seventy-five percent of his or her income from a trade or business through which the individual or sole proprietor has attempted to earn taxable income and for which he or she has filed the appropriate internal revenue service form 1040, schedule C or F, for the previous taxable year.

(14) "Wellness activity" means an explicit program of an activity consistent with department of health guidelines, such as, smoking cessation, injury and accident prevention, reduction of alcohol misuse, appropriate weight reduction, exercise, automobile and motorcycle safety, blood cholesterol reduction, and nutrition education for the purpose of improving enrollee health status and reducing health service costs.

(15) "Basic health plan" means the plan described under chapter 70.47 RCW, as revised from time to time. [1995 c 265 § 4.]

**Captions not law—Effective dates—Savings—Severability—1995 c 265:** See notes following RCW 70.47.015.

**48.43.015 Portability.** (1) Every health carrier shall waive any preexisting condition exclusion or limitation for persons or groups who had similar health coverage under a different health plan at any time during the three-month period immediately preceding the date of application for the new health plan if such person was continuously covered under the immediately preceding health plan. If the person was continuously covered for at least three months under the immediately preceding health plan, the carrier may not impose a waiting period for coverage of preexisting conditions. If the person was continuously covered for less than three months under the immediately preceding health plan, the carrier must credit any waiting period under the immediately preceding health plan toward the new health plan. For the purposes of this subsection, a preceding health plan includes an employer provided self-funded health plan.

(2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, nothing contained in this section requires a health carrier to amend a health plan to provide new benefits in its existing health plans. In addition, nothing in this section

requires a carrier to waive benefit limitations not related to an individual or group's preexisting conditions or health history. [1995 c 265 § 5.]

**Captions not law—Effective dates—Savings—Severability—1995 c 265:** See notes following RCW 70.47.015.

**48.43.025 Preexisting conditions.** (1) No carrier may reject an individual for health plan coverage based upon preexisting conditions of the individual and no carrier may deny, exclude, or otherwise limit coverage for an individual's preexisting health conditions; except that a carrier may impose a three-month benefit waiting period for preexisting conditions for which medical advice was given, or for which a health care provider recommended or provided treatment within three months before the effective date of coverage.

(2) No carrier may avoid the requirements of this section through the creation of a new rate classification or the modification of an existing rate classification. A new or changed rate classification will be deemed an attempt to avoid the provisions of this section if the new or changed classification would substantially discourage applications for coverage from individuals or groups who are higher than average health risks. These provisions apply only to individuals who are Washington residents. [1995 c 265 § 6.]

**Captions not law—Effective dates—Savings—Severability—1995 c 265:** See notes following RCW 70.47.015.

**48.43.035 Guaranteed issue and continuity of coverage—Exceptions.** (1) All health carriers shall accept for enrollment any state resident within the carrier's service area and provide or assure the provision of all covered services regardless of age, sex, family structure, ethnicity, race, health condition, geographic location, employment status, socioeconomic status, other condition or situation, or the provisions of RCW 49.60.174(2). The insurance commissioner may grant a temporary exemption from this subsection, if, upon application by a health carrier the commissioner finds that the clinical, financial, or administrative capacity to serve existing enrollees will be impaired if a health carrier is required to continue enrollment of additional eligible individuals.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (5) of this section, all health plans shall contain or incorporate by endorsement a guarantee of the continuity of coverage of the plan. For the purposes of this section, a plan is "renewed" when it is continued beyond the earliest date upon which, at the carrier's sole option, the plan could have been terminated for other than nonpayment of premium. In the case of group plans, the carrier may consider the group's anniversary date as the renewal date for purposes of complying with the provisions of this section.

(3) The guarantee of continuity of coverage required in health plans shall not prevent a carrier from canceling or nonrenewing a health plan for:

- (a) Nonpayment of premium;
- (b) Violation of published policies of the carrier approved by the insurance commissioner;
- (c) Covered persons entitled to become eligible for medicare benefits by reason of age who fail to apply for a medicare supplement plan or medicare cost, risk, or other

plan offered by the carrier pursuant to federal laws and regulations;

(d) Covered persons who fail to pay any deductible or copayment amount owed to the carrier and not the provider of health care services;

(e) Covered persons committing fraudulent acts as to the carrier;

(f) Covered persons who materially breach the health plan; or

(g) Change or implementation of federal or state laws that no longer permit the continued offering of such coverage.

(4) The provisions of this section do not apply in the following cases:

(a) A carrier has zero enrollment on a product; or

(b) A carrier replaces a product and the replacement product is provided to all covered persons within that class or line of business, includes all of the services covered under the replaced product, and does not significantly limit access to the kind of services covered under the replaced product. The health plan may also allow unrestricted conversion to a fully comparable product; or

(c) A carrier is withdrawing from a service area or from a segment of its service area because the carrier has demonstrated to the insurance commissioner that the carrier's clinical, financial, or administrative capacity to serve enrollees would be exceeded.

(5) The provisions of this section do not apply to health plans deemed by the insurance commissioner to be unique or limited or have a short-term purpose, after a written request for such classification by the carrier and subsequent written approval by the insurance commissioner. [1995 c 265 § 7.]

**Captions not law—Effective dates—Savings—Severability—1995 c 265:** See notes following RCW 70.47.015.

**48.43.045 Health plan requirements—Annual reports.** Every health plan delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed by a health carrier on and after January 1, 1996, shall:

(1) Permit every category of health care provider to provide health services or care for conditions included in the basic health plan services to the extent that:

(a) The provision of such health services or care is within the health care providers' permitted scope of practice; and

(b) The providers agree to abide by standards related to:

(i) Provision, utilization review, and cost containment of health services;

(ii) Management and administrative procedures; and

(iii) Provision of cost-effective and clinically efficacious health services.

(2) Annually report the names and addresses of all officers, directors, or trustees of the health carrier during the preceding year, and the amount of wages, expense reimbursements, or other payments to such individuals. [1995 c 265 § 8.]

**Captions not law—Effective dates—Savings—Severability—1995 c 265:** See notes following RCW 70.47.015.

**48.43.055 Procedures for review and adjudication of complaints—Requirements.** Each health carrier as

defined under RCW 48.43.005 shall file with the commissioner its procedures for review and adjudication of complaints initiated by covered persons or health care providers. Procedures filed under this section shall provide a fair review for consideration of complaints. Every health carrier shall provide reasonable means whereby any person aggrieved by actions of the health carrier may be heard in person or by their authorized representative on their written request for review. If the health carrier fails to grant or reject such request within thirty days after it is made, the complaining person may proceed as if the complaint had been rejected. A complaint that has been rejected by the health carrier may be submitted to nonbinding mediation. Mediation shall be conducted pursuant to mediation rules similar to those of the American arbitration association, the center for public resources, the judicial arbitration and mediation service, RCW 7.70.100, or any other rules of mediation agreed to by the parties. [1995 c 265 § 20.]

**Captions not law—Effective dates—Savings—Severability—1995 c 265:** See notes following RCW 70.47.015.

**48.43.065 Right of individuals to receive services—Right of providers, carriers, and facilities to refuse to participate in or pay for services for reason of conscience or religion—Requirements.** (1) The legislature recognizes that every individual possesses a fundamental right to exercise their religious beliefs and conscience. The legislature further recognizes that in developing public policy, conflicting religious and moral beliefs must be respected. Therefore, while recognizing the right of conscientious objection to participating in specific health services, the state shall also recognize the right of individuals enrolled with plans containing the basic health plan services to receive the full range of services covered under the plan.

(2)(a) No individual health care provider, religiously sponsored health carrier, or health care facility may be required by law or contract in any circumstances to participate in the provision of or payment for a specific service if they object to so doing for reason of conscience or religion. No person may be discriminated against in employment or professional privileges because of such objection.

(b) The provisions of this section are not intended to result in an enrollee being denied timely access to any service included in the basic health plan services. Each health carrier shall:

(i) Provide written notice to enrollees, upon enrollment with the plan, listing services that the carrier refuses to cover for reason of conscience or religion;

(ii) Provide written information describing how an enrollee may directly access services in an expeditious manner; and

(iii) Ensure that enrollees refused services under this section have prompt access to the information developed pursuant to (b)(ii) of this subsection.

(c) The insurance commissioner shall establish by rule a mechanism or mechanisms to recognize the right to exercise conscience while ensuring enrollees timely access to services and to assure prompt payment to service providers.

(3)(a) No individual or organization with a religious or moral tenet opposed to a specific service may be required to

purchase coverage for that service or services if they object to doing so for reason of conscience or religion.

(b) The provisions of this section shall not result in an enrollee being denied coverage of, and timely access to, any service or services excluded from their benefits package as a result of their employer's or another individual's exercise of the conscience clause in (a) of this subsection.

(c) The insurance commissioner shall define by rule the process through which health carriers may offer the basic health plan services to individuals and organizations identified in (a) and (b) of this subsection in accordance with the provisions of subsection (2)(c) of this section.

(4) Nothing in this section requires a health carrier, health care facility, or health care provider to provide any health care services without appropriate payment of premium or fee. [1995 c 265 § 25.]

**Captions not law—Effective dates—Savings—Severability—1995 c 265:** See notes following RCW 70.47.015.

**48.43.075 Informing patients about their care—Health carriers may not preclude or discourage.** (1) No health carrier subject to the jurisdiction of the state of Washington may in any way preclude or discourage their providers from informing patients of the care they require, including various treatment options, and whether in their view such care is consistent with medical necessity, medical appropriateness, or otherwise covered by the patient's service agreement with the health carrier. No health carrier may prohibit, discourage, or penalize a provider otherwise practicing in compliance with the law from advocating on behalf of a patient with a health carrier. Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize providers to bind health carriers to pay for any service.

(2) No health carrier may preclude or discourage patients or those paying for their coverage from discussing the comparative merits of different health carriers with their providers. This prohibition specifically includes prohibiting or limiting providers participating in those discussions even if critical of a carrier.

(3) The insurance commissioner is prohibited from adopting rules regarding this section. [1996 c 312 § 2.]

**48.43.085 Health carrier may not prohibit its enrollees from contracting for services outside the health care plan.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no health carrier subject to the jurisdiction of the state of Washington may prohibit directly or indirectly its enrollees from freely contracting at any time to obtain any health care services outside the health care plan on any terms or conditions the enrollees choose. Nothing in this section shall be construed to bind a carrier for any services delivered outside the health plan. The provisions of this section shall be disclosed pursuant to RCW 48.43.095(2). The insurance commissioner is prohibited from adopting rules regarding this section. [1996 c 312 § 3.]

**48.43.087 Contracting for services at enrollee's expense—Mental health care practitioner—Conditions—Exception.** (1) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Health carrier" includes disability insurers regulated under chapter 48.20 or 48.21 RCW, health care services

contractors regulated under chapter 48.44 RCW, plans operating under the health care authority under chapter 41.05 RCW, the basic health plan operating under chapter 70.47 RCW, the state health insurance pool operating under chapter 48.41 RCW, insuring entities regulated under this chapter, and health maintenance organizations regulated under chapter 48.46 RCW.

(b) "Intermediary" means a person duly authorized to negotiate and execute provider contracts with health carriers on behalf of mental health care practitioners.

(c) Consistent with their lawful scopes of practice, "mental health care practitioners" includes only the following: Any generally recognized medical specialty of practitioners licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW who provide mental health services, advanced practice psychiatric nurses as authorized by the nursing care quality assurance commission under chapter 18.79 RCW, psychologists licensed under chapter 18.83 RCW, social workers, marriage and family therapists, and mental health counselors certified under chapter 18.19 RCW.

(d) "Mental health services" means outpatient services.

(2) Consistent with federal and state law and rule, no contract between a mental health care practitioner and an intermediary or between a mental health care practitioner and a health carrier that is written, amended, or renewed after June 6, 1996, may contain a provision prohibiting a practitioner and an enrollee from agreeing to contract for services solely at the expense of the enrollee as follows:

(a) On the exhaustion of the enrollee's mental health care coverage;

(b) During an appeal or an adverse certification process;

(c) When an enrollee's condition is excluded from coverage; or

(d) For any other clinically appropriate reason at any time.

(3) If a mental health care practitioner provides services to an enrollee during an appeal or adverse certification process, the practitioner must provide to the enrollee written notification that the enrollee is responsible for payment of these services, unless the health carrier elects to pay for services provided.

(4) This section does not apply to a mental health care practitioner who is employed full time on the staff of a health carrier. [1996 c 304 § 1.]

**48.43.095 Information provided to an enrollee or a prospective enrollee.** (1) Upon the request of an enrollee or a prospective enrollee, a health carrier, as defined in RCW 48.43.005, and the Washington state health care authority, established by chapter 41.05 RCW, shall provide the following information:

(a) The availability of a point-of-service plan and how the plan operates within the coverage;

(b) Any documents, instruments, or other information referred to in the enrollment agreement;

(c) A full description of the procedures to be followed by an enrollee for consulting a provider other than the primary care provider and whether the enrollee's primary care provider, the carrier's medical director, or another entity must authorize the referral;

(d) Whether a plan provider is restricted to prescribing drugs from a plan list or plan formulary, what drugs are on the plan list or formulary, and the extent to which enrollees will be reimbursed for drugs that are not on the plan's list or formulary;

(e) Procedures, if any, that an enrollee must first follow for obtaining prior authorization for health care services;

(f) A written description of any reimbursement or payment arrangements, including, but not limited to, capitation provisions, fee-for-service provisions, and health care delivery efficiency provisions, between a carrier and a provider;

(g) Circumstances under which the plan may retrospectively deny coverage for emergency and nonemergency care that had prior authorization under the plan's written policies;

(h) A copy of all grievance procedures for claim or service denial and for dissatisfaction with care; and

(i) Descriptions and justifications for provider compensation programs, including any incentives or penalties that are intended to encourage providers to withhold services or minimize or avoid referrals to specialists.

(2) Each health carrier, as defined in RCW 48.43.005, and the Washington state health care authority, established by chapter 41.05 RCW, shall provide to all enrollees and prospective enrollees a list of available disclosure items.

(3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a carrier to divulge proprietary information to an enrollee.

(4) The insurance commissioner is prohibited from adopting rules regarding this section. [1996 c 312 § 4.]

**48.43.105 Preparation of documents that compare health carriers—Immunity—Due diligence.** (1) A public or private entity who exercises due diligence in preparing a document of any kind that compares health carriers of any kind is immune from civil liability from claims based on the document and the contents of the document.

(2)(a) There is absolute immunity to civil liability from claims based on such a comparison document and its contents if the information was provided by the carrier, was substantially accurately presented, and contained the effective date of the information that the carrier supplied, if any.

(b) Where due diligence efforts to obtain accurate information have been taken, there is immunity from claims based on such a comparison document and its contents if the publisher of the comparison document asked for such information from the carrier, was refused, and relied on any usually reliable source for the information including, but not limited to, carrier enrollees, customers, agents, brokers, or providers. The carrier enrollees, customers, agents, brokers, or providers are likewise immune from civil liability on claims based on information they provided if they believed the information to be accurate and had exercised due diligence in their efforts to confirm the accuracy of the information provided.

(3) The immunity from liability contained in this section applies only if the comparison document contains the following in a conspicuous place and in easy to read typeface:

This comparison is based on information believed to be reliable by its publisher, but the accuracy of the information cannot be guaranteed. Caution is

suggested to all readers who are encouraged to confirm data of importance to the reader before any purchasing or other decisions are made.

(4) The insurance commissioner is prohibited from adopting rules regarding this section. [1996 c 312 § 5.]

**48.43.115 Maternity services—Intent—Definitions—Patient preference—Clinical sovereignty of provider—Notice to policyholders—Application.** (1) The legislature recognizes the role of health care providers as the appropriate authority to determine and establish the delivery of quality health care services to maternity patients and their newly born children. It is the intent of the legislature to recognize patient preference and the clinical sovereignty of providers as they make determinations regarding services provided and the length of time individual patients may need to remain in a health care facility after giving birth. It is not the intent of the legislature to diminish a carrier's ability to utilize managed care strategies but to ensure the clinical judgment of the provider is not undermined by restrictive carrier contracts or utilization review criteria that fail to recognize individual postpartum needs.

(2) Unless otherwise specifically provided, the following definitions apply throughout this section:

(a) "Attending provider" means a provider who: Has clinical hospital privileges consistent with RCW 70.43.020; is included in a provider network of the carrier that is providing coverage; and is a physician licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW, a certified nurse midwife licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW, a midwife licensed under chapter 18.50 RCW, a physician's assistant licensed under chapter 18.57A or 18.71A RCW, or an advanced registered nurse practitioner licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW.

(b) "Health carrier" or "carrier" means disability insurers regulated under chapter 48.20 or 48.21 RCW, health care services contractors regulated under chapter 48.44 RCW, health maintenance organizations regulated under chapter 48.46 RCW, plans operating under the health care authority under chapter 41.05 RCW, the state health insurance pool operating under chapter 48.41 RCW, and insuring entities regulated under this chapter.

(3)(a) Every health carrier that provides coverage for maternity services must permit the attending provider, in consultation with the mother, to make decisions on the length of inpatient stay, rather than making such decisions through contracts or agreements between providers, hospitals, and insurers. These decisions must be based on accepted medical practice.

(b) Covered eligible services may not be denied for inpatient, postdelivery care to a mother and her newly born child after a vaginal delivery or a cesarean section delivery for such care as ordered by the attending provider in consultation with the mother.

(c) At the time of discharge, determination of the type and location of follow-up care, \*including in-person care, must be made by the attending provider in consultation with the mother rather than by contract or agreement between the hospital and the insurer. These decisions must be based on accepted medical practice.

(d) Covered eligible services may not be denied for follow-up care as ordered by the attending provider in

consultation with the mother. Coverage for providers of follow-up services must include, but need not be limited to, attending providers as defined in this section, home health agencies licensed under chapter 70.127 RCW, and registered nurses licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW.

(e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require attending providers to authorize care they believe to be medically unnecessary.

(f) Coverage for the newly born child must be no less than the coverage of the child's mother for no less than three weeks, even if there are separate hospital admissions.

(4) No carrier that provides coverage for maternity services may deselect, terminate the services of, require additional documentation from, require additional utilization review of, reduce payments to, or otherwise provide financial disincentives to any attending provider or health care facility solely as a result of the attending provider or health care facility ordering care consistent with the provisions of this section. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent any insurer from reimbursing an attending provider or health care facility on a capitated, case rate, or other financial incentive basis.

(5) Every carrier that provides coverage for maternity services must provide notice to policyholders regarding the coverage required under this section. The notice must be in writing and must be transmitted at the earliest of the next mailing to the policyholder, the yearly summary of benefits sent to the policyholder, or January 1 of the year following June 6, 1996.

(6) This section is not intended to establish a standard of medical care.

(7) This section shall apply to coverage for maternity services under a contract issued or renewed by a health carrier after June 6, 1996, and shall apply to plans operating under the health care authority under chapter 41.05 RCW beginning January 1, 1998. [1996 c 281 § 1.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Due to a drafting error, the amendment ", including in-person care," was placed after "follow-up care" in subsection (3)(c) instead of subsection (3)(d), which was the intended placement.

**Short title—1996 c 281:** "This act shall be known as "the Erin Act."" [1996 c 281 § 3.]

**48.43.180 Denturist services.** Notwithstanding any provision of any certified health plan covering dental care as provided for in this chapter, effective January 1, 1995, benefits shall not be denied thereunder for any service performed by a denturist licensed under chapter 18.30 RCW if (1) the service performed was within the lawful scope of such person's license, and (2) such plan would have provided benefits if such service had been performed by a dentist licensed under chapter 18.32 RCW. [1995 c 1 § 23 (Initiative Measure No. 607, approved November 8, 1994).]

**Short title—Severability—1995 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 607):** See RCW 18.30.900 and 18.30.901.

**48.43.200 Disclosure of certain material transactions—Report—Information is confidential.** (1) Every certified health plan domiciled in this state shall file a report with the commissioner disclosing material acquisitions and dispositions of assets or material nonrenewals, cancellations, or revisions of ceded reinsurance agreements unless these acquisitions and dispositions of assets or material

nonrenewals, cancellations, or revisions of ceded reinsurance agreements have been submitted to the commissioner for review, approval, or information purposes under other provisions of this title or other requirements.

(2) The report required in subsection (1) of this section is due within fifteen days after the end of the calendar month in which any of the transactions occur.

(3) One complete copy of the report, including any exhibits or other attachments filed as part of the report, shall be filed with the:

(a) Commissioner; and

(b) National association of insurance commissioners.

(4) All reports obtained by or disclosed to the commissioner under this section and RCW 48.43.205 through 48.43.225 are exempt from public inspection and copying and shall not be subject to subpoena. These reports shall not be made public by the commissioner, the national association of insurance commissioners, or any other person, except to insurance departments of other states, without the prior written consent of the certified health plan to which it pertains unless the commissioner, after giving the certified health plan that would be affected by disclosure notice and a hearing under chapter 48.04 RCW, determines that the interest of policyholders, subscribers, shareholders, or the public will be served by the publication, in which event the commissioner may publish all or any part of the report in the manner he or she deems appropriate. [1995 c 86 § 7.]

**48.43.205 Material acquisitions or dispositions.** No acquisitions or dispositions of assets need be reported pursuant to RCW 48.43.200 if the acquisitions or dispositions are not material. For purposes of RCW 48.43.200 through 48.43.225, a material acquisition, or the aggregate of any series of related acquisitions during any thirty-day period; or disposition, or the aggregate of any series of related dispositions during any thirty-day period is an acquisition or disposition that is nonrecurring and not in the ordinary course of business and involves more than five percent of the reporting certified health plan's total assets as reported in its most recent statutory statement filed with the commissioner. [1995 c 86 § 8.]

**48.43.210 Asset acquisitions—Asset dispositions.** (1) Asset acquisitions subject to RCW 48.43.200 through 48.43.225 include every purchase, lease, exchange, merger, consolidation, succession, or other acquisition other than the construction or development of real property by or for the reporting certified health plan or the acquisition of materials for such purpose.

(2) Asset dispositions subject to RCW 48.43.200 through 48.43.225 include every sale, lease, exchange, merger, consolidation, mortgage, hypothecation, abandonment, destruction, other disposition, or assignment, whether for the benefit of creditors or otherwise. [1995 c 86 § 9.]

**48.43.215 Report of a material acquisition or disposition of assets—Information required.** (1) The following information is required to be disclosed in any report of a material acquisition or disposition of assets:

(a) Date of the transaction;

(b) Manner of acquisition or disposition;

- (c) Description of the assets involved;
- (d) Nature and amount of the consideration given or received;
- (e) Purpose of or reason for the transaction;
- (f) Manner by which the amount of consideration was determined;
- (g) Gain or loss recognized or realized as a result of the transaction; and
- (h) Names of the persons from whom the assets were acquired or to whom they were disposed.

(2) Certified health plans are required to report material acquisitions and dispositions on a nonconsolidated basis unless the certified health plan is part of a consolidated group of insurers that utilizes a pooling arrangement or one hundred percent reinsurance agreement that affects the solvency and integrity of the certified health plan's reserves and such certified health plan ceded substantially all of its direct and assumed business to the pool. A certified health plan has ceded substantially all of its direct and assumed business to a pool if the certified health plan has less than one million dollars total direct plus assumed written premiums during a calendar year that are not subject to a pooling arrangement and the net income of the business not subject to the pooling arrangement represents less than five percent of the certified health plan's net worth. [1995 c 86 § 10.]

**48.43.220 Material nonrenewals, cancellations, or revisions of ceded reinsurance agreements.** (1) No nonrenewals, cancellations, or revisions of ceded reinsurance agreements need be reported under RCW 48.43.200 if the nonrenewals, cancellations, or revisions are not material. For purposes of RCW 48.43.200 through 48.43.225, a material nonrenewal, cancellation, or revision is one that affects:

- (a) More than fifty percent of a certified health plan's total reserve credit taken for business ceded, on an annualized basis, as indicated in the certified health plan's most recent annual statement;
- (b) More than ten percent of a certified health plan's total cession when it is replaced by one or more unauthorized reinsurers; or
- (c) Previously established collateral requirements, when they have been reduced or waived as respects one or more unauthorized reinsurers representing collectively more than ten percent of a total cession.

(2) However, a filing is not required if the certified health plan's total reserve credit taken for business ceded represents, on an annualized basis, less than ten percent of the statutory reserve requirement prior to any cession. [1995 c 86 § 11.]

**48.43.225 Report of a material nonrenewal, cancellation, or revision of ceded reinsurance agreements—Information required.** (1) The following is required to be disclosed in any report of a material nonrenewal, cancellation, or revision of ceded reinsurance agreements:

- (a) The effective date of the nonrenewal, cancellation, or revision;
- (b) The description of the transaction with an identification of the initiator;

- (c) The purpose of or reason for the transaction; and
- (d) If applicable, the identity of the replacement reinsurers.

(2) Certified health plans are required to report all material nonrenewals, cancellations, or revisions of ceded reinsurance agreements on a nonconsolidated basis unless the certified health plan is part of a consolidated group of insurers which utilizes a pooling arrangement or one hundred percent reinsurance agreement that affects the solvency and integrity of the certified health plan's reserves and the certified health plan ceded substantially all of its direct and assumed business to the pool. A certified health plan has ceded substantially all of its direct and assumed business to a pool if the certified health plan has less than one million dollars total direct plus assumed written premiums during a calendar year that are not subject to a pooling arrangement and the net income of the business not subject to the pooling arrangement represents less than five percent of the certified health plan's net worth. [1995 c 86 § 12.]

**48.43.901 Captions not law—1996 c 312.** Captions used in this act do not constitute part of the law. [1996 c 312 § 6.]

**48.43.902 Effective date—1996 c 312.** This act shall take effect July 1, 1996. [1996 c 312 § 8.]

## Chapter 48.44

### HEALTH CARE SERVICES

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*Agents of health care service contractors, additional regulations applicable: RCW 48.17.065.*

**48.44.010 Definitions.** For the purposes of this chapter:

(1) "Health care services" means and includes medical, surgical, dental, chiropractic, hospital, optometric, podiatric, pharmaceutical, ambulance, custodial, mental health, and other therapeutic services.

(2) "Provider" means any health professional, hospital, or other institution, organization, or person that furnishes health care services and is licensed to furnish such services.

(3) "Health care service contractor" means any corporation, cooperative group, or association, which is sponsored by or otherwise intimately connected with a provider or group of providers, who or which not otherwise being engaged in the insurance business, accepts prepayment for health care services from or for the benefit of persons or groups of persons as consideration for providing such persons with any health care services.

(4) "Participating provider" means a provider, who or which has contracted in writing with a health care service contractor to accept payment from and to look solely to such contractor according to the terms of the subscriber contract for any health care services rendered to a person who has previously paid, or on whose behalf prepayment has been made, to such contractor for such services.

(5) "Enrolled participant" means a person or group of persons who have entered into a contractual arrangement or on whose behalf a contractual arrangement has been entered into with a health care service contractor to receive health care services.

(6) "Commissioner" means the insurance commissioner.

(7) "Uncovered expenditures" means the costs to the health care service contractor for health care services that are the obligation of the health care service contractor for which an enrolled participant would also be liable in the event of the health care service contractor's insolvency and for which no alternative arrangements have been made as provided herein. The term does not include expenditures for covered services when a provider has agreed not to bill the enrolled participant even though the provider is not paid by the health care service contractor, or for services that are guaranteed, insured or assumed by a person or organization other than the health care service contractor.

(8) "Copayment" means an amount specified in a group or individual contract which is an obligation of an enrolled participant for a specific service which is not fully prepaid.

(9) "Deductible" means the amount an enrolled participant is responsible to pay before the health care service contractor begins to pay the costs associated with treatment.

(10) "Group contract" means a contract for health care services which by its terms limits eligibility to members of a specific group. The group contract may include coverage for dependents.

(11) "Individual contract" means a contract for health care services issued to and covering an individual. An individual contract may include dependents.

(12) "Carrier" means a health maintenance organization, an insurer, a health care service contractor, or other entity responsible for the payment of benefits or provision of services under a group or individual contract.

(13) "Replacement coverage" means the benefits provided by a succeeding carrier.

(14) "Insolvent" or "insolvency" means that the organization has been declared insolvent and is placed under an order of liquidation by a court of competent jurisdiction.

(15) "Fully subordinated debt" means those debts that meet the requirements of RCW 48.44.037(3) and are recorded as equity.

(16) "Net worth" means the excess of total admitted assets as defined in RCW 48.12.010 over total liabilities but the liabilities shall not include fully subordinated debt. [1990 c 120 § 1; 1986 c 223 § 1. Prior: 1983 c 286 § 3; 1983 c 154 § 3; 1980 c 102 § 10; 1965 c 87 § 1; 1961 c 197 § 1; 1947 c 268 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 6131-10.]

**Severability—1983 c 286:** See note following RCW 48.44.309.

**Severability—1983 c 154:** See note following RCW 48.44.299.

**48.44.011 Agent—Definition—License required—Application, issuance, renewal, fees—Penalties involving license.** (1) Agent, as used in this chapter, means any person appointed or authorized by a health care service contractor to solicit applications for health care service contracts on its behalf.

(2) No person shall act as or hold himself out to be an agent of a health care service contractor unless licensed as a disability insurance agent by this state and appointed by the health care service contractor on whose behalf solicitations are to be made.

(3) Applications, appointments, and qualifications for licenses, the renewal thereof, the fees and issuance of a license, and the renewal thereof shall be in accordance with the provisions of chapter 48.17 RCW that are applicable to a disability insurance agent.

(4) A person holding a valid license in this state as a health care service contractor agent on July 24, 1983, is not required to requalify by an examination for the renewal of the license.

(5) The commissioner may revoke, suspend, or refuse to issue or renew any agent's license, or levy a fine upon the licensee, in accordance with those provisions of chapter 48.17 RCW that are applicable to a disability insurance agent. [1983 c 202 § 1; 1969 c 115 § 7.]

**48.44.015 Registration by health care service contractors required—Penalty.** (1) No person shall in this state, by mail or otherwise, act as or hold himself out to be a health care service contractor, as defined in RCW

48.44.010 without being duly registered therefor with the commissioner.

(2) The issuance, sale or offer for sale in this state of securities of its own issue by any health care service contractor domiciled in this state other than the memberships and bonds of a nonprofit corporation shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 48.06 RCW relating to obtaining solicitation permits the same as if health care service contractors were domestic insurers.

(3) Any person violating any provision of subsection (1) or (2) of this section shall be liable to a fine of not to exceed one thousand dollars and imprisonment for not to exceed six months for each instance of such violation. [1983 c 202 § 2; 1969 c 115 § 6.]

**48.44.020 Contracts for services—Examination of contract forms by commissioner—Grounds for disapproval—Liability of participant.** (1) Any health care service contractor may enter into contracts with or for the benefit of persons or groups of persons which require prepayment for health care services by or for such persons in consideration of such health care service contractor providing one or more health care services to such persons and such activity shall not be subject to the laws relating to insurance if the health care services are rendered by the health care service contractor or by a participating provider.

(2) The commissioner may on examination, subject to the right of the health care service contractor to demand and receive a hearing under chapters 48.04 and 34.05 RCW, disapprove any contract form for any of the following grounds:

(a) If it contains or incorporates by reference any inconsistent, ambiguous or misleading clauses, or exceptions and conditions which unreasonably or deceptively affect the risk purported to be assumed in the general coverage of the contract; or

(b) If it has any title, heading or other indication of its provisions which is misleading; or

(c) If purchase of health care services thereunder is being solicited by deceptive advertising; or

(d) If, the benefits provided therein are unreasonable in relation to the amount charged for the contract;

(e) If it contains unreasonable restrictions on the treatment of patients;

(f) If it violates any provision of this chapter;

(g) If it fails to conform to minimum provisions or standards required by regulation made by the commissioner pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW;

(h) If any contract for health care services with any state agency, division, subdivision, board or commission or with any political subdivision, municipal corporation, or quasi-municipal corporation fails to comply with state law.

(3)(a) Every contract between a health care service contractor and a participating provider of health care services shall be in writing and shall state that in the event the health care service contractor fails to pay for health care services as provided in the contract, the enrolled participant shall not be liable to the provider for sums owed by the health care service contractor. Every such contract shall provide that this requirement shall survive termination of the contract.



(b) No participating provider, agent, trustee or assignee may maintain any action against an enrolled participant to collect sums owed by the health care service contractor. [1990 c 120 § 5; 1986 c 223 § 2; 1985 c 283 § 1; 1983 c 286 § 4; 1973 1st ex.s. c 65 § 1; 1969 c 115 § 1; 1961 c 197 § 2; 1947 c 268 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 6131-11.]

**Severability—1983 c 286:** See note following RCW 48.44.309.

**48.44.022 Mandatory offering to individuals providing basic health plan benefits—Exemption from statutory requirements—Premium rates—Definitions.**

(1)(a) A health care service contractor offering any health benefit plan to any individual shall offer and actively market to all individuals a health benefit plan providing benefits identical to the schedule of covered health services that are required to be delivered to an individual enrolled in the basic health plan. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude a contractor from offering, or an individual from purchasing, other health benefit plans that may have more or less comprehensive benefits than the basic health plan, provided such plans are in accordance with this chapter. A contractor offering a health benefit plan that does not include benefits provided in the basic health plan shall clearly disclose these differences to the individual in a brochure approved by the commissioner.

(b) A health benefit plan shall provide coverage for hospital expenses and services rendered by a physician licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW but is not subject to the requirements of RCW 48.44.225, 48.44.240, 48.44.245, 48.44.290, 48.44.300, 48.44.310, 48.44.320, 48.44.325, 48.44.330, 48.44.335, 48.44.340, 48.44.344, 48.44.360, 48.44.400, 48.44.440, 48.44.450, and 48.44.460 if the health benefit plan is the mandatory offering under (a) of this subsection that provides benefits identical to the basic health plan, to the extent these requirements differ from the basic health plan.

(2) Premium rates for health benefit plans for individuals shall be subject to the following provisions:

(a) The health care service contractor shall develop its rates based on an adjusted community rate and may only vary the adjusted community rate for:

- (i) Geographic area;
- (ii) Family size;
- (iii) Age; and
- (iv) Wellness activities.

(b) The adjustment for age in (a)(iii) of this subsection may not use age brackets smaller than five-year increments which shall begin with age twenty and end with age sixty-five. Individuals under the age of twenty shall be treated as those age twenty.

(c) The health care service contractor shall be permitted to develop separate rates for individuals age sixty-five or older for coverage for which medicare is the primary payer and coverage for which medicare is not the primary payer. Both rates shall be subject to the requirements of this subsection.

(d) The permitted rates for any age group shall be no more than four hundred twenty-five percent of the lowest rate for all age groups on January 1, 1996, four hundred percent on January 1, 1997, and three hundred seventy-five percent on January 1, 2000, and thereafter.

(e) A discount for wellness activities shall be permitted to reflect actuarially justified differences in utilization or cost attributed to such programs not to exceed twenty percent.

(f) The rate charged for a health benefit plan offered under this section may not be adjusted more frequently than annually except that the premium may be changed to reflect:

- (i) Changes to the family composition;
- (ii) Changes to the health benefit plan requested by the individual; or
- (iii) Changes in government requirements affecting the health benefit plan.

(g) For the purposes of this section, a health benefit plan that contains a restricted network provision shall not be considered similar coverage to a health benefit plan that does not contain such a provision, provided that the restrictions of benefits to network providers result in substantial differences in claims costs. This subsection does not restrict or enhance the portability of benefits as provided in RCW 48.43.015.

(3) Adjusted community rates established under this section shall pool the medical experience of all individuals purchasing coverage, and shall not be required to be pooled with the medical experience of health benefit plans offered to small employers under RCW 48.44.023.

(4) As used in this section and RCW 48.44.023 "health benefit plan," "small employer," "basic health plan," "adjusted community rates," and "wellness activities" mean the same as defined in RCW 48.43.005. [1995 c 265 § 15.]

**Captions not law—Effective dates—Savings—Severability—1995 c 265:** See notes following RCW 70.47.015.

**48.44.023 Mandatory offering providing basic health plan benefits for employers with fewer than twenty-five employees—Exemption from statutory requirements—Premium rates—Requirements for providing coverage for small employers.**

(1)(a) A health care services contractor offering any health benefit plan to a small employer shall offer and actively market to the small employer a health benefit plan providing benefits identical to the schedule of covered health services that are required to be delivered to an individual enrolled in the basic health plan. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude a contractor from offering, or a small employer from purchasing, other health benefit plans that may have more or less comprehensive benefits than the basic health plan, provided such plans are in accordance with this chapter. A contractor offering a health benefit plan that does not include benefits in the basic health plan shall clearly disclose these differences to the small employer in a brochure approved by the commissioner.

(b) A health benefit plan shall provide coverage for hospital expenses and services rendered by a physician licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW but is not subject to the requirements of RCW 48.44.225, 48.44.240, 48.44.245, 48.44.290, 48.44.300, 48.44.310, 48.44.320, 48.44.325, 48.44.330, 48.44.335, 48.44.340, 48.44.344, 48.44.360, 48.44.400, 48.44.440, 48.44.450, and 48.44.460 if: (i) The health benefit plan is the mandatory offering under (a) of this subsection that provides benefits identical to the basic health plan, to the extent these requirements differ from the basic health plan; or (ii) the health benefit plan is offered to employers with not more than twenty-five employees.

(2) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a health care service contractor from offering, or a purchaser from seeking, benefits in excess of the basic health plan services. All forms, policies, and contracts shall be submitted for approval to the commissioner, and the rates of any plan offered under this section shall be reasonable in relation to the benefits thereto.

(3) Premium rates for health benefit plans for small employers as defined in this section shall be subject to the following provisions:

(a) The contractor shall develop its rates based on an adjusted community rate and may only vary the adjusted community rate for:

- (i) Geographic area;
- (ii) Family size;
- (iii) Age; and
- (iv) Wellness activities.

(b) The adjustment for age in (a)(iii) of this subsection may not use age brackets smaller than five-year increments, which shall begin with age twenty and end with age sixty-five. Employees under the age of twenty shall be treated as those age twenty.

(c) The contractor shall be permitted to develop separate rates for individuals age sixty-five or older for coverage for which medicare is the primary payer and coverage for which medicare is not the primary payer. Both rates shall be subject to the requirements of this subsection (3).

(d) The permitted rates for any age group shall be no more than four hundred twenty-five percent of the lowest rate for all age groups on January 1, 1996, four hundred percent on January 1, 1997, and three hundred seventy-five percent on January 1, 2000, and thereafter.

(e) A discount for wellness activities shall be permitted to reflect actuarially justified differences in utilization or cost attributed to such programs not to exceed twenty percent.

(f) The rate charged for a health benefit plan offered under this section may not be adjusted more frequently than annually except that the premium may be changed to reflect:

- (i) Changes to the enrollment of the small employer;
- (ii) Changes to the family composition of the employee;
- (iii) Changes to the health benefit plan requested by the small employer; or
- (iv) Changes in government requirements affecting the health benefit plan.

(g) Rating factors shall produce premiums for identical groups that differ only by the amounts attributable to plan design, with the exception of discounts for health improvement programs.

(h) For the purposes of this section, a health benefit plan that contains a restricted network provision shall not be considered similar coverage to a health benefit plan that does not contain such a provision, provided that the restrictions of benefits to network providers result in substantial differences in claims costs. This subsection does not restrict or enhance the portability of benefits as provided in RCW 48.43.015.

(i) Adjusted community rates established under this section shall pool the medical experience of all groups purchasing coverage.

(4) The health benefit plans authorized by this section that are lower than the required offering shall not supplant or supersede any existing policy for the benefit of employees in this state. Nothing in this section shall restrict the right

of employees to collectively bargain for insurance providing benefits in excess of those provided herein.

(5)(a) Except as provided in this subsection, requirements used by a contractor in determining whether to provide coverage to a small employer shall be applied uniformly among all small employers applying for coverage or receiving coverage from the carrier.

(b) A contractor shall not require a minimum participation level greater than:

- (i) One hundred percent of eligible employees working for groups with three or less employees; and
- (ii) Seventy-five percent of eligible employees working for groups with more than three employees.

(c) In applying minimum participation requirements with respect to a small employer, a small employer shall not consider employees or dependents who have similar existing coverage in determining whether the applicable percentage of participation is met.

(d) A contractor may not increase any requirement for minimum employee participation or modify any requirement for minimum employer contribution applicable to a small employer at any time after the small employer has been accepted for coverage.

(6) A contractor must offer coverage to all eligible employees of a small employer and their dependents. A contractor may not offer coverage to only certain individuals or dependents in a small employer group or to only part of the group. A contractor may not modify a health plan with respect to a small employer or any eligible employee or dependent, through riders, endorsements or otherwise, to restrict or exclude coverage or benefits for specific diseases, medical conditions, or services otherwise covered by the plan. [1995 c 265 § 16; 1990 c 187 § 3.]

**Captions not law—Effective dates—Savings—Severability—1995 c 265:** See notes following RCW 70.47.015.

**Finding—Intent—Severability—1990 c 187:** See notes following RCW 48.21.045.

**48.44.024 Requirements for plans offered to small employers—Definitions.** (1) No health care service contractor shall offer any health benefit plan to any small employer without complying with the provisions of \*RCW 48.44.023(5).

(2) Employers purchasing health plans provided through associations or through member-governed groups formed specifically for the purpose of purchasing health care shall not be considered small employers and such plans shall not be subject to the provisions of \*RCW 48.44.023(5).

(3) For purposes of this section, "health benefit plan," "health plan," and "small employer" mean the same as defined in RCW 48.43.005. [1995 c 265 § 23.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Reference was inadvertently changed during the bill drafting process. The correct reference should be RCW 48.44.023(3).

**Captions not law—Effective dates—Savings—Severability—1995 c 265:** See notes following RCW 70.47.015.

**48.44.026 Payment for certain health care services.** Checks in payment for claims pursuant to any health care service contract for health care services provided by persons licensed or regulated under chapters 18.25, 18.29, 18.32, 18.53, 18.57, 18.64, 18.71, 18.73, 18.74, 18.83, or 18.79 RCW, as it applies to registered nurses and advanced

registered nurse practitioners, where the provider is not a participating provider under a contract with the health care service contractor, shall be made out to both the provider and the enrolled participant with the provider as the first named payee, jointly, to require endorsement by each: PROVIDED, That payment shall be made in the single name of the enrolled participant if the enrolled participant as part of his or her claim furnishes evidence of prepayment to the health care service provider: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That nothing in this section shall preclude a health care service contractor from voluntarily issuing payment in the single name of the provider. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 732; 1990 c 120 § 6; 1989 c 122 § 1; 1984 c 283 § 1; 1982 c 168 § 1.]

**Severability—Headings and captions not law—Effective date—**1994 sp.s. c 9: See RCW 18.79.900 through 18.79.902.

**48.44.030 Underwriting of indemnity by insurance policy, bond, securities, or cash deposit.** If any of the health care services which are promised in any such agreement are not to be performed by the health care service contractor, or by a participating provider, such activity shall not be subject to the laws relating to insurance, provided provision is made for reimbursement or indemnity of the persons who have previously paid, or on whose behalf prepayment has been made, for such services. Such reimbursement or indemnity shall either be underwritten by an insurance company authorized to write accident, health and disability insurance in the state or guaranteed by a surety company authorized to do business in this state, or guaranteed by a deposit of cash or securities eligible for investment by insurers pursuant to chapter 48.13 RCW, with the insurance commissioner, as hereinafter provided. If the reimbursement or indemnity is underwritten by an insurance company, the contract or policy of insurance may designate the health care service contractor as the named insured, but shall be for the benefit of the persons who have previously paid, or on whose behalf prepayment has been made, for such health care services. If the reimbursement or indemnity is guaranteed by a surety company, the surety bond shall designate the state of Washington as the named obligee, but shall be for the benefit of the persons who have previously paid, or on whose behalf prepayment has been made, for such health care services, and shall be in such amount as the insurance commissioner shall direct, but in no event in a sum greater than the amount of one hundred fifty thousand dollars or the amount necessary to cover incurred but unpaid reimbursement or indemnity benefits as reported in the last annual statement filed with the insurance commissioner, and adjusted to reflect known or anticipated increases or decreases during the ensuing year, plus an amount of unearned prepayments applicable to reimbursement or indemnity benefits satisfactory to the insurance commissioner, whichever amount is greater. A copy of such insurance policy or surety bond, as the case may be, and any modification thereof, shall be filed with the insurance commissioner. If the reimbursement or indemnity is guaranteed by a deposit of cash or securities, such deposit shall be in such amount as the insurance commissioner shall direct, but in no event in a sum greater than the amount of one hundred fifty thousand dollars or the amount necessary to cover incurred but unpaid reimbursement or indemnity benefits as reported in the last annual statement filed with the insurance commissioner, and

adjusted to reflect known or anticipated increases or decreases during the ensuing year, plus an amount of unearned prepayments applicable to reimbursement or indemnity benefits satisfactory to the insurance commissioner, whichever amount is greater. Such cash or security deposit shall be held in trust by the insurance commissioner and shall be for the benefit of the persons who have previously paid, or on whose behalf prepayment has been made, for such health care services. [1990 c 120 § 7; 1986 c 223 § 3; 1981 c 339 § 22; 1969 c 115 § 2; 1961 c 197 § 3; 1947 c 268 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 6131-12.]

**48.44.033 Financial failure—Supervision of commissioner—Priority of distribution of assets.** (1) Any rehabilitation, liquidation, or conservation of a health care service contractor shall be deemed to be the rehabilitation, liquidation, or conservation of an insurance company and shall be conducted under the supervision of the commissioner pursuant to the law governing the rehabilitation, liquidation, or conservation of insurance companies. The commissioner may apply for an order directing the commissioner to rehabilitate, liquidate, or conserve a health care service contractor upon any one or more grounds set out in RCW 48.31.030, 48.31.050, and 48.31.080.

(2) For purpose of determining the priority of distribution of general assets, claims of enrolled participants and enrolled participants' beneficiaries shall have the same priority as established by RCW 48.31.280 for policyholders and beneficiaries of insureds of insurance companies. If an enrolled participant is liable to any provider for services provided pursuant to and covered by the health care plan, that liability shall have the status of an enrolled participant claim for distribution of general assets.

(3) Any provider who is obligated by statute or agreement to hold enrolled participants harmless from liability for services provided pursuant to and covered by a health care plan shall have a priority of distribution of the general assets immediately following that of enrolled participants and enrolled participants' beneficiaries as described herein, and immediately preceding the priority of distribution described in chapter 48.31 RCW. [1990 c 120 § 2.]

**48.44.035 Limited health care service—Uncovered expenditures.** (1) For purposes of this section only, "limited health care service" means dental care services, vision care services, mental health services, chemical dependency services, pharmaceutical services, podiatric care services, and such other services as may be determined by the commissioner to be limited health services, but does not include hospital, medical, surgical, emergency, or out-of-area services except as those services are provided incidentally to the limited health services set forth in this subsection.

(2) For purposes of this section only, a "limited health care service contractor" means a health care service contractor that offers one and only one limited health care service.

(3) For all limited health care service contractors that have had a certificate of registration for less than three years, their uncovered expenditures shall be either insured or guaranteed by a foreign or domestic carrier admitted in the state of Washington or by another carrier acceptable to the commissioner. All such contractors shall also deposit with

the commissioner one-half of one percent of their projected premium for the next year in cash, approved surety bond, securities, or other form acceptable to the commissioner.

(4) For all limited health care service contractors that have had a certificate of registration for three years or more, their uncovered expenditures shall be assured by depositing with the insurance commissioner twenty-five percent of their last year's uncovered expenditures as reported to the commissioner and adjusted to reflect any anticipated increases or decreases during the ensuing year plus an amount for unearned prepayments; in cash, approved surety bond, securities, or other form acceptable to the commissioner. Compliance with subsection (3) of this section shall also constitute compliance with this requirement.

(5) Limited health service contractors need not comply with RCW 48.44.030 or 48.44.037. [1990 c 120 § 3.]

**48.44.037 Minimum net worth—Requirement to maintain—Determination of amount.** (1)(a) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, every health care service contractor must have a net worth of one million five hundred thousand dollars at the time of initial registration under this chapter and a net worth of one million dollars thereafter. The commissioner is authorized to establish standards for reviewing a health care service contractor's financial integrity when, for any reason, its net worth is reduced below one million dollars. When satisfied that such a health care service contractor is financially stable and not hazardous to its enrolled participants, the commissioner may waive compliance with the one million dollar net worth standard otherwise required by this subsection. When such a health care service contractor's net worth falls below five hundred thousand dollars, the commissioner shall require that net worth be increased to one million dollars.

(b) A health care service contractor who fails to maintain the required net worth must cure that defect in compliance with an order of the commissioner rendered in conformity with rules adopted under chapter 34.05 RCW. The commissioner may take appropriate action to assure that the continued operation of the health care service contractor will not be hazardous to its enrolled participants.

(2) A health care service contractor registered before June 7, 1990, must maintain a net worth of:

(a) Twenty-five percent of the amount required by subsection (1) of this section by December 31, 1990;

(b) Fifty percent of the amount required by subsection (1) of this section by December 31, 1991;

(c) Seventy-five percent of the amount required by subsection (1) of this section by December 31, 1992; and

(d) One hundred percent of the amount required by subsection (1) of this section by December 31, 1993.

(3)(a) In determining net worth, no debt shall be considered fully subordinated unless the subordination is in a form acceptable to the commissioner. An interest obligation relating to the repayment of a subordinated debt must be similarly subordinated.

(b) The interest expenses relating to the repayment of a fully subordinated debt shall not be considered uncovered expenditures.

(c) A subordinated debt incurred by a note meeting the requirement of this section, and otherwise acceptable to the

commissioner, shall not be considered a liability and shall be recorded as equity.

(4) Every health care service contractor shall, when determining liabilities, include an amount estimated in the aggregate to provide for any unearned premium and for the payment of all claims for health care expenditures which have been incurred, whether reported or unreported, which are unpaid and for which the organization is or may be liable, and to provide for the expense of adjustment or settlement of the claims.

Liabilities shall be computed in accordance with regulations adopted by the commissioner upon reasonable consideration of the ascertained experience and character of the health care service contractor.

(5) All income from reserves on deposit with the commissioner shall belong to the depositing health care service contractor and shall be paid to it as it becomes available.

(6) Any funded reserve required by this chapter shall be considered an asset of the health care service contractor in determining the organization's net worth.

(7) A health care service contractor that has made a securities deposit with the commissioner may, at its option, withdraw the securities deposit or any part thereof after first having deposited or provided in lieu thereof an approved surety bond, a deposit of cash or securities, or any combination of these or other deposits of equal amount and value to that withdrawn. Any securities and surety bond shall be subject to approval by the commissioner before being substituted. [1990 c 120 § 4.]

**48.44.040 Registration with commissioner—Fee.**

Every health care service contractor who or which enters into agreements which require prepayment for health care services shall register with the insurance commissioner on forms to be prescribed and provided by him. Such registrants shall state their name, address, type of organization, area of operation, type or types of health care services provided, and such other information as may reasonably be required by the insurance commissioner and shall file with such registration a copy of all contracts being offered and a schedule of all rates charged. No registrant shall change any rates, modify any contract, or offer any new contract, until he has filed a copy of the changed rate schedule, modified contract, or new contract with the insurance commissioner. The insurance commissioner shall charge a fee of ten dollars for the filing of each original registration statement and may require each registrant to file a current reregistration statement annually thereafter. [1947 c 268 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 6131-13.]

**48.44.050 Rules and regulations.** The insurance commissioner shall make reasonable regulations in aid of the administration of this chapter which may include, but shall not be limited to regulations concerning the maintenance of adequate insurance, bonds, or cash deposits, information required of registrants, and methods of expediting speedy and fair payments to claimants. [1947 c 268 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 6131-14.]

**48.44.055 Plan for handling insolvency—Commissioner's review.** Each health care service contractor shall have a plan for handling insolvency that allows for continuation of benefits for the duration of the contract period for which premiums have been paid and continuation of benefits to members who are confined on the date of insolvency in an inpatient facility until their discharge or expiration of benefits. The commissioner shall approve such a plan if it includes:

- (1) Insurance to cover the expenses to be paid for continued benefits after insolvency;
- (2) Provisions in provider contracts that obligate the provider to provide services for the duration of the period after the health care service contractor's insolvency for which premium payment has been made and until the enrolled participants are discharged from inpatient facilities;
- (3) Use of insolvency reserves established under RCW 48.44.030;
- (4) Acceptable letters of credit or approved surety bonds; or
- (5) Any other arrangements the commissioner and the organization mutually agree are appropriate to assure that the benefits are continued. [1990 c 120 § 11.]

**48.44.057 Insolvency—Commissioner's duties—Participants' options—Allocation of coverage.** (1)(a) In the event of insolvency of a health services contractor or health maintenance organization and upon order of the commissioner, all other carriers then having active enrolled participants under a group plan with the affected agreement holder that participated in the enrollment process with the insolvent health services contractor or health maintenance organization at a group's last regular enrollment period shall offer the eligible enrolled participants of the insolvent health services contractor or health maintenance organization the opportunity to enroll in an existing group plan without medical underwriting during a thirty-day open enrollment period, commencing on the date of the insolvency. Eligible enrolled participants shall not be subject to preexisting condition limitations except to the extent that a waiting period for a preexisting condition has not been satisfied under the insolvent carrier's group plan. An open enrollment shall not be required where the agreement holder participates in a self-insured, self-funded, or other health plan exempt from commissioner rule, unless the plan administrator and agreement holder voluntarily agree to offer a simultaneous open enrollment and extend coverage under the same enrollment terms and conditions as are applicable to carriers under this title and rules adopted under this title. If an exempt plan was offered during the last regular open enrollment period, then the carrier may offer the agreement holder the same coverage as any self-insured plan or plans offered by the agreement holder without regard to coverage, benefit, or provider requirements mandated by this title for the duration of the current agreement period.

(b) For purposes of this subsection only, the term "carrier" means a health maintenance organization or a health care services contractor. In the event of insolvency of a carrier and if no other carrier has active enrolled participants under a group plan with the affected agreement holder, or if the commissioner determines that the other

carriers lack sufficient health care delivery resources to assure that health services will be available or accessible to all of the group enrollees of the insolvent carrier, then the commissioner shall allocate equitably the insolvent carrier's group agreements for these groups among all carriers that operate within a portion of the insolvent carrier's area, taking into consideration the health care delivery resources of each carrier. Each carrier to which a group or groups are allocated shall offer the agreement holder, without medical underwriting, the carrier's existing coverage that is most similar to each group's coverage with the insolvent carrier at rates determined in accordance with the successor carrier's existing rating methodology. The eligible enrolled participants shall not be subject to preexisting condition limitations except to the extent that a waiting period for a preexisting condition has not been satisfied under the insolvent carrier's group plan. No offering by a carrier shall be required where the agreement holder participates in a self-insured, self-funded, or other health plan exempt from commissioner rule. The carrier may offer the agreement holder the same coverage as any self-insured plan or plans offered by the agreement holder without regard to coverage, benefit, or provider requirements mandated by this title for the duration of the current agreement period.

(2) The commissioner shall also allocate equitably the insolvent carrier's nongroup enrolled participants who are unable to obtain coverage among all carriers that operate within a portion of the insolvent carrier's service area, taking into consideration the health care delivery resources of the carrier. Each carrier to which nongroup enrolled participants are allocated shall offer the nongroup enrolled participants the carrier's existing comprehensive conversion plan, without additional medical underwriting, at rates determined in accordance with the successor carrier's existing rating methodology. The eligible enrolled participants shall not be subject to preexisting condition limitations except to the extent that a waiting period for a preexisting condition has not been satisfied under the insolvent carrier's plan.

(3) Any agreements covering participants allocated pursuant to subsections (1)(b) and (2) of this section to carriers pursuant to this section may be rerated after ninety days of coverage.

(4) A limited health care service contractor shall not be required to offer services other than its one limited health care service to any enrolled participant of an insolvent carrier. [1990 c 120 § 8.]

**48.44.060 Penalty.** Any person who violates any of the provisions of this chapter shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor. [1947 c 268 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 6131-15.]

**48.44.070 Contracts to be filed with commissioner.** (1) Forms of contracts between health care service contractors and participating providers shall be filed with the insurance commissioner prior to use.

(2) Any contract form not affirmatively disapproved within fifteen days of filing shall be deemed approved, except that the commissioner may extend the approval period an additional fifteen days upon giving notice before the expiration of the initial fifteen-day period. The commission-

er may approve such a contract form for immediate use at any time. Approval may be subsequently withdrawn for cause.

(3) Subject to the right of the health care service contractor to demand and receive a hearing under chapters 48.04 and 34.05 RCW, the commissioner may disapprove such a contract form if it is in any respect in violation of this chapter or if it fails to conform to minimum provisions or standards required by the commissioner by rule under chapter 34.05 RCW. [1990 c 120 § 9; 1965 c 87 § 2; 1961 c 197 § 4.]

**48.44.080 Master lists of contractor's participating providers—Filing with commissioner—Notice of termination or participation.** Every health care service contractor shall file with its annual statement with the insurance commissioner a master list of the participating providers with whom or with which such health care service contractor has executed contracts of participation, certifying that each such participating provider has executed such contract of participation. The health care service contractor shall on the first day of each month notify the insurance commissioner in writing in case of the termination of any such contract, and of any participating provider who has entered into a participating contract during the preceding month. [1990 c 120 § 10; 1986 c 223 § 4; 1965 c 87 § 3; 1961 c 197 § 5.]

**48.44.090 Refusal to register corporate, etc., contractor if name confusing with existing contractor or insurance company.** The insurance commissioner shall refuse to accept the registration of any corporation, cooperative group, or association seeking to act as a health care service contractor if, in his discretion, the insurance commissioner deems that the name of the corporation, cooperative group, or association would be confused with the name of an existing registered health care service contractor or authorized insurance company. [1961 c 197 § 6.]

**48.44.095 Annual financial statement—Filing—Penalty for failure to file.** (1) Every health care service contractor shall annually, before the first day of March, file with the commissioner a statement verified by at least two of the principal officers of the health care service contractor showing its financial condition as of the last day of the preceding calendar year. The statement shall be in such form as is furnished or prescribed by the commissioner. The commissioner may for good reason allow a reasonable extension of the time within which such annual statement shall be filed.

(2) The commissioner may suspend or revoke the certificate of registration of any health care service contractor failing to file its annual statement when due or during any extension of time therefor which the commissioner, for good cause, may grant. [1993 c 492 § 295; 1983 c 202 § 3; 1969 c 115 § 5.]

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

**Short title—Severability—Savings—Captions not law—Reservation of legislative power—Effective dates—1993 c 492:** See RCW 43.72.910 through 43.72.915.

**48.44.100 Filing inaccurate financial statement prohibited.** No person shall knowingly file with any public official or knowingly make, publish, or disseminate any financial statement of a health care service contractor which does not accurately state the health care service contractor's financial condition. [1961 c 197 § 7.]

**48.44.110 False representation, advertising.** No person shall knowingly make, publish, or disseminate any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or advertising in the conduct of the business of a health care service contractor, or relative to the business of a health care service contractor or to any person engaged therein. [1961 c 197 § 8.]

**48.44.120 Misrepresentations of contract terms, benefits, etc.** No person shall knowingly make, issue, or circulate, or cause to be made, issued, or circulated, a misrepresentation of the terms of any contract, or the benefits or advantages promised thereby, or use the name or title of any contract or class of contract misrepresenting the nature thereof. [1961 c 197 § 9.]

**48.44.130 Future dividends or refunds—When permissible.** No health care service contractor nor any individual acting on behalf thereof shall guarantee or agree to the payment of future dividends or future refunds of unused charges or savings in any specific or approximate amounts or percentages in respect to any contract being offered to the public, except in a group contract containing an experience refund provision. [1961 c 197 § 10.]

**48.44.140 Misleading comparisons to terminate or retain contract.** No health care service contractor nor any person representing a health care service contractor shall by misrepresentation or misleading comparisons induce or attempt to induce any member of any health care service contractor to terminate or retain a contract or membership. [1961 c 197 § 11.]

**48.44.145 Examination of contractors—Duties of contractor, powers of commissioner—Independent audit reports.** (1) The commissioner may make an examination of the operations of any health care service contractor as often as he deems necessary in order to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(2) Every health care service contractor shall submit its books and records relating to its operation for financial condition and market conduct examinations and in every way facilitate them. For the purpose of examinations, the commissioner may issue subpoenas, administer oaths, and examine the officers and principals of the health care service contractor.

(3) The commissioner may elect to accept and rely on audit reports made by an independent certified public accountant for the health care service contractor in the course of that part of the commissioner's examination covering the same general subject matter as the audit. The commissioner may incorporate the audit report in his report of the examination.

(4) Whenever any health care service contractor applies for initial admission, the commissioner may make, or cause to be made, an examination of the applicant's business and affairs. Whenever such an examination is made, all of the provisions of chapter 48.03 RCW not inconsistent with this chapter shall be applicable. In lieu of making an examination himself the commissioner may, in the case of a foreign health care service contractor, accept an examination report of the applicant by the regulatory official in its state of domicile. [1986 c 296 § 8; 1983 c 63 § 1; 1969 c 115 § 12.]

**Severability—Effective date—1986 c 296:** See notes following RCW 48.14.020.

**48.44.150 Certificate of registration not an endorsement—Display in solicitation prohibited.** The granting of a certificate of registration to a health care service contractor is permissive only, and shall not constitute an endorsement by the insurance commissioner of any person or thing related to the health care service contractor, and no person shall advertise or display a certificate of registration for use as an inducement in any solicitation. [1961 c 197 § 12.]

**48.44.160 Revocation, suspension, refusal of registration—Hearing—Cease and desist orders, injunctive action—Grounds.** The insurance commissioner may, subject to a hearing if one is demanded pursuant to chapters 48.04 and 34.05 RCW, revoke, suspend, or refuse to accept or renew registration from any health care service contractor, or he may issue a cease and desist order, or bring an action in any court of competent jurisdiction to enjoin a health care service contractor from doing further business in this state, if such health care service contractor:

(1) Fails to comply with any provision of chapter 48.44 RCW or any proper order or regulation of the commissioner.

(2) Is found by the commissioner to be in such financial condition that its further transaction of business in this state would jeopardize the payment of claims and refunds to subscribers.

(3) Has refused to remove or discharge a director or officer who has been convicted of any crime involving fraud, dishonesty, or like moral turpitude, after written request by the commissioner for such removal, and expiration of a reasonable time therefor as specified in such request.

(4) Usually compels claimants under contracts either to accept less than the amount due them or to bring suit against it to secure full payment of the amount due.

(5) Is affiliated with and under the same general management, or interlocking directorate, or ownership as another health care contractor which operates in this state without having registered therefor, except as is permitted by this chapter.

(6) Refuses to be examined, or if its directors, officers, employees or representatives refuse to submit to examination or to produce its accounts, records, and files for examination by the commissioner when required, or refuse to perform any legal obligation relative to the examination.

(7) Fails to pay any final judgment rendered against it in this state upon any contract, bond, recognizance, or undertaking issued or guaranteed by it, within thirty days after the judgment became final or within thirty days after

time for taking an appeal has expired, or within thirty days after dismissal of an appeal before final determination, whichever date is the later.

(8) Is found by the commissioner, after investigation or upon receipt of reliable information, to be managed by persons, whether by its directors, officers, or by any other means, who are incompetent or untrustworthy or so lacking in health care contracting or related managerial experience as to make the operation hazardous to the subscribing public; or that there is good reason to believe it is affiliated directly or indirectly through ownership, control, or other business relations, with any person or persons whose business operations are or have been marked, to the detriment of policyholders or stockholders, or investors or creditors or subscribers or of the public, by bad faith or by manipulation of assets, or of accounts, or of reinsurance. [1988 c 248 § 19; 1973 1st ex.s. c 65 § 2; 1969 c 115 § 3; 1961 c 197 § 13.]

**48.44.164 Notice of suspension, revocation, or refusal to be given contractor—Authority of agents.** Upon the suspension, revocation or refusal of a health care service contractor's registration, the commissioner shall give notice thereof to such contractor and shall likewise suspend, revoke or refuse the authority of its agents to represent it in this state and give notice thereof to the agents. [1969 c 115 § 10.]

**48.44.166 Fine in addition to or in lieu of suspension, revocation, or refusal.** After hearing or upon stipulation by the registrant and in addition to or in lieu of the suspension, revocation or refusal to renew any registration of a health care service contractor the commissioner may levy a fine against the party involved for each offense in an amount not less than fifty dollars and not more than ten thousand dollars. The order levying such fine shall specify the period within which the fine shall be fully paid and which period shall not be less than fifteen nor more than thirty days from the date of such order. Upon failure to pay any such fine when due the commissioner shall revoke the registration of the registrant, if not already revoked, and the fine shall be recovered in a civil action brought in behalf of the commissioner by the attorney general. Any fine so collected shall be paid by the commissioner to the state treasurer for the account of the general fund. [1983 c 202 § 4; 1969 c 115 § 11.]

**48.44.170 Hearings and appeals.** For the purposes of this chapter, the insurance commissioner shall be subject to and may avail himself of the provisions of chapter 48.04 RCW, which relate to hearings and appeals. [1961 c 197 § 14.]

**48.44.180 Enforcement.** For the purposes of this chapter, the insurance commissioner shall have the same powers and duties of enforcement as are provided in RCW 48.02.080. [1961 c 197 § 15.]

**48.44.200 Individual health care service plan contracts—Coverage of dependent child not to terminate because of developmental disability or physical handicap.**

An individual health care service plan contract, delivered or issued for delivery in this state more than one hundred twenty days after August 11, 1969, which provides that coverage of a dependent child shall terminate upon attainment of the limiting age for dependent children specified in the contract shall also provide in substance that attainment of such limiting age shall not operate to terminate the coverage of such child while the child is and continues to be both (1) incapable of self-sustaining employment by reason of developmental disability or physical handicap and (2) chiefly dependent upon the subscriber for support and maintenance, provided proof of such incapacity and dependency is furnished to the health care service plan corporation by the subscriber within thirty-one days of the child's attainment of the limiting age and subsequently as may be required by the corporation but not more frequently than annually after the two year period following the child's attainment of the limiting age. [1977 ex.s. c 80 § 33; 1969 ex.s. c 128 § 1.]

**Purpose—Intent—Severability—1977 ex.s. c 80:** See notes following RCW 4.16.190.

**48.44.210 Group health care service plan contracts—Coverage of dependent child not to terminate because of developmental disability or physical handicap.**

A group health care service plan contract, delivered or issued for delivery in this state more than one hundred twenty days after August 11, 1969, which provides that coverage of a dependent child of an employee or other member of the covered group shall terminate upon attainment of the limiting age for dependent children specified in the contract shall also provide in substance that attainment of such limiting age shall not operate to terminate the coverage of such child while the child is and continues to be both (1) incapable of self-sustaining employment by reason of developmental disability or physical handicap and (2) chiefly dependent upon the employee or member for support and maintenance, provided proof of such incapacity and dependency is furnished to the health care service plan corporation by the employee or member within thirty-one days of the child's attainment of the limiting age and subsequently as may be required by the corporation, but not more frequently than annually after the two year period following the child's attainment of the limiting age. [1977 ex.s. c 80 § 34; 1969 ex.s. c 128 § 2.]

**Purpose—Intent—Severability—1977 ex.s. c 80:** See notes following RCW 4.16.190.

**48.44.212 Coverage of dependent children to include newborn infants and congenital anomalies from moment of birth—Notification period.** (1) Any health care service plan contract under this chapter delivered or issued for delivery in this state more than one hundred twenty days after February 16, 1974, which provides coverage for dependent children of the insured or covered group member, shall provide coverage for newborn infants of the insured or covered group member from and after the moment of birth. Coverage provided in accord with this section shall include, but not be limited to, coverage for congenital anomalies of such infant children from the moment of birth.

(2) If payment of an additional premium is required to provide coverage for a child, the contract may require that notification of birth of a newly born child and payment of the required premium must be furnished to the contractor. The notification period shall be no less than sixty days from the date of birth. This subsection applies to policies issued or renewed on or after January 1, 1984. [1984 c 4 § 1; 1983 c 202 § 5; 1974 ex.s. c 139 § 3.]

**48.44.220 Discrimination prohibited.** No health care service contractor shall deny coverage to any person solely on account of race, religion, national origin, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical handicap. Nothing in this section shall be construed as limiting a health care service contractor's authority to deny or otherwise limit coverage to a person when the person because of a medical condition does not meet the essential eligibility requirements established by the health care service contractor for purposes of determining coverage for any person.

No health care service contractor shall refuse to provide reimbursement or indemnity to any person for covered health care services for reasons that the health care services were provided by a holder of a license under chapter 18.22 RCW. [1983 c 154 § 4; 1979 c 127 § 1; 1969 c 115 § 4.]

**Severability—1983 c 154:** See note following RCW 48.44.299.

**48.44.225 \*Podiatrists not excluded.** A health care service contractor which provides foot care services shall not exclude any individual doctor who is licensed to perform podiatric health care services from being a participant for reason that the doctor is licensed under chapter 18.22 RCW. Rejections of requests by doctors to be participants must be in writing stating the cause for the rejection. [1983 c 154 § 5.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The term "podiatrists" was changed to "podiatric physicians and surgeons" by 1990 c 147.

**Severability—1983 c 154:** See note following RCW 48.44.299.

**48.44.230 Individual health service plan contract—Return within ten days of delivery—Refunds—Void from beginning—Notice required.** Every subscriber of an individual health care service plan contract issued after September 1, 1973, may return the contract to the health care service contractor or the agent through whom it was purchased within ten days of its delivery to the subscriber if, after examination of the contract, he is not satisfied with it for any reason, and the health care service contractor shall refund promptly any fee paid for such contract. Upon such return of the contract it shall be void from the beginning and the parties shall be in the same position as if no policy had been issued. Notice of the substance of this section shall be printed on the face of each such contract or be attached thereto. An additional ten percent penalty shall be added to any premium refund due which is not paid within thirty days of return of the policy to the insurer or agent. [1983 1st ex.s. c 32 § 11; 1973 1st ex.s. c 65 § 4.]

**48.44.240 Chemical dependency benefits—Provisions of group contracts delivered or renewed after January 1, 1988.** Each group contract for health care services which is delivered or issued for delivery or re-



newed, on or after January 1, 1988, shall contain provisions providing benefits for the treatment of chemical dependency rendered to covered persons by a provider which is an "approved treatment facility or program" under \*RCW 70.96A.020(3). [1990 1st ex.s. c 3 § 12; 1987 c 458 § 16; 1975 1st ex.s. c 266 § 14; 1974 ex.s. c 119 § 4.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 70.96A.020(3) defines "approved treatment program."

**Effective date—Severability—1987 c 458:** See notes following RCW 48.21.160.

**Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 266:** See note following RCW 48.01.010.

**Legislative declaration—1974 ex.s. c 119:** See RCW 48.21.160.

*Chemical dependency benefits, rules:* RCW 48.21.197.

**48.44.241 Chemical dependency benefits—RCW 48.21.160 through 48.21.190, 48.44.240 inapplicable, when.** See RCW 48.21.190.

**48.44.245 "Chemical dependency" defined.** For the purposes of RCW 48.44.240, "chemical dependency" means an illness characterized by a physiological or psychological dependency, or both, on a controlled substance regulated under chapter 69.50 RCW and/or alcoholic beverages. It is further characterized by a frequent or intense pattern of pathological use to the extent the user exhibits a loss of self-control over the amount and circumstances of use; develops symptoms of tolerance or physiological and/or psychological withdrawal if use of the controlled substance or alcoholic beverage is reduced or discontinued; and the user's health is substantially impaired or endangered or his or her social or economic function is substantially disrupted. [1987 c 458 § 17.]

**Effective date—Severability—1987 c 458:** See notes following RCW 48.21.160.

**48.44.250 Payment of premium by employee in event of suspension of compensation due to labor dispute.** Any employee whose compensation includes a health care services contract providing health care services expenses, the premiums for which are paid in full or in part by an employer including the state of Washington, its political subdivisions, or municipal corporations, or paid by payroll deduction, may pay the premiums as they become due directly to the contract holder whenever the employee's compensation is suspended or terminated directly or indirectly as the result of a strike, lockout, or other labor dispute, for a period not exceeding six months and at the rate and coverages as the health care services contract provides. During that period of time such contract may not be altered or changed. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to impair the right of the health care service contractor to make normal decreases or increases of the premium rate upon expiration and renewal of the contract, in accordance with the provisions of the contract. Thereafter, if such health care services coverage is no longer available, then the employee shall be given the opportunity to purchase an individual health care services contract at a rate consistent with rates filed by the health care service contractor with the commissioner. When the employee's compensation is so suspended or terminated, the employee shall be notified immediately by

the contract holder in writing, by mail addressed to the address last of record with the contract holder, that the employee may pay the premiums to the contract holder as they become due as provided in this section.

Payment of the premiums must be made when due or the coverage may be terminated by the health care service contractor.

The provisions of any health care services contract contrary to provisions of this section are void and unenforceable after May 29, 1975. [1982 c 149 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 117 § 3.]

**Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 117:** See note following RCW 48.21.075.

**48.44.260 Notice of reason for cancellation, denial, or refusal to renew contract.** Every authorized health care service contractor, upon canceling, denying, or refusing to renew any individual health care service contract, shall, upon written request, directly notify in writing the applicant or subscriber, as the case may be, of the reasons for the action by the health care service contractor. Any benefits, terms, rates, or conditions of such a contract which are restricted, excluded, modified, increased, or reduced shall, upon written request, be set forth in writing and supplied to the subscriber. The written communications required by this section shall be phrased in simple language which is readily understandable to a person of average intelligence, education, and reading ability. [1993 c 492 § 290; 1979 c 133 § 3.]

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

**Short title—Severability—Savings—Captions not law—Reservation of legislative power—Effective dates—1993 c 492:** See RCW 43.72.910 through 43.72.915.

**48.44.270 Immunity from libel or slander.** With respect to health care service contracts as defined in RCW 48.44.260, there shall be no liability on the part of, and no cause of action of any nature shall arise against, the insurance commissioner, the commissioner's agents, or members of the commissioner's staff, or against any health care service contractor, its authorized representative, its agents, its employees, furnishing to the health care service contractor information as to reasons for cancellation or refusal to issue or renew, for libel or slander on the basis of any statement made by any of them in any written notice of cancellation or refusal to issue or renew, or in any other communications, oral or written, specifying the reasons for cancellation or refusal to issue or renew or the providing of information pertaining thereto, or for statements made or evidence submitted in any hearing conducted in connection therewith. [1979 c 133 § 4.]

**48.44.290 Registered nurses or advanced registered nurses.** Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter, for any health care service contract thereunder which is entered into or renewed after July 26, 1981, benefits shall not be denied under such contract for any health care service performed by a holder of a license for registered nursing practice or advanced registered nursing practice issued pursuant to chapter 18.79 RCW if (1) the service performed was within the lawful scope of such person's license, and (2) such contract would have provided benefits if such service

had been performed by a holder of a license issued pursuant to chapter 18.71 RCW: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That no provision of chapter 18.71 RCW shall be asserted to deny benefits under this section.

The provisions of this section are intended to be remedial and procedural to the extent that they do not impair the obligation of any existing contract. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 733; 1986 c 223 § 6; 1981 c 175 § 1.]

**Severability—Headings and captions not law—Effective date—1994 sp.s. c 9:** See RCW 18.79.900 through 18.79.902.

**48.44.299 Legislative finding.** The legislature finds and declares that there is a paramount concern that the right of the people to obtain access to health care in all its facets is being impaired by prepaid agreements which provide benefits, reimbursement, or indemnity by health care service contractors, whether for profit or for nonprofit, which do not provide parity of reimbursement among licensed health care providers performing the same health care services. It is further the intent of the legislature not to mandate the providing of any health care benefit, but rather to require parity of reimbursement for the same health care services performed by all licensees who perform such services within the scope of their respective licenses thereby assuring the people of the state access to health care services of their choice. [1983 c 154 § 1.]

**Severability—1983 c 154:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1983 c 154 § 6.]

**48.44.300 \*Podiatry—Benefits not to be denied.** Benefits shall not be denied under a contract for any health care service performed by a holder of a license issued under chapter 18.22 RCW if (1) the service performed was within the lawful scope of the person's license, and (2) the contract would have provided benefits if the service had been performed by a holder of a license issued under chapter 18.71 RCW. There shall not be imposed upon one class of doctors providing health care services as defined by this chapter any requirement that is not imposed upon all other doctors providing the same or similar health care services within the scope of their license.

The provisions of this section are intended to be procedural to the extent that they do not impair the obligation of any existing contract. [1986 c 223 § 7; 1983 c 154 § 2.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The term "podiatry" was changed to "podiatric medicine and surgery" by 1990 c 147.

**Severability—1983 c 154:** See note following RCW 48.44.299.

**48.44.309 Legislative finding.** The legislature finds and declares that there is a paramount concern that the right of the people to obtain access to health care in all its facets is being impaired. The legislature further finds that there is a heavy reliance by the public upon prepaid health care service agreements and insurance, whether profit or nonprofit, as the only effective manner in which the large majority of the people can obtain access to quality health care. Further, the legislature finds that health care service agreements may be anticompetitive because of the exclusion of other licensed forms of health care and that because of the

high costs of health care, there is a need for competition to reduce these costs. It is, therefore, declared to be in the public interest that these contracts as a form of insurance be regulated under the police power of the state to assure that all the people have the greatest access to health care services. [1983 c 286 § 1.]

**Severability—1983 c 286:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1983 c 286 § 5.]

**48.44.310 Chiropractic care, coverage required, exceptions.** (1) Each group contract for comprehensive health care service which is entered into, or renewed, on or after September 8, 1983, between a health care service contractor and the person or persons to receive such care shall offer coverage for chiropractic care on the same basis as any other care.

(2) A patient of a chiropractor shall not be denied benefits under a contract because the practitioner is not licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW.

(3) This section shall not apply to a group contract for comprehensive health care services entered into in accordance with a collective bargaining agreement between management and labor representatives. Benefits for chiropractic care shall be offered by the employer in good faith on the same basis as any other care as a subject for collective bargaining for group contracts for health care services. [1986 c 223 § 8; 1983 c 286 § 2.]

**Severability—1983 c 286:** See note following RCW 48.44.309.

**48.44.320 Home health care, hospice care, optional coverage required—Standards, limitations, restrictions—Rules—Medicare supplemental contracts excluded.** (1) Every health care service contractor entering into or renewing a group health care service contract governed by this chapter shall offer optional coverage for home health care and hospice care for persons who are homebound and would otherwise require hospitalization. Such optional coverage need only be offered in conjunction with a policy that provides payment for hospitalization as a part of health care coverage.

(2) Home health care and hospice care coverage offered under subsection (1) of this section shall conform to the following standards, limitations, and restrictions in addition to those set forth in chapters 70.126 and 70.127 RCW:

(a) The coverage may include reasonable deductibles, coinsurance provisions, and internal maximums;

(b) The coverage should be structured to create incentives for the use of home health care and hospice care as an alternative to hospitalization;

(c) The coverage may contain provisions for utilization review and quality assurance;

(d) The coverage may require that home health agencies and hospices have written treatment plans approved by a physician licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW, and may require such treatment plans to be reviewed at designated intervals;

(e) The coverage shall provide benefits for, and restrict benefits to, services rendered by home health and hospice agencies licensed under chapter 70.127 RCW;

(f) Hospice care coverage shall provide benefits for terminally ill patients for an initial period of care of not less than six months and may provide benefits for an additional six months of care in cases where the patient is facing imminent death or is entering remission if certified in writing by the attending physician;

(g) Home health care coverage shall provide benefits for a minimum of one hundred thirty health care visits per calendar year. However, a visit of any duration by an employee of a home health agency for the purpose of providing services under the plan of treatment constitutes one visit;

(h) The coverage may be structured so that services or supplies included in the primary contract are not duplicated in the optional home health and hospice coverage.

(3) The insurance commissioner shall adopt any rules necessary to implement this section.

(4) The requirements of this section shall not apply to contracts or policies governed by chapter 48.66 RCW.

(5) An insurer, as a condition of reimbursement, may require compliance with home health and hospice certification regulations established by the United States department of health and human services. [1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 22; 1988 c 245 § 33; 1984 c 22 § 3; 1983 c 249 § 3.]

**Effective date—Severability—1989 1st ex.s. c 9:** See RCW 43.70.910 and 43.70.920.

**Effective date—Implementation—Severability—1988 c 245:** See RCW 70.127.900 and 70.127.902.

**Effective date—1984 c 22:** See note following RCW 48.21.220.

**Effective date—1983 c 249:** See note following RCW 70.126.001.

*Home health care, hospice care, rules: Chapter 70.126 RCW.*

#### **48.44.325 Mammograms—Insurance coverage.**

Each health care service contract issued or renewed after January 1, 1990, that provides benefits for hospital or medical care shall provide benefits for screening or diagnostic mammography services, provided that such services are delivered upon the recommendation of the patient's physician or advanced registered nurse practitioner as authorized by the nursing care quality assurance commission pursuant to chapter 18.79 RCW or physician assistant pursuant to chapter 18.71A RCW.

This section shall not be construed to prevent the application of standard contract provisions applicable to other benefits such as deductible or copayment provisions. This section does not limit the authority of a contractor to negotiate rates and contract with specific providers for the delivery of mammography services. This section shall not apply to medicare supplement policies or supplemental contracts covering a specified disease or other limited benefits. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 734; 1989 c 338 § 3.]

**Severability—Headings and captions not law—Effective date—1994 sp.s. c 9:** See RCW 18.79.900 through 18.79.902.

**48.44.330 Reconstructive breast surgery.** (1) Each contract for health care entered into or renewed after July 24, 1983, between a health care services contractor and the person or persons to receive the care shall provide coverage for reconstructive breast surgery resulting from a mastectomy which resulted from disease, illness, or injury.

(2) Each contract for health care entered into or renewed after January 1, 1986, between a health care services contractor and the person or persons to receive the care shall provide coverage for all stages of one reconstructive breast reduction on the nondiseased breast to make it equal in size with the diseased breast after definitive reconstructive surgery on the diseased breast has been performed. [1985 c 54 § 7; 1983 c 113 § 3.]

**Effective date—1985 c 54:** See note following RCW 48.20.397.

**48.44.335 Mastectomy, lumpectomy.** No health care service contractor under this chapter may refuse to issue any contract or cancel or decline to renew the contract solely because of a mastectomy or lumpectomy performed on the insured or prospective insured more than five years previously. The amount of benefits payable, or any term, rate, condition, or type of coverage shall not be restricted, modified, excluded, increased, or reduced solely on the basis of a mastectomy or lumpectomy performed on the insured or prospective insured more than five years previously. [1985 c 54 § 3.]

**Effective date—1985 c 54:** See note following RCW 48.20.397.

**48.44.340 Mental health treatment, optional supplemental coverage—Waiver.** (1) Each health care service contractor providing hospital or medical services or benefits in this state under group contracts for health care services under this chapter which are issued, delivered, or renewed in this state on or after July 1, 1986, shall offer optional supplemental coverage for mental health treatment for the insured and the insured's covered dependents.

(2) Benefits shall be provided under the optional supplemental coverage for mental health treatment whether treatment is rendered by: (a) A physician licensed under chapter 18.71 or 18.57 RCW; (b) a psychologist licensed under chapter 18.83 RCW; (c) a community mental health agency licensed by the department of social and health services pursuant to chapter 71.24 RCW; or (d) a state hospital as defined in RCW 72.23.010. The treatment shall be covered at the usual and customary rates for such treatment. The insurer, health care service contractor, or health maintenance organization providing optional coverage under the provisions of this section for mental health services may establish separate usual and customary rates for services rendered by physicians licensed under chapter 18.71 or 18.57 RCW, psychologists licensed under chapter 18.83 RCW, and community mental health centers licensed under chapter 71.24 RCW and state hospitals as defined in RCW 72.23.010. However, the treatment may be subject to contract provisions with respect to reasonable deductible amounts or copayments. In order to qualify for coverage under this section, a licensed community mental health agency shall have in effect a plan for quality assurance and peer review, and the treatment shall be supervised by a physician licensed under chapter 18.71 or 18.57 RCW or by a psychologist licensed under chapter 18.83 RCW.

(3) The group contract for health care services may provide that all the coverage for mental health treatment is waived for all covered members if the contract holder so

states in advance in writing to the health care service contractor.

(4) This section shall not apply to a group health care service contract that has been entered into in accordance with a collective bargaining agreement between management and labor representatives prior to March 1, 1987. [1987 c 283 § 4; 1986 c 184 § 3; 1983 c 35 § 2.]

**Severability—Savings—1987 c 283:** See notes following RCW 43.20A.020.

**Legislative intent—Effective date—Severability—1986 c 184:** See notes following RCW 48.21.240.

**Effective date—Severability—1983 c 35:** See notes following RCW 48.21.240.

**48.44.342 Mental health treatment—Waiver of preauthorization for persons involuntarily committed.** A health care service contractor providing hospital or medical services or benefits in this state shall waive a preauthorization from the contractor before an insured or an insured's covered dependents receive mental health treatment rendered by a state hospital as defined in RCW 72.23.010 if the insured or the insured's covered dependents are involuntarily committed to a state hospital as defined in RCW 72.23.010. [1993 c 272 § 4.]

**Savings—Severability—1993 c 272:** See notes following RCW 43.20B.347.

**48.44.344 Benefits for prenatal diagnosis of congenital disorders—Contracts entered into or renewed on or after January 1, 1990.** On or after January 1, 1990, every group health care services contract entered into or renewed that covers hospital, medical, or surgical expenses on a group basis, and which provides benefits for pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions to enrollees of such groups, shall offer benefits for prenatal diagnosis of congenital disorders of the fetus by means of screening and diagnostic procedures during pregnancy to such enrollees when those services are determined to be medically necessary by the health care service contractor in accord with standards set in rule by the board of health. Every group health care services contractor shall communicate the availability of such coverage to all group health care service contract holders and to all groups with whom they are negotiating. [1988 c 276 § 7.]

*Prenatal testing—Limitation on changes to coverage: RCW 48.42.090.*

**48.44.350 Financial interests of health care service contractors, restricted—Exceptions, regulations.** (1) No person having any authority in the investment or disposition of the funds of a health care service contractor and no officer or director of a health care service contractor shall accept, except for the health care service contractor, or be the beneficiary of any fee, brokerage, gift, commission, or other emolument because of any sale of health care service agreements or any investment, loan, deposit, purchase, sale, payment, or exchange made by or for the health care service contractor, or be pecuniarily interested therein in any capacity; except, that such a person may procure a loan from the health care service contractor directly upon approval by two-thirds of its directors and upon the pledge of securities

eligible for the investment of the health care service contractor's funds under this title.

(2) The commissioner may, by regulations, from time to time, define and permit additional exceptions to the prohibition contained in subsection (1) of this section solely to enable payment of reasonable compensation to a director who is not otherwise an officer or employee of the health care service contractor, or to a corporation or firm in which the director is interested, for necessary services performed or sales or purchases made to or for the health care service contractor in the ordinary course of the health care service contractor's business and in the usual private professional or business capacity of the director or the corporation or firm. [1986 c 223 § 9; 1983 c 202 § 6.]

**48.44.360 Continuation option to be offered.** Every health care service contractor that issues group contracts providing group coverage for hospital or medical expense shall offer the contract holder an option to include a contract provision granting a person who becomes ineligible for coverage under the group contract, the right to continue the group benefits for a period of time and at a rate agreed upon. The contract provision shall provide that when such coverage terminates, the covered person may convert to a contract as provided in RCW 48.44.370. [1984 c 190 § 5.]

**Legislative intent—Application—Severability—1984 c 190:** See notes following RCW 48.21.250.

**48.44.370 Conversion contract to be offered—Exceptions, conditions.** (1) Except as otherwise provided by this section, any group health care service contract entered into or renewed on or after January 1, 1985, that provides benefits for hospital or medical expenses shall contain a provision granting a person covered by the group contract the right to obtain a conversion contract from the contractor upon termination of the person's eligibility for coverage under the group contract.

(2) A contractor need not offer a conversion contract to:

(a) A person whose coverage under the group contract ended when the person's employment or membership was terminated for misconduct: PROVIDED, That when a person's employment or membership is terminated for misconduct, a conversion policy shall be offered to the spouse and/or dependents of the terminated employee or member. The policy shall include in the conversion provisions the same conversion rights and conditions which are available to employees or members and their spouses and/or dependents who are terminated for reasons other than misconduct;

(b) A person who is eligible for federal Medicare coverage; or

(c) A person who is covered under another group plan, policy, contract, or agreement providing benefits for hospital or medical care.

(3) To obtain the conversion contract, a person must submit a written application and the first premium payment for the conversion contract not later than thirty-one days after the date the person's eligibility for group coverage terminates. The conversion contract shall become effective, without lapse of coverage, immediately following termination of coverage under the group contract.

(4) If a health care service contractor or group contract holder does not renew, cancels, or otherwise terminates the group contract, the health care service contractor shall offer a conversion contract to any person who was covered under the terminated contract unless the person is eligible to obtain group hospital or medical expense coverage within thirty-one days after such nonrenewal, cancellation, or termination of the group contract.

(5) The health care service contractor shall determine the premium for the conversion contract in accordance with the contractor's table of premium rates applicable to the age and class of risk of each person to be covered under the contract and the type and amount of benefits provided. [1984 c 190 § 6.]

**Legislative intent—Severability—1984 c 190:** See notes following RCW 48.21.250.

**48.44.380 Conversion contract—Restrictions and requirements.** (1) A health care service contractor shall not require proof of insurability as a condition for issuance of the conversion contract.

(2) A conversion contract may not contain an exclusion for preexisting conditions except to the extent that a waiting period for a preexisting condition has not been satisfied under the group contract.

(3) A health care service contractor must offer at least three contract benefit plans that comply with the following:

(a) A major medical plan with a five thousand dollar deductible and a lifetime benefit maximum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars per person;

(b) A comprehensive medical plan with a five hundred dollar deductible and a lifetime benefit maximum of five hundred thousand dollars per person; and

(c) A basic medical plan with a one thousand dollar deductible and a lifetime maximum of seventy-five thousand dollars per person.

(4) The insurance commissioner may revise the deductibles and lifetime benefit amounts in subsection (3) of this section from time to time to reflect changing health care costs.

(5) The insurance commissioner shall adopt rules to establish minimum benefit standards for conversion contracts.

(6) The commissioner shall adopt rules to establish specific standards for conversion contract provisions. These rules may include but are not limited to:

(a) Terms of renewability;

(b) Nonduplication of coverage;

(c) Benefit limitations, exceptions, and reductions; and

(d) Definitions of terms. [1984 c 190 § 7.]

**Legislative intent—Severability—1984 c 190:** See notes following RCW 48.21.250.

**48.44.390 Modification of basis of agreement, endorsement required.** If an individual health care service agreement is issued on any basis other than as applied for, an endorsement setting forth such modification must accompany and be attached to the agreement. No agreement shall be effective unless the endorsement is signed by the applicant, and a signed copy thereof returned to the health care service contractor. [1986 c 223 § 10.]

**48.44.400 Continuance provisions for former family members.** After July 1, 1986, or on the next renewal date of the agreement, whichever is later, every health care service agreement issued, amended, or renewed for an individual and his or her dependents shall contain provisions to assure that the covered spouse and/or dependents, in the event that any cease to be a qualified family member by reason of termination of marriage or death of the principal enrollee, shall have the right to continue the health care service agreement without a physical examination, statement of health, or other proof of insurability. [1986 c 223 § 11.]

**48.44.420 Coverage for adopted children.** (1) Any health care service contract under this chapter delivered or issued for delivery in this state, which provides coverage for dependent children, as defined in the contract of the subscriber, shall cover adoptive children placed with the subscriber on the same basis as other dependents, as provided in RCW 48.01.180.

(2) If payment of an additional premium is required to provide coverage for a child, the contract may require that notification of placement of a child for adoption and payment of the required premium must be furnished to the health care services contractor. The notification period shall be no less than sixty days from the date of placement. [1986 c 140 § 4.]

**Effective date, application—Severability—1986 c 140:** See notes following RCW 48.01.180.

**48.44.430 Cancellation of rider.** Upon application by a subscriber, a rider shall be canceled if at least five years after its issuance, no health care services have been received by the subscriber during that time for the condition specified in the rider, and a physician, selected by the carrier for that purpose, agrees in writing to the full medical recovery of the subscriber from that condition, such agreement not to be unreasonably withheld. The option of the subscriber to apply for cancellation shall be disclosed on the face of the rider in clear and conspicuous language.

For purposes of this section, a rider is a legal document that modifies a contract to exclude, limit, or reduce coverage or benefits for specifically named or described preexisting diseases or physical conditions. [1987 c 37 § 3.]

**48.44.440 Phenylketonuria.** (1) The legislature finds that:

(a) Phenylketonuria is a rare inherited genetic disorder.

(b) Children with phenylketonuria are unable to metabolize an essential amino acid, phenylalanine, which is found in the proteins of most food.

(c) To remain healthy, children with phenylketonuria must maintain a strict diet and ingest a mineral and vitamin-enriched formula.

(d) Children who do not maintain their diets with the formula acquire severe mental and physical difficulties.

(e) Originally, the formulas were listed as prescription drugs but were reclassified as medical foods to increase their availability.

(2) Subject to requirements and exceptions which may be established by rules adopted by the commissioner, any contract for health care services delivered or issued for

delivery or renewed in this state on or after September 1, 1988, shall provide coverage for the formulas necessary for the treatment of phenylketonuria. [1988 c 173 § 3.]

**48.44.450 Neurodevelopmental therapies—Employer-sponsored group contracts.** (1) Each employer-sponsored group contract for comprehensive health care service which is entered into, or renewed, on or after twelve months after July 23, 1989, shall include coverage for neurodevelopmental therapies for covered individuals age six and under.

(2) Benefits provided under this section shall cover the services of those authorized to deliver occupational therapy, speech therapy, and physical therapy. Benefits shall be payable only where the services have been delivered pursuant to the referral and periodic review of a holder of a license issued pursuant to chapter 18.71 or 18.57 RCW or where covered services have been rendered by such licensee. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a health care service contractor from requiring that covered services be delivered by a provider who participates by contract with the health care service contractor unless no participating provider is available to deliver covered services. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a health care service contractor from negotiating rates with qualified providers.

(3) Benefits provided under this section shall be for medically necessary services as determined by the health care service contractor. Benefits shall be payable for services for the maintenance of a covered individual in cases where significant deterioration in the patient's condition would result without the service. Benefits shall be payable to restore and improve function.

(4) It is the intent of this section that employers purchasing comprehensive group coverage including the benefits required by this section, together with the health care service contractor, retain authority to design and employ utilization and cost controls. Therefore, benefits delivered under this section may be subject to contractual provisions regarding deductible amounts and/or copayments established by the employer purchasing coverage and the health care service contractor. Benefits provided under this section may be subject to standard waiting periods for preexisting conditions, and may be subject to the submission of written treatment plans.

(5) In recognition of the intent expressed in subsection (4) of this section, benefits provided under this section may be subject to contractual provisions establishing annual and/or lifetime benefit limits. Such limits may define the total dollar benefits available or may limit the number of services delivered as agreed by the employer purchasing coverage and the health care service contractor. [1989 c 345 § 1.]

**48.44.460 Temporomandibular joint disorders—Insurance coverage.** (1) Except as provided in this section, a group health care service contract entered into or renewed after December 31, 1989, shall offer optional coverage for the treatment of temporomandibular joint disorders.

(a) Health care service contractors offering medical coverage only may limit benefits in such coverages to medical services related to treatment of temporomandibular

joint disorders. Health care service contractors offering dental coverage only may limit benefits in such coverage to dental services related to treatment of temporomandibular joint disorders. No health care service contractor offering medical coverage only may define all temporomandibular joint disorders as purely dental in nature, and no health care service contractor offering dental coverage only may define all temporomandibular joint disorders as purely medical in nature.

(b) Health care contractors offering optional temporomandibular joint disorder coverage as provided in this section may, but are not required to, offer lesser or no temporomandibular joint disorder coverage as part of their basic group disability contract.

(c) Benefits and coverage offered under this section may be subject to negotiation to promote broad flexibility in potential benefit coverage. This flexibility shall apply to services to be reimbursed, determination of treatments to be considered medically necessary, systems through which services are to be provided, including referral systems and use of other providers, and related issues.

(2) Unless otherwise directed by law, the insurance commissioner shall adopt rules, to be implemented on January 1, 1993, establishing minimum benefits, terms, definitions, conditions, limitations, and provisions for the use of reasonable deductibles and copayments.

(3) A contractor need not make the offer of coverage required by this section to an employer or other group that offers to its eligible enrollees a self-insured health plan not subject to mandated benefit statutes under Title 48 RCW that does not provide coverage for temporomandibular joint disorders. [1989 c 331 § 3.]

**Legislative finding—Effective date—1989 c 331:** See notes following RCW 48.21.320.

**48.44.465 Prescriptions—Preapproval of individual claims—Subsequent rejection prohibited—Written record required.** Health care service contractors who through an authorized representative have first approved, by any means, an individual prescription claim as eligible may not reject that claim at some later date. Pharmacists or drug dispensing outlets who obtain preapproval of claims shall keep a written record of the preapproval that consists of identification by name and telephone number of the person who approved the claim. [1993 c 253 § 4.]

**Findings—Effective date—1993 c 253:** See notes following RCW 48.20.525.

**48.44.470 Nonresident pharmacies.** For the purposes of this chapter, a nonresident pharmacy is defined as any pharmacy located outside this state that ships, mails, or delivers, in any manner, except when delivered in person to an enrolled participant or his/her representative, controlled substances, legend drugs, or devices into this state.

After October 1, 1991, a health care service contractor providing coverage of prescription drugs from nonresident pharmacies may only provide coverage from licensed nonresident pharmacies. The health care service contractors shall obtain proof of current licensure in conformity with this section and RCW 18.64.350 through 18.64.400 from the

nonresident pharmacy and keep that proof of licensure on file.

The department may request from the health care service contractor the proof of current licensure for all nonresident pharmacies through which the insurer is providing coverage for prescription drugs for residents of the state of Washington. This information, which may constitute a full or partial customer list, shall be confidential and exempt from public disclosure, and from the requirements of chapter 42.17 RCW. The board or the department shall not be restricted in the disclosure of the name of a nonresident pharmacy that is or has been licensed under RCW 18.64.360 or 18.64.370 or of the identity of a nonresident pharmacy disciplined under RCW 18.64.350 through 18.64.400. [1991 c 87 § 9.]

**Effective date—1991 c 87:** See note following RCW 18.64.350.

**48.44.500 Denturist services.** Notwithstanding any provision of any health care service contract covering dental care as provided for in this chapter, effective January 1, 1995, benefits shall not be denied thereunder for any service performed by a denturist licensed under chapter 18.30 RCW if (1) the service performed was within the lawful scope of such person's license, and (2) such contract would have provided benefits if such service had been performed by a dentist licensed under chapter 18.32 RCW. [1995 c 1 § 24 (Initiative Measure No. 607, approved November 8, 1994).]

**Short title—Severability—1995 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 607):** See RCW 18.30.900 and 18.30.901.

**48.44.530 Disclosure of certain material transactions—Report—Information is confidential.** (1) Every health care service contractor domiciled in this state shall file a report with the commissioner disclosing material acquisitions and dispositions of assets or material nonrenewals, cancellations, or revisions of ceded reinsurance agreements unless these acquisitions and dispositions of assets or material nonrenewals, cancellations, or revisions of ceded reinsurance agreements have been submitted to the commissioner for review, approval, or information purposes under other provisions of this title or other requirements.

(2) The report required in subsection (1) of this section is due within fifteen days after the end of the calendar month in which any of the transactions occur.

(3) One complete copy of the report, including any exhibits or other attachments filed as part of the report, shall be filed with the:

- (a) Commissioner; and
- (b) National association of insurance commissioners.

(4) All reports obtained by or disclosed to the commissioner under this section and RCW 48.44.535 through 48.44.555 are exempt from public inspection and copying and shall not be subject to subpoena. These reports shall not be made public by the commissioner, the national association of insurance commissioners, or any other person, except to insurance departments of other states, without the prior written consent of the health care service contractor to which it pertains unless the commissioner, after giving the health care service contractor that would be affected by disclosure notice and a hearing under chapter 48.04 RCW, determines that the interest of policyholders, subscribers, shareholders,

or the public will be served by the publication, in which event the commissioner may publish all or any part of the report in the manner he or she deems appropriate. [1995 c 86 § 13.]

**48.44.535 Material acquisitions or dispositions.** No acquisitions or dispositions of assets need be reported pursuant to RCW 48.44.530 if the acquisitions or dispositions are not material. For purposes of RCW 48.44.530 through 48.44.555, a material acquisition, or the aggregate of any series of related acquisitions during any thirty-day period; or disposition, or the aggregate of any series of related dispositions during any thirty-day period is an acquisition or disposition that is nonrecurring and not in the ordinary course of business and involves more than five percent of the reporting health care service contractor's total assets as reported in its most recent statutory statement filed with the commissioner. [1995 c 86 § 14.]

**48.44.540 Asset acquisitions—Asset dispositions.** (1) Asset acquisitions subject to RCW 48.44.530 through 48.44.555 include every purchase, lease, exchange, merger, consolidation, succession, or other acquisition other than the construction or development of real property by or for the reporting health care service contractor or the acquisition of materials for such purpose.

(2) Asset dispositions subject to RCW 48.44.530 through 48.44.555 include every sale, lease, exchange, merger, consolidation, mortgage, hypothecation, abandonment, destruction, other disposition, or assignment, whether for the benefit of creditors or otherwise. [1995 c 86 § 15.]

**48.44.545 Report of a material acquisition or disposition of assets—Information required.** The following information is required to be disclosed in any report of a material acquisition or disposition of assets:

- (1) Date of the transaction;
- (2) Manner of acquisition or disposition;
- (3) Description of the assets involved;
- (4) Nature and amount of the consideration given or received;
- (5) Purpose of or reason for the transaction;
- (6) Manner by which the amount of consideration was determined;
- (7) Gain or loss recognized or realized as a result of the transaction; and
- (8) Names of the persons from whom the assets were acquired or to whom they were disposed. [1995 c 86 § 16.]

**48.44.550 Material nonrenewals, cancellations, or revisions of ceded reinsurance agreements.** (1) No nonrenewals, cancellations, or revisions of ceded reinsurance agreements need be reported under RCW 48.44.530 if the nonrenewals, cancellations, or revisions are not material. For purposes of RCW 48.44.530 through 48.44.555, a material nonrenewal, cancellation, or revision is one that affects:

- (a) More than fifty percent of a health care service contractor's total reserve credit taken for business ceded, on an annualized basis, as indicated in the health care service contractor's most recent annual statement;

(b) More than ten percent of a health care service contractor's total cession when it is replaced by one or more unauthorized reinsurers; or

(c) Previously established collateral requirements, when they have been reduced or waived as respects one or more unauthorized reinsurers representing collectively more than ten percent of a total cession.

(2) However, a filing is not required if a health care service contractor's total reserve credit taken for business ceded represents, on an annualized basis, less than ten percent of the statutory reserve requirement prior to any cession. [1995 c 86 § 17.]

**48.44.555 Report of a material nonrenewal, cancellation, or revision of ceded reinsurance agreements—Information required.** The following is required to be disclosed in any report of a material nonrenewal, cancellation, or revision of ceded reinsurance agreements:

- (1) The effective date of the nonrenewal, cancellation, or revision;
- (2) The description of the transaction with an identification of the initiator;
- (3) The purpose of or reason for the transaction; and
- (4) If applicable, the identity of the replacement reinsurers. [1995 c 86 § 18.]

### Chapter 48.45

#### RURAL HEALTH CARE

##### Sections

48.45.005	Findings.
48.45.010	Definitions.
48.45.020	Rural health care service arrangements.
48.45.030	Rule making.

**48.45.005 Findings.** The legislature finds that the residents of rural communities are having difficulties in locating and purchasing affordable health insurance. The legislature further finds that many rural communities have sufficient funds to pay for needed services, but those funds are being expended elsewhere causing insufficient funding of local health services. As part of the solution to this problem, rural communities need to be able to structure the financing of local health services to better serve local residents. The legislature further finds that as rural communities need well financed and organized health care, it is in the interest of residents of rural communities that existing unauthorized entities comply with appropriate fiscal solvency standards and consumer safeguards, and that those entities be given an opportunity to come into compliance with existing state laws. [1990 c 271 § 20.]

**48.45.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Rural community" means any grouping of consumers, seventy-five percent of whom reside in areas outside of a standard metropolitan statistical area as defined by the United States bureau of census.

(2) "Consumer" means any person enrolled and eligible to receive benefits in the rural health care arrangement.

(3) "Rural health care service arrangement" or "arrangement" means any arrangement which is established or maintained for the purpose of offering or providing through the purchase of insurance or otherwise, medical, surgical, or hospital care or benefits in the event of sickness, accident, or disability in a rural community, as defined in this section, that is subject to the jurisdiction of the insurance commissioner but is not now a currently authorized carrier. [1990 c 271 § 22.]

#### 48.45.020 Rural health care service arrangements.

Rural health care service arrangements existing on March 29, 1990, may continue in full operation only so long as they comply with all of the following:

- (1) Within ten days following March 29, 1990, all rural health care service arrangements shall inform the insurance commissioner of their intent to apply for approval to operate as an entity authorized under chapter 48.44 RCW or intend to merge with an entity authorized under Title 48 RCW or merge with an entity defined in this section;
- (2) The arrangement submits an application for approval as an entity authorized under chapter 48.44 RCW by May 1, 1990;
- (3) The arrangement has one hundred thousand dollars on deposit with the insurance commissioner by July 1, 1990;
- (4) The arrangement has one hundred fifty thousand dollars on deposit with the insurance commissioner by September 1, 1990; and
- (5) The arrangement complies with all reasonable requirements of the insurance commissioner excluding the deposit requirement, except as outlined in this section.

If such rural health care service arrangements fail to comply with any of the above requirements, or if during the application process an entity engages in any activities which the insurance commissioner reasonably determines may cause imminent harm to consumers, the entity may be subject to appropriate legal action by the insurance commissioner pursuant to the authority provided in Title 48 RCW.

A rural health care service arrangement which comes into compliance with Title 48 RCW through the method outlined in this chapter shall be subject to all applicable requirements of Title 48 RCW except that the deposit requirements shall not be increased until May 1, 1991. [1990 c 271 § 23.]

**48.45.030 Rule making.** The insurance commissioner, pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW, may promulgate rules to implement RCW 48.45.010 and 48.45.020. [1990 c 271 § 24.]

### Chapter 48.46

#### HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS

##### Sections

48.46.010	Legislative declaration—Purpose.
48.46.020	Definitions.
48.46.023	Agent—Definition—License required—Application, issuance, renewal, fees—Penalties involving license.
48.46.027	Registration, required—Issuance of securities—Penalty.



- 48.46.030 Eligibility requirements for certificate of registration—Application requirements, information.
- 48.46.040 Certificate of registration—Issuance—Grounds for refusal—Name restrictions—Inspection and review of facilities.
- 48.46.060 Prepayment agreements—Standards for forms and documents—Grounds for disapproval—Cancellation or failure to renew—Filing of agreement forms.
- 48.46.064 Mandatory offering to individuals providing basic health plan benefits—Exemption from statutory requirements—Premium rates—Definitions.
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- 48.46.625 Report of a material nonrenewal, cancellation, or revision of ceded reinsurance agreements—Information required.
- 48.46.900 Liberal construction.
- 48.46.910 Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 290.
- 48.46.920 Short title.

*Agents of health maintenance organizations, additional regulations applicable: RCW 48.17.065.*

*Health care assistants: Chapter 18.135 RCW.*

**48.46.010 Legislative declaration—Purpose.** In affirmation of the declared principle that health care is a right of every citizen of the state, the legislature expresses its concern that the present high costs of health care in Washington may be preventing or inhibiting a large segment of the people from obtaining access to quality health care services.

The legislature declares that the establishment of qualified prepaid group and individual practice health care delivery systems should be encouraged in order to provide all citizens of the state with the freedom of choice between competitive, alternative health care delivery systems necessary to realize their right to health. It is the purpose and policy of this chapter to provide for the development and registration of prepaid group and individual practice health care plans as health maintenance organizations, which the legislature declares to be in the interest of the health, safety and welfare of the people. [1975 1st ex.s. c 290 § 2.]

**48.46.020 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, the terms defined in this section shall have the meanings indicated unless the context indicates otherwise.

(1) "Health maintenance organization" means any organization receiving a certificate of registration by the commissioner under this chapter which provides comprehensive health care services to enrolled participants of such organization on a group practice per capita prepayment basis or on a prepaid individual practice plan, except for an enrolled participant's responsibility for copayments and/or deductibles, either directly or through contractual or other arrangements with other institutions, entities, or persons, and which qualifies as a health maintenance organization pursuant to RCW 48.46.030 and 48.46.040.

(2) "Comprehensive health care services" means basic consultative, diagnostic, and therapeutic services rendered by licensed health professionals together with emergency and preventive care, inpatient hospital, outpatient and physician care, at a minimum, and any additional health care services offered by the health maintenance organization.

(3) "Enrolled participant" means a person who or group of persons which has entered into a contractual arrangement or on whose behalf a contractual arrangement has been entered into with a health maintenance organization to receive health care services.

(4) "Health professionals" means health care practitioners who are regulated by the state of Washington.

(5) "Health maintenance agreement" means an agreement for services between a health maintenance organization which is registered pursuant to the provisions of this chapter and enrolled participants of such organization which provides enrolled participants with comprehensive health services rendered to enrolled participants by health professionals, groups, facilities, and other personnel associated with the health maintenance organization.

(6) "Consumer" means any member, subscriber, enrollee, beneficiary, or other person entitled to health care services under terms of a health maintenance agreement, but not including health professionals, employees of health maintenance organizations, partners, or shareholders of stock corporations licensed as health maintenance organizations.

(7) "Meaningful role in policy making" means a procedure approved by the commissioner which provides consumers or elected representatives of consumers a means of submitting the views and recommendations of such consumers to the governing board of such organization coupled with reasonable assurance that the board will give regard to such views and recommendations.

(8) "Meaningful grievance procedure" means a procedure for investigation of consumer grievances in a timely manner aimed at mutual agreement for settlement according to procedures approved by the commissioner, and which may include arbitration procedures.

(9) "Provider" means any health professional, hospital, or other institution, organization, or person that furnishes any health care services and is licensed or otherwise authorized to furnish such services.

(10) "Department" means the state department of social and health services.

(11) "Commissioner" means the insurance commissioner.

(12) "Group practice" means a partnership, association, corporation, or other group of health professionals:

(a) The members of which may be individual health professionals, clinics, or both individuals and clinics who engage in the coordinated practice of their profession; and

(b) The members of which are compensated by a prearranged salary, or by capitation payment or drawing account that is based on the number of enrolled participants.

(13) "Individual practice health care plan" means an association of health professionals in private practice who associate for the purpose of providing prepaid comprehensive health care services on a fee-for-service or capitation basis.

(14) "Uncovered expenditures" means the costs to the health maintenance organization of health care services that are the obligation of the health maintenance organization for which an enrolled participant would also be liable in the event of the health maintenance organization's insolvency and for which no alternative arrangements have been made as provided herein. The term does not include expenditures for covered services when a provider has agreed not to bill the enrolled participant even though the provider is not paid by the health maintenance organization, or for services that are guaranteed, insured, or assumed by a person or organization other than the health maintenance organization.

(15) "Copayment" means an amount specified in a subscriber agreement which is an obligation of an enrolled participant for a specific service which is not fully prepaid.

(16) "Deductible" means the amount an enrolled participant is responsible to pay out-of-pocket before the health maintenance organization begins to pay the costs associated with treatment.

(17) "Fully subordinated debt" means those debts that meet the requirements of RCW 48.46.235(3) and are recorded as equity.

(18) "Net worth" means the excess of total admitted assets as defined in RCW 48.12.010 over total liabilities but the liabilities shall not include fully subordinated debt.

(19) "Participating provider" means a provider as defined in subsection (9) of this section who contracts with the health maintenance organization or with its contractor or subcontractor and has agreed to provide health care services to enrolled participants with an expectation of receiving payment, other than copayment or deductible, directly or indirectly, from the health maintenance organization.

(20) "Carrier" means a health maintenance organization, an insurer, a health care services contractor, or other entity responsible for the payment of benefits or provision of services under a group or individual agreement.

(21) "Replacement coverage" means the benefits provided by a succeeding carrier.

(22) "Insolvent" or "insolvency" means that the organization has been declared insolvent and is placed under an order of liquidation by a court of competent jurisdiction. [1990 c 119 § 1; 1983 c 106 § 1; 1982 c 151 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 290 § 3.]

**Effective date—1982 c 151:** "This act shall take effect on January 1, 1983." [1982 c 151 § 5.]

**48.46.023 Agent—Definition—License required—Application, issuance, renewal, fees—Penalties involving license.** (1) Agent, as used in this chapter, means any person appointed or authorized by a health maintenance

organization to solicit applications for health care service agreements on its behalf.

(2) No person shall act as or hold himself out to be an agent of a health maintenance organization unless licensed as a disability insurance agent by this state and appointed or authorized by the health maintenance organization on whose behalf solicitations are to be made.

(3) Applications, appointments, and qualifications for licenses, the renewal thereof, the fees and issuance of a license, and the renewal thereof shall be in accordance with the provisions of chapter 48.17 RCW that are applicable to a disability insurance agent.

(4) A person holding a valid license in this state as a health maintenance organization agent on July 24, 1983, is not required to requalify by an examination for the renewal of the license.

(5) The commissioner may revoke, suspend, or refuse to issue or renew any agent's license, or levy a fine upon the licensee, in accordance with those provisions of chapter 48.17 RCW that are applicable to a disability insurance agent. [1983 c 202 § 8.]

**48.46.027 Registration, required—Issuance of securities—Penalty.** (1) No person shall in this state, by mail or otherwise, act as or hold himself out to be a health maintenance organization as defined in RCW 48.46.020 without being duly registered therefor with the commissioner.

(2) The issuance, sale, or offer for sale in this state of securities of its own issue by any health maintenance organization domiciled in this state other than the memberships and bonds of a nonprofit corporation shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 48.06 RCW relating to obtaining solicitation permits the same as if health maintenance organizations were domestic insurers.

(3) Any person violating any provision of subsection (1) or (2) of this section shall be liable to a fine of not to exceed one thousand dollars and imprisonment for not to exceed six months for each instance of such violation. [1983 c 202 § 9.]

**48.46.030 Eligibility requirements for certificate of registration—Application requirements, information.** Any corporation, cooperative group, partnership, individual, association, or groups of health professionals licensed by the state of Washington, public hospital district, or public institutions of higher education shall be entitled to a certificate of registration from the insurance commissioner as a health maintenance organization if it:

(1) Provides comprehensive health care services to enrolled participants on a group practice per capita prepayment basis or on a prepaid individual practice plan and provides such health services either directly or through arrangements with institutions, entities, and persons which its enrolled population might reasonably require as determined by the health maintenance organization in order to be maintained in good health; and

(2) Is governed by a board elected by enrolled participants, or otherwise provides its enrolled participants with a meaningful role in policy making procedures of such

organization, as defined in RCW 48.46.020(7), and 48.46.070; and

(3) Affords enrolled participants with a meaningful grievance procedure aimed at settlement of disputes between such persons and such health maintenance organization, as defined in RCW 48.46.020(8) and 48.46.100; and

(4) Provides enrolled participants, or makes available for inspection at least annually, financial statements pertaining to health maintenance agreements, disclosing income and expenses, assets and liabilities, and the bases for proposed rate adjustments for health maintenance agreements relating to its activity as a health maintenance organization; and

(5) Demonstrates to the satisfaction of the commissioner that its facilities and personnel are reasonably adequate to provide comprehensive health care services to enrolled participants and that it is financially capable of providing such members with, or has made adequate contractual arrangements through insurance or otherwise to provide such members with, such health services; and

(6) Substantially complies with administrative rules and regulations of the commissioner for purposes of this chapter; and

(7) Submits an application for a certificate of registration which shall be verified by an officer or authorized representative of the applicant, being in form as the commissioner prescribes, and setting forth:

(a) A copy of the basic organizational document, if any, of the applicant, such as the articles of incorporation, articles of association, partnership agreement, trust agreement, or other applicable documents, and all amendments thereto;

(b) A copy of the bylaws, rules and regulations, or similar documents, if any, which regulate the conduct of the internal affairs of the applicant, and all amendments thereto;

(c) A list of the names, addresses, members of the board of directors, board of trustees, executive committee, or other governing board or committee and the principal officers, partners, or members;

(d) A full and complete disclosure of any financial interests held by any officer, or director in any provider associated with the applicant or any provider of the applicant;

(e) A description of the health maintenance organization, its facilities and its personnel, and the applicant's most recent financial statement showing such organization's assets, liabilities, income, and other sources of financial support;

(f) A description of the geographic areas and the population groups to be served and the size and composition of the anticipated enrollee population;

(g) A copy of each type of health maintenance agreement to be issued to enrolled participants;

(h) A schedule of all proposed rates of reimbursement to contracting health care facilities or providers, if any, and a schedule of the proposed charges for enrollee coverage for health care services, accompanied by data relevant to the formulation of such schedules;

(i) A description of the proposed method and schedule for soliciting enrollment in the applicant health maintenance organization and the basis of compensation for such solicitation services;

(j) A copy of the solicitation document to be distributed to all prospective enrolled participants in connection with any solicitation;

(k) A financial projection which sets forth the anticipated results during the initial two years of operation of such organization, accompanied by a summary of the assumptions and relevant data upon which the projection is based. The projection should include the projected expenses, enrollment trends, income, enrollee utilization patterns, and sources of working capital;

(l) A detailed description of the enrollee complaint system as provided by RCW 48.46.100;

(m) A detailed description of the procedures and programs to be implemented to assure that the health care services delivered to enrolled participants will be of professional quality;

(n) A detailed description of procedures to be implemented to meet the requirements to protect against insolvency in RCW 48.46.245;

(o) Documentation that the health maintenance organization has an initial net worth of one million dollars and shall thereafter maintain the minimum net worth required under RCW 48.46.235; and

(p) Such other information as the commissioner shall require by rule or regulation which is reasonably necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

A health maintenance organization shall, unless otherwise provided for in this chapter, file a notice describing any modification of any of the information required by subsection (7) of this section. Such notice shall be filed with the commissioner. [1990 c 119 § 2; 1985 c 320 § 1; 1983 c 106 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 290 § 4.]

**48.46.040 Certificate of registration—Issuance—Grounds for refusal—Name restrictions—Inspection and review of facilities.** The commissioner shall issue a certificate of registration to the applicant within sixty days of such filing unless he notifies the applicant within such time that such application is not complete and the reasons therefor; or that he is not satisfied that:

(1) The basic organizational document of the applicant permits the applicant to conduct business as a health maintenance organization;

(2) The organization has demonstrated the intent and ability to assure that comprehensive health care services will be provided in a manner to assure both their availability and accessibility;

(3) The organization is financially responsible and may be reasonably expected to meet its obligations to its enrolled participants. In making this determination, the commissioner shall consider among other relevant factors:

(a) Any agreements with an insurer, a medical or hospital service bureau, a government agency or any other organization paying or insuring payment for health care services;

(b) Any agreements with providers for the provision of health care services;

(c) Any arrangements for liability and malpractice insurance coverage; and

(d) Adequate procedures to be implemented to meet the protection against insolvency requirements in RCW 48.46.245.

(4) The procedures for offering health care services and offering or terminating contracts with enrolled participants

are reasonable and equitable in comparison with prevailing health insurance subscription practices and health maintenance organization enrollment procedures; and, that

(5) Procedures have been established to:

(a) Monitor the quality of care provided by such organization, including, as a minimum, procedures for internal peer review;

(b) Resolve complaints and grievances initiated by enrolled participants in accordance with RCW 48.46.010 and 48.46.100;

(c) Offer enrolled participants an opportunity to participate in matters of policy and operation in accordance with RCW 48.46.020(7) and 48.46.070.

No person to whom a certificate of registration has not been issued, except a health maintenance organization certified by the secretary of the department of health and human services, pursuant to Public Law 93-222 or its successor, shall use the words "health maintenance organization" or the initials "HMO" in its name, contracts, or literature. Persons who are contracting with, operating in association with, recruiting enrolled participants for, or otherwise authorized by a health maintenance organization possessing a certificate of registration to act on its behalf may use the terms "health maintenance organization" or "HMO" for the limited purpose of denoting or explaining their relationship to such health maintenance organization.

The department of health, at the request of the insurance commissioner, shall inspect and review the facilities of every applicant health maintenance organization to determine that such facilities are reasonably adequate to provide the health care services offered in their contracts. If the commissioner has information to indicate that such facilities fail to continue to be adequate to provide the health care services offered, the department of health, upon request of the insurance commissioner, shall reinspect and review the facilities and report to the insurance commissioner as to their adequacy or inadequacy. [1990 c 119 § 3; 1989 1st ex.s. c 9 § 223; 1983 c 106 § 3; 1975 1st ex.s. c 290 § 5.]

**Effective date—Severability—1989 1st ex.s. c 9:** See RCW 43.70.910 and 43.70.920.

**48.46.060 Prepayment agreements—Standards for forms and documents—Grounds for disapproval—Cancellation or failure to renew—Filing of agreement forms.** (1) Any health maintenance organization may enter into agreements with or for the benefit of persons or groups of persons, which require prepayment for health care services by or for such persons in consideration of the health maintenance organization providing health care services to such persons. Such activity is not subject to the laws relating to insurance if the health care services are rendered directly by the health maintenance organization or by any provider which has a contract or other arrangement with the health maintenance organization to render health services to enrolled participants.

(2) All forms of health maintenance agreements issued by the organization to enrolled participants or other marketing documents purporting to describe the organization's comprehensive health care services shall comply with such minimum standards as the commissioner deems reasonable and necessary in order to carry out the purposes and provisions of this chapter, and which fully inform enrolled

participants of the health care services to which they are entitled, including any limitations or exclusions thereof, and such other rights, responsibilities and duties required of the contracting health maintenance organization.

(3) Subject to the right of the health maintenance organization to demand and receive a hearing under chapters 48.04 and 34.05 RCW, the commissioner may disapprove an agreement form for any of the following grounds:

(a) If it contains or incorporates by reference any inconsistent, ambiguous, or misleading clauses, or exceptions or conditions which unreasonably or deceptively affect the risk purported to be assumed in the general coverage of the agreement;

(b) If it has any title, heading, or other indication which is misleading;

(c) If purchase of health care services thereunder is being solicited by deceptive advertising;

(d) If the benefits provided therein are unreasonable in relation to the amount charged for the agreement;

(e) If it contains unreasonable restrictions on the treatment of patients;

(f) If it is in any respect in violation of this chapter or if it fails to conform to minimum provisions or standards required by the commissioner by rule under chapter 34.05 RCW; or

(g) If any agreement for health care services with any state agency, division, subdivision, board or commission or with any political subdivision, municipal corporation, or quasi-municipal corporation fails to comply with state law.

(4) No health maintenance organization authorized under this chapter shall cancel or fail to renew the enrollment on any basis of an enrolled participant or refuse to transfer an enrolled participant from a group to an individual basis for reasons relating solely to age, sex, race, or health status: PROVIDED HOWEVER, That nothing contained herein shall prevent cancellation of an agreement with enrolled participants (a) who violate any published policies of the organization which have been approved by the commissioner, or (b) who are entitled to become eligible for medicare benefits and fail to enroll for a medicare supplement plan offered by the health maintenance organization and approved by the commissioner, or (c) for failure of such enrolled participant to pay the approved charge, including cost-sharing, required under such contract, or (d) for a material breach of the health maintenance agreement.

(5) No agreement form or amendment to an approved agreement form shall be used unless it is first filed with the commissioner. [1989 c 10 § 10. Prior: 1985 c 320 § 2; 1985 c 283 § 2; 1983 c 106 § 4; 1975 1st ex.s. c 290 § 7.]

**48.46.064 Mandatory offering to individuals providing basic health plan benefits—Exemption from statutory requirements—Premium rates—Definitions.**

(1)(a) A health maintenance organization offering any health benefit plan to any individual shall offer and actively market to all individuals a health benefit plan providing benefits identical to the schedule of covered health services that are required to be delivered to an individual enrolled in the basic health plan. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude a health maintenance organization from offering, or an individual from purchasing, other health benefit plans that

may have more or less comprehensive benefits than the basic health plan, provided such plans are in accordance with this chapter. A health maintenance organization offering a health benefit plan that does not include benefits provided in the basic health plan shall clearly disclose these differences to the individual in a brochure approved by the commissioner.

(b) A health benefit plan shall provide coverage for hospital expenses and services rendered by a physician licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW but is not subject to the requirements of RCW 48.46.275, 48.26.280 [48.46.280], 48.46.285, 48.46.290, 48.46.350, 48.46.355, 48.46.375, 48.46.440, 48.46.480, 48.46.510, 48.46.520, and 48.46.530 if the health benefit plan is the mandatory offering under (a) of this subsection that provides benefits identical to the basic health plan, to the extent these requirements differ from the basic health plan.

(2) Premium rates for health benefit plans for individuals shall be subject to the following provisions:

(a) The health maintenance organization shall develop its rates based on an adjusted community rate and may only vary the adjusted community rate for:

- (i) Geographic area;
- (ii) Family size;
- (iii) Age; and
- (iv) Wellness activities.

(b) The adjustment for age in (a)(iii) of this subsection may not use age brackets smaller than five-year increments which shall begin with age twenty and end with age sixty-five. Individuals under the age of twenty shall be treated as those age twenty.

(c) The health maintenance organization shall be permitted to develop separate rates for individuals age sixty-five or older for coverage for which medicare is the primary payer and coverage for which medicare is not the primary payer. Both rates shall be subject to the requirements of this subsection.

(d) The permitted rates for any age group shall be no more than four hundred twenty-five percent of the lowest rate for all age groups on January 1, 1996, four hundred percent on January 1, 1997, and three hundred seventy-five percent on January 1, 2000, and thereafter.

(e) A discount for wellness activities shall be permitted to reflect actuarially justified differences in utilization or cost attributed to such programs not to exceed twenty percent.

(f) The rate charged for a health benefit plan offered under this section may not be adjusted more frequently than annually except that the premium may be changed to reflect:

- (i) Changes to the family composition;
- (ii) Changes to the health benefit plan requested by the individual; or
- (iii) Changes in government requirements affecting the health benefit plan.

(g) For the purposes of this section, a health benefit plan that contains a restricted network provision shall not be considered similar coverage to a health benefit plan that does not contain such a provision, provided that the restrictions of benefits to network providers result in substantial differences in claims costs. This subsection does not restrict or enhance the portability of benefits as provided in RCW 48.43.015.

(3) Adjusted community rates established under this section shall pool the medical experience of all individuals purchasing coverage, and shall not be required to be pooled

with the medical experience of health benefit plans offered to small employers under RCW 48.46.066.

(4) As used in this section and RCW 48.46.066, "health benefit plan," "basic health plan," "adjusted community rate," "small employer," and "wellness activities" mean the same as defined in RCW 48.43.005. [1995 c 265 § 17.]

**Captions not law—Effective dates—Savings—Severability—1995 c 265:** See notes following RCW 70.47.015.

**48.46.066 Mandatory offering providing basic health plan benefits for employers with fewer than twenty-five employees—Exemption from statutory requirements—Premium rates—Requirements for providing coverage for small employers.** (1)(a) A health maintenance organization offering any health benefit plan to a small employer shall offer and actively market to the small employer a health benefit plan providing benefits identical to the schedule of covered health services that are required to be delivered to an individual enrolled in the basic health plan. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude a health maintenance organization from offering, or a small employer from purchasing, other health benefit plans that may have more or less comprehensive benefits than the basic health plan, provided such plans are in accordance with this chapter. A health maintenance organization offering a health benefit plan that does not include benefits in the basic health plan shall clearly disclose these differences to the small employer in a brochure approved by the commissioner.

(b) A health benefit plan shall provide coverage for hospital expenses and services rendered by a physician licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW but is not subject to the requirements of RCW 48.46.275, 48.46.280, 48.46.285, 48.46.290, 48.46.350, 48.46.355, 48.46.375, 48.46.440, 48.46.480, 48.46.510, 48.46.520, and 48.46.530 if: (i) The health benefit plan is the mandatory offering under (a) of this subsection that provides benefits identical to the basic health plan, to the extent these requirements differ from the basic health plan; or (ii) the health benefit plan is offered to employers with not more than twenty-five employees.

(2) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a health maintenance organization from offering, or a purchaser from seeking, benefits in excess of the basic health plan services. All forms, policies, and contracts shall be submitted for approval to the commissioner, and the rates of any plan offered under this section shall be reasonable in relation to the benefits thereto.

(3) Premium rates for health benefit plans for small employers as defined in this section shall be subject to the following provisions:

(a) The health maintenance organization shall develop its rates based on an adjusted community rate and may only vary the adjusted community rate for:

- (i) Geographic area;
- (ii) Family size;
- (iii) Age; and
- (iv) Wellness activities.

(b) The adjustment for age in (a)(iii) of this subsection may not use age brackets smaller than five-year increments, which shall begin with age twenty and end with age sixty-five. Employees under the age of twenty shall be treated as those age twenty.

(c) The health maintenance organization shall be permitted to develop separate rates for individuals age sixty-five or older for coverage for which medicare is the primary payer and coverage for which medicare is not the primary payer. Both rates shall be subject to the requirements of this subsection (3).

(d) The permitted rates for any age group shall be no more than four hundred twenty-five percent of the lowest rate for all age groups on January 1, 1996, four hundred percent on January 1, 1997, and three hundred seventy-five percent on January 1, 2000, and thereafter.

(e) A discount for wellness activities shall be permitted to reflect actuarially justified differences in utilization or cost attributed to such programs not to exceed twenty percent.

(f) The rate charged for a health benefit plan offered under this section may not be adjusted more frequently than annually except that the premium may be changed to reflect:

- (i) Changes to the enrollment of the small employer;
- (ii) Changes to the family composition of the employee;
- (iii) Changes to the health benefit plan requested by the small employer; or

(iv) Changes in government requirements affecting the health benefit plan.

(g) Rating factors shall produce premiums for identical groups that differ only by the amounts attributable to plan design, with the exception of discounts for health improvement programs.

(h) For the purposes of this section, a health benefit plan that contains a restricted network provision shall not be considered similar coverage to a health benefit plan that does not contain such a provision, provided that the restrictions of benefits to network providers result in substantial differences in claims costs. This subsection does not restrict or enhance the portability of benefits as provided in RCW 48.43.015.

(i) Adjusted community rates established under this section shall pool the medical experience of all groups purchasing coverage.

(4) The health benefit plans authorized by this section that are lower than the required offering shall not supplant or supersede any existing policy for the benefit of employees in this state. Nothing in this section shall restrict the right of employees to collectively bargain for insurance providing benefits in excess of those provided herein.

(5)(a) Except as provided in this subsection, requirements used by a health maintenance organization in determining whether to provide coverage to a small employer shall be applied uniformly among all small employers applying for coverage or receiving coverage from the carrier.

(b) A health maintenance organization shall not require a minimum participation level greater than:

- (i) One hundred percent of eligible employees working for groups with three or less employees; and
- (ii) Seventy-five percent of eligible employees working for groups with more than three employees.

(c) In applying minimum participation requirements with respect to a small employer, a small employer shall not consider employees or dependents who have similar existing coverage in determining whether the applicable percentage of participation is met.

(d) A health maintenance organization may not increase any requirement for minimum employee participation or modify any requirement for minimum employer contribution

applicable to a small employer at any time after the small employer has been accepted for coverage.

(6) A health maintenance organization must offer coverage to all eligible employees of a small employer and their dependents. A health maintenance organization may not offer coverage to only certain individuals or dependents in a small employer group or to only part of the group. A health maintenance organization may not modify a health plan with respect to a small employer or any eligible employee or dependent, through riders, endorsements or otherwise, to restrict or exclude coverage or benefits for specific diseases, medical conditions, or services otherwise covered by the plan. [1995 c 265 § 18; 1990 c 187 § 4.]

**Captions not law—Effective dates—Savings—Severability—1995 c 265:** See notes following RCW 70.47.015.

**Finding—Intent—Severability—1990 c 187:** See notes following RCW 48.21.045.

**48.46.068 Requirements for plans offered to small employers—Definitions.** (1) No health maintenance organization shall offer any health benefit plan to any small employer without complying with the provisions of \*RCW 48.46.066(5).

(2) Employers purchasing health plans provided through associations or through member-governed groups formed specifically for the purpose of purchasing health care shall not be considered small employers and such plans shall not be subject to the provisions of \*RCW 48.46.066(5).

(3) For purposes of this section, "health benefit plan," "health plan," and "small employer" mean the same as defined in RCW 48.43.005. [1995 c 265 § 24.]

\*Reviser's note: Reference was inadvertently changed during the bill drafting process. The correct reference should be RCW 48.46.066(3).

**Captions not law—Effective dates—Savings—Severability—1995 c 265:** See notes following RCW 70.47.015.

**48.46.070 Governing body.** (1) The members of the governing body of a health maintenance organization shall be nominated by the voting members or by the enrolled participants and providers, and shall be elected by the enrolled participants or voting members pursuant to the provisions of their bylaws, which shall not be restricted to providers. At least one-third of such body shall consist of consumers who are substantially representative of the enrolled population of such organization: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That any organization that is a qualified health maintenance organization under P.L. 93-222 (Title XIII, section 1310(d) of the public health services act) is deemed to have satisfied these governing body requirements and the requirements of RCW 48.46.030(2).

(2) For health maintenance organizations formed by public institutions of higher education or public hospital districts, the governing body shall be advised by an advisory board consisting of at least two-thirds consumers who are elected by the voting members or the enrolled participants and are substantially representative of the enrolled population. [1985 c 320 § 3; 1983 c 106 § 5; 1975 1st ex.s. c 290 § 8.]

**48.46.080 Annual statement—Filing—Contents—Penalty for failure to file—Accuracy required.** (1) Every health maintenance organization shall annually, before the

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first day of March, file with the commissioner a statement verified by at least two of the principal officers of the health maintenance organization showing its financial condition as of the last day of the preceding calendar year.

(2) Such annual report shall be in such form as the commissioner shall prescribe and shall include:

(a) A financial statement of such organization, including its balance sheet and receipts and disbursements for the preceding year, which reflects at a minimum;

(i) all prepayments and other payments received for health care services rendered pursuant to health maintenance agreements;

(ii) expenditures to all categories of health care facilities, providers, insurance companies, or hospital or medical service plan corporations with which such organization has contracted to fulfill obligations to enrolled participants arising out of its health maintenance agreements, together with all other direct expenses including depreciation, enrollment, and commission; and

(iii) expenditures for capital improvements, or additions thereto, including but not limited to construction, renovation, or purchase of facilities and capital equipment;

(b) The number of participants enrolled and terminated during the report period. Every employer offering health care benefits to their employees through a group contract with a health maintenance organization shall furnish said health maintenance organization with a list of their employees enrolled under such plan;

(c) The number of doctors by type of practice who, under contract with or as an employee of the health maintenance organization, furnished health care services to consumers during the past year;

(d) A report of the names and addresses of all officers, directors, or trustees of the health maintenance organization during the preceding year, and the amount of wages, expense reimbursements, or other payments to such individuals for services to such organization. For partnership and professional service corporations, a report shall be made for partners or shareholders as to any compensation or expense reimbursement received by them for services, other than for services and expenses relating directly for patient care;

(e) Such other information relating to the performance of the health maintenance organization or the health care facilities or providers with which it has contracted as reasonably necessary to the proper and effective administration of this chapter, in accordance with rules and regulations; and

(f) Disclosure of any financial interests held by officers and directors in any providers associated with the health maintenance organization or any provider of the health maintenance organization.

(3) The commissioner may for good reason allow a reasonable extension of the time within which such annual statement shall be filed.

(4) The commissioner may suspend or revoke the certificate of registration of any health maintenance organization failing to file its annual statement when due or during any extension of time therefor which the commissioner, for good cause, may grant.

(5) No person shall knowingly file with any public official or knowingly make, publish, or disseminate any financial statement of a health maintenance organization

which does not accurately state the health maintenance organization's financial condition. [1993 c 492 § 296. Prior: 1983 c 202 § 10; 1983 c 106 § 6; 1975 1st ex.s. c 290 § 9.]

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

**Short title—Severability—Savings—Captions not law—Reservation of legislative power—Effective dates—1993 c 492:** See RCW 43.72.910 through 43.72.915.

**48.46.090 Standard of services provided.** A health maintenance organization, and the health care facilities and providers with which such organization has entered into contracts to provide health care services to its enrolled participants, shall provide such services in a manner consistent with the dignity of each enrolled participant as a human being. [1975 1st ex.s. c 290 § 10.]

**48.46.100 Grievance procedure.** A health maintenance organization shall establish and maintain a grievance procedure, approved by the commissioner, to provide reasonable and effective resolution of complaints initiated by enrolled participants concerning any matter relating to the interpretation of any provision of such enrolled participants' health maintenance contracts, including, but not limited to, claims regarding the scope of coverage for health care services; denials, cancellations, or nonrenewals of enrolled participants' coverage; and the quality of the health care services rendered, and which may include procedures for arbitration. [1975 1st ex.s. c 290 § 11.]

**48.46.110 Name restrictions—Discrimination—Recovery of costs of health care services participant not entitled to.** (1) No health maintenance organization may refer to itself in its name or advertising with any of the words: "insurance", "casualty", "surety", "mutual", or any other words descriptive of the insurance, casualty, or surety business, or deceptively similar to the name or description of any insurance or surety corporation or health care service contractor or other health maintenance organization doing business in this state.

(2) No health maintenance organization, nor any health care facility or provider with which such organization has contracted to provide health care services, shall discriminate against any person from whom or on whose behalf, payment to meet the required charge is available, with regard to enrollment, disenrollment, or the provision of health care services, on the basis of such person's race, color, sex, religion, place of residence if there is reasonable access to the facility of the health maintenance organization, socioeconomic status, or status as a recipient of medicare under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. section 1396, et seq.

(3) Where a health maintenance organization determines that an enrolled participant has received health care services to which such enrolled participant is not entitled under the terms of his health maintenance agreement, neither such organization, nor any health care facility or provider with which such organization has contracted to provide health care services, shall have recourse against such enrolled participant for any amount above the actual cost of providing such service, if any, specified in such agreement, unless the

enrolled participant or a member of his family has given or withheld information to the health maintenance organization, the effect of which is to mislead or misinform the health maintenance organization as to the enrolled participant's right to receive such services. [1983 c 202 § 11; 1975 1st ex.s. c 290 § 12.]

**48.46.120 Examination of health maintenance organizations—Duties of organizations, powers of commissioner—Independent audit reports—Assessment of organizations for costs, conditions.** (1) The commissioner may make an examination of the operations of any health maintenance organization as often as he deems necessary in order to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(2) Every health maintenance organization shall submit its books and records relating its operation for financial condition and market conduct examinations and in every way facilitate them. The quality or appropriateness of medical services or systems shall not be examined except to the extent that such items are incidental to an examination of the financial condition or the market conduct of a health maintenance organization. For the purpose of examinations, the commissioner may issue subpoenas, administer oaths, and examine the officers and principals of the health maintenance organization and the principals of such providers concerning their business.

(3) The commissioner may elect to accept and rely on audit reports made by an independent certified public accountant for the health maintenance organization in the course of that part of the commissioner's examination covering the same general subject matter as the audit. The commissioner may incorporate the audit report in his report of the examination.

(4) Health maintenance organizations licensed in the state shall be equitably assessed to cover the cost of financial condition and market conduct examinations, the costs of promulgating rules, and the costs of enforcing the provisions of this chapter. The assessments shall be levied not less frequently than once every twelve months and shall be in an amount expected to fund the examinations, promulgation of rules, and enforcement of the provisions of this chapter, including a reasonable margin for cost variations. The assessments shall be established by rules promulgated by the commissioner but shall not exceed five and one-half cents per month per person entitled to health care services pursuant to a health maintenance agreement, excluding such persons who are not residents of this state: PROVIDED, That the minimum fee shall be one thousand dollars. Assessment receipts shall be deposited in the insurance commissioner's regulatory account in the state treasury; shall be used for the purpose of funding the examinations authorized in subsection (1) of this section, the costs of promulgating rules, and the costs of enforcing the provisions of this chapter; and shall be accounted for jointly with fees from health care service contractors but separately from insurers. Assessment receipts received from health maintenance organizations shall be used to pay a pro rata share of the costs, including overhead, of regulating health care service contractors and health maintenance organizations. Amounts remaining in the separate account at the end of a biennium shall be applied to reduce the assessments in the succeeding



biennium. [1987 c 83 § 1; 1986 c 296 § 9; 1985 c 7 § 115; 1983 c 63 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 290 § 13.]

**Severability—Effective date—1986 c 296:** See notes following RCW 48.14.020.

**48.46.130 Investigation of violations—Hearing—Findings—Penalties—Order requiring compliance, etc.—Suspension or revocation of certificate, effect—Application to courts.** (1) The commissioner may, consistent with the provisions of the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW, initiate proceedings to determine whether a health maintenance organization has:

(a) Operated in a manner that materially violates its organizational documents;

(b) Materially breached its obligation to furnish the health care services specified in its contracts with enrolled participants;

(c) Violated any provision of this chapter, or any rules and regulations promulgated thereunder;

(d) Made any false statement with respect to any report or statement required by this chapter or by the commissioner under this chapter;

(e) Advertised or marketed, or attempted to market, its services in such a manner as to misrepresent its services or capacity for services, or engaged in deceptive, misleading, or unfair practices with respect to advertising or marketing;

(f) Prevented the commissioner from the performance of any duty imposed by this chapter; or

(g) Fraudulently procured or attempted to procure any benefit under this chapter.

(2) After providing written notice and an opportunity for a hearing to be scheduled no sooner than ten days following such notice, the commissioner shall make administrative findings and may, as appropriate:

(a) Impose a penalty of not more than ten thousand dollars for each and every unlawful act committed which materially affects the health services offered or furnished;

(b) Issue an administrative order requiring the health maintenance organization to:

(i) Cease or modify inappropriate conduct or practices by it or any of the personnel employed or associated with it;

(ii) Fulfill its contractual obligations;

(iii) Provide a service which has been improperly denied;

(iv) Take steps to provide or arrange for any service which it has agreed to make available; or

(v) Abide by the terms of an arbitration proceeding, if any;

(c) Suspend or revoke the certificate of authority of the health maintenance organization:

(i) If its certificate of authority is suspended, the organization shall not, during the period of such suspension, enroll any additional participants except newborn children or other newly acquired dependents of existing enrolled participants, and shall not engage in any advertising or solicitation whatsoever;

(ii) If its certificate of authority is revoked, the organization shall proceed under the supervision of the commissioner immediately following the effective date of the order of revocation to wind up its affairs, and shall conduct no further business except as may be essential to the orderly conclusion of such affairs: PROVIDED, That the commis-

sioner may, by written order, permit such further operation of the organization as it may find to be in the best interest of enrolled participants, to the end that such enrolled participants will be afforded the greatest practical opportunity to obtain continuing health care coverage: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That if the organization is qualified to operate as a health care service contractor under chapter 48.44 RCW, it may continue to operate as such when it obtains the appropriate license.

(3) The commissioner may apply to any court for such legal or equitable relief as it deems necessary to effectively carry out the purposes of this chapter, including, but not limited to, an action in any court of competent jurisdiction to enjoin any such acts or practices and to enforce compliance with this chapter or any rule or order hereunder. Upon a proper showing a permanent or temporary injunction, restraining order, or writ of mandamus shall be granted and a receiver or conservator may be appointed for the defendant or the defendant's assets. The commissioner may not be required to post a bond. [1975 1st ex.s. c 290 § 14.]

**48.46.135 Fine in addition to or in lieu of suspension, revocation, or refusal.** After hearing or upon stipulation by the registrant and in addition to or in lieu of the suspension, revocation, or refusal to renew any registration of a health maintenance organization, the commissioner may levy a fine against the party involved for each offense in an amount not less than fifty dollars and not more than ten thousand dollars. The order levying such fine shall specify the period within which the fine shall be fully paid and which period shall not be less than fifteen nor more than thirty days from the date of such order. Upon failure to pay any such fine when due the commissioner shall revoke the registration of the registrant, if not already revoked, and the fine shall be recovered in a civil action brought on behalf of the commissioner by the attorney general. Any fine so collected shall be paid by the commissioner to the state treasurer for the account of the general fund. [1983 c 202 § 15.]

**48.46.140 Fees.** Every organization subject to this chapter shall pay to the commissioner the following fees:

(1) For filing a copy of its application for a certificate of registration or amendment thereto, one hundred dollars;

(2) For filing each annual report pursuant to RCW 48.46.080, ten dollars. [1975 1st ex.s. c 290 § 15.]

**48.46.150 Medicaid services.** (1) The department is hereby authorized to enter into contracts with health maintenance organizations to furnish, directly or through contractual arrangements with providers or other persons, medicaid services to eligible recipients of medical assistance under Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. section 1396, et seq.

(2) The department shall enter into negotiations with any health maintenance organization for the provision of the medical needs of such recipients on a group basis located within the appropriate defined service area of such health maintenance organization in order to realize the possibility of obtaining cost savings of public funds in the purchase of health care services for such recipients, based on differentials

between the cost of such services when offered by health maintenance organizations and other providers: PROVIDED, That nothing herein shall require the department to enter into any contract: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That no such recipient shall be obligated to receive any such medical care from any health maintenance organization under contract with the department. [1975 1st ex.s. c 290 § 16.]

**48.46.170 Effect of chapter as to other laws—Construction.** (1) Solicitation of enrolled participants by a health maintenance organization granted a certificate of registration, or its agents or representatives, shall not be construed to violate any provision of law relating to solicitation or advertising by health professionals.

(2) Any health maintenance organization authorized under this chapter shall not be deemed to be violating any law prohibiting the practice by unlicensed persons of podiatric medicine and surgery, chiropractic, dental hygiene, opticianry, dentistry, optometry, osteopathic medicine and surgery, pharmacy, medicine and surgery, physical therapy, nursing, or psychology: PROVIDED, That this subsection shall not be construed to expand a health professional's scope of practice or to allow employees of a health maintenance organization to practice as a health professional unless licensed.

(3) Nothing contained in this chapter shall alter any statutory obligation, or rule adopted thereunder, in chapter 70.38 or \*70.39 RCW.

(4) Any health maintenance organization receiving a certificate of registration pursuant to this chapter shall be exempt from the provisions of chapter 48.05 RCW, but shall be subject to \*chapter 70.39 RCW. [1996 c 178 § 13; 1983 c 106 § 7; 1975 1st ex.s. c 290 § 18.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Chapter 70.39 RCW was repealed by 1982 c 223 § 10, effective June 30, 1990.

**Effective date—1996 c 178:** See note following RCW 18.35.110.

**48.46.180 Duty of employer to inform and make available to employees option of enrolling in health maintenance organization.** (1) The state government, or any political subdivision thereof, which offers its employees a health benefits plan shall make available to and inform its employees or members of the option to enroll in at least one health maintenance organization holding a valid certificate of authority which provides health care services in the geographic areas in which such employees or members reside.

(2) Each employer, public or private, having more than fifty employees in this state which offers its employees a health benefits plan, and each employee benefits fund in this state having more than fifty members which offers its members any form of health benefits shall make available to and inform its employees or members of the option to enroll in at least one health maintenance organization holding a valid certificate of authority which provides health care services in the geographic areas in which a substantial number of such employees or members reside: PROVIDED, That unless at least twenty-five employees agree to participate in a health maintenance organization the employer need not provide such an option: PROVIDED FURTHER, That where such employees are members of a bona fide bargaining unit covered by a labor-management collective bar-

gaining agreement, the selection of the options required by this section may be specified in such agreement: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That the provisions of this section shall not be mandatory where such members are covered by a Taft-Hartley health care trust, except that the labor-management trustees may contract with a health maintenance organization if a feasibility study determines it is to the advantage of the members to so contract.

(3) Subsections (1) and (2) of this section shall impose no responsibilities or duties upon state government or any political subdivision thereof or any other employer, either public or private, to provide health maintenance organization coverage when no health maintenance organization exists for the purpose of providing health care services in the geographic areas in which the employees or members reside.

(4) No employer in this state shall in any way be required to pay more for health benefits as a result of the application of this section than would otherwise be required by any prevailing collective bargaining agreement or other legally enforceable contract of obligation for the provision of health benefits between such employer and its employees. [1975 1st ex.s. c 290 § 19.]

**48.46.190 Payroll deductions for capitation payments to health maintenance organizations.** See RCW 41.04.233.

**48.46.200 Rules and regulations.** The commissioner may, in accordance with the provisions of the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW, promulgate rules and regulations as necessary or proper to carry out the provisions of this chapter. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit the commissioner from requiring changes in procedures previously approved by him. [1975 1st ex.s. c 290 § 21.]

**48.46.210 Compliance with federal funding requirements—Construction.** Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit any health maintenance organization from meeting the requirements of any federal law which would authorize such health maintenance organization to receive federal financial assistance or enroll beneficiaries assisted by federal funds. [1975 1st ex.s. c 290 § 22.]

**48.46.220 Review of administrative action.** Any party aggrieved by a decision, order, or regulation made under this chapter by the commissioner shall have the right to have such reviewed pursuant to the provisions of the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW. [1975 1st ex.s. c 290 § 23.]

**48.46.225 Financial failure—Supervision of commissioner—Priority of distribution of assets.** (1) Any rehabilitation, liquidation, or conservation of a health maintenance organization shall be deemed to be the rehabilitation, liquidation, or conservation of an insurance company and shall be conducted under the supervision of the commissioner pursuant to the law governing the rehabilitation, liquidation, or conservation of insurance companies. The commissioner may apply for an order directing the commissioner to rehabilitate, liquidate, or conserve a health mainte-

nance organization upon any one or more grounds set out in RCW 48.31.030, 48.31.050, and 48.31.080. Enrolled participants shall have the same priority in the event of liquidation or rehabilitation as the law provides to policyholders of an insurer.

(2) For purposes of determining the priority of distribution of general assets, claims of enrolled participants and enrolled participants' beneficiaries shall have the same priority as established by RCW 48.31.280 for policyholders and beneficiaries of insureds of insurance companies. If an enrolled participant is liable to any provider for services provided pursuant to and covered by the health maintenance agreement, that liability shall have the status of an enrolled participant claim for distribution of general assets.

(3) A provider who is obligated by statute or agreement to hold enrolled participants harmless from liability for services provided pursuant to and covered by a health care plan shall have a priority of distribution of the general assets immediately following that of enrolled participants and enrolled participants' beneficiaries as described herein, and immediately preceding the priority of distribution described in \*RCW 48.31.280(2)(e). [1990 c 119 § 4.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 48.31.280 was amended by 1993 c 462 § 83 which deleted subsection (2)(e) of that section. See subsection (6).

**48.46.235 Minimum net worth—Requirement to maintain—Determination of amount.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, every health maintenance organization must maintain a minimum net worth equal to the greater of:

(a) One million dollars; or

(b) Two percent of annual premium revenues as reported on the most recent annual financial statement filed with the commissioner on the first one hundred fifty million dollars of premium and one percent of annual premium on the premium in excess of one hundred fifty million dollars; or

(c) An amount equal to the sum of three months' uncovered expenditures as reported on the most recent financial statement filed with the commissioner.

(2) A health maintenance organization registered before June 7, 1990, must maintain a minimum net worth of:

(a) Twenty-five percent of the amount required by subsection (1) of this section by December 31, 1990;

(b) Fifty percent of the amount required by subsection (1) of this section by December 31, 1991;

(c) Seventy-five percent of the amount required by subsection (1) of this section by December 31, 1992; and

(d) One hundred percent of the amount required by subsection (1) of this section by December 31, 1993.

(3)(a) In determining net worth, no debt shall be considered fully subordinated unless the subordination clause is in a form acceptable to the commissioner. An interest obligation relating to the repayment of a subordinated debt must be similarly subordinated.

(b) The interest expenses relating to the repayment of a fully subordinated debt shall not be considered uncovered expenditures.

(c) A subordinated debt incurred by a note meeting the requirement of this section, and otherwise acceptable to the commissioner, shall not be considered a liability and shall be recorded as equity.

(4) Every health maintenance organization shall, when determining liabilities, include an amount estimated in the aggregate to provide for any unearned premium and for the payment of all claims for health care expenditures that have been incurred, whether reported or unreported, which are unpaid and for which such organization is or may be liable, and to provide for the expense of adjustment or settlement of such claims.

Such liabilities shall be computed in accordance with rules promulgated by the commissioner upon reasonable consideration of the ascertained experience and character of the health maintenance organization. [1990 c 119 § 5.]

**48.46.240 Funded reserve requirements.** (1) Each health maintenance organization obtaining a certificate of registration from the commissioner shall provide and maintain a funded reserve of one hundred fifty thousand dollars. The funded reserve shall be deposited with the commissioner or with any organization/trustee acceptable to him in the form of cash, securities eligible for investment by the health maintenance organization pursuant to chapter 48.13 RCW, approved surety bond or any combination of these, and must equal or exceed one hundred fifty thousand dollars. The funded reserve shall be established as an assurance that the uncovered expenditure obligations of the health maintenance organization to the enrolled participants will be performed.

(2) All income from reserves on deposit with the commissioner shall belong to the depositing health maintenance organization and shall be paid to it as it becomes available.

(3) Any funded reserve required by this section shall be considered an asset of the health maintenance organization in determining the organization's net worth.

(4) A health maintenance organization that has made a securities deposit with the commissioner may, at its option, withdraw the securities deposit or any part of the deposit after first having deposited or provided in lieu thereof an approved surety bond, a deposit of cash or securities, or any combination of these or other deposits of equal amount and value to that withdrawn. Any securities and surety bond shall be subject to approval by the commissioner before being substituted. [1990 c 119 § 6; 1985 c 320 § 4; 1982 c 151 § 3.]

Effective date—1982 c 151: See note following RCW 48.46.020.

**48.46.243 Contract—Participant liability—Commissioner's review.** (1) Subject to subsection (2) of this section, every contract between a health maintenance organization and its participating providers of health care services shall be in writing and shall set forth that in the event the health maintenance organization fails to pay for health care services as set forth in the agreement, the enrolled participant shall not be liable to the provider for any sums owed by the health maintenance organization. Every such contract shall provide that this requirement shall survive termination of the contract.

(2) The provisions of subsection (1) of this section shall not apply to emergency care from a provider who is not a participating provider, to out-of-area services or, in exceptional situations approved in advance by the commissioner,

if the health maintenance organization is unable to negotiate reasonable and cost-effective participating provider contracts.

(3)(a) Each participating provider contract form shall be filed with the commissioner fifteen days before it is used.

(b) Any contract form not affirmatively disapproved within fifteen days of filing shall be deemed approved, except that the commissioner may extend the approval period an additional fifteen days upon giving notice before the expiration of the initial fifteen-day period. The commissioner may approve such a contract form for immediate use at any time. Approval may be subsequently withdrawn for cause.

(c) Subject to the right of the health maintenance organization to demand and receive a hearing under chapters 48.04 and 34.05 RCW, the commissioner may disapprove such a contract form if it is in any respect in violation of this chapter or if it fails to conform to minimum provisions or standards required by the commissioner by rule under chapter 34.05 RCW.

(4) No participating provider, or agent, trustee, or assignee thereof, may maintain an action against an enrolled participant to collect sums owed by the health maintenance organization. [1990 c 119 § 7.]

**48.46.245 Plan for handling insolvency—Commissioner's review.** Each health maintenance organization shall have a plan for handling insolvency which allows for continuation of benefits for the duration of the agreement period for which premiums have been paid and continuation of benefits to members who are confined on the date of insolvency in an inpatient facility until their discharge or expiration of benefits. The commissioner shall approve such a plan if it includes:

(1) Insurance to cover the expenses to be paid for continued benefits after insolvency;

(2) Provisions in provider contracts that obligate the provider to provide services for the duration of the period after the health maintenance organization's insolvency for which premium payment has been made and until the enrolled participants' discharge from inpatient facilities;

(3) Use of insolvency reserves established under RCW 48.46.240;

(4) Acceptable letters of credit or approved surety bonds; or

(5) Any other arrangements the commissioner and the organization mutually agree are appropriate to assure that benefits are continued. [1990 c 119 § 8.]

**48.46.247 Insolvency—Commissioner's duties—Participants' options—Allocation of coverage.** (1)(a) In the event of insolvency of a health care service contractor or health maintenance organization and upon order of the commissioner, all other carriers then having active enrolled participants under a group plan with the affected agreement holder that participated in the enrollment process with the insolvent health care service contractor or health maintenance organization at a group's last regular enrollment period shall offer the eligible enrolled participants of the insolvent health services contractor or health maintenance organization the opportunity to enroll in an existing group plan without medical underwriting during a thirty-day open

enrollment period, commencing on the date of the insolvency. Eligible enrolled participants shall not be subject to preexisting condition limitations except to the extent that a waiting period for a preexisting condition has not been satisfied under the insolvent carrier's group plan. An open enrollment shall not be required where the agreement holder participates in a self-insured, self-funded, or other health plan exempt from commissioner rule, unless the plan administrator and agreement holder voluntarily agree to offer a simultaneous open enrollment and extend coverage under the same enrollment terms and conditions as are applicable to carriers under this title and rules adopted under this title. If an exempt plan was offered during the last regular open enrollment period, then the carrier may offer the agreement holder the same coverage as any self-insured plan or plans offered by the agreement holder without regard to coverage, benefit, or provider requirements mandated by this title for the duration of the current agreement period.

(b) For purposes of this subsection only, the term "carrier" means a health maintenance organization or a health care service contractor. In the event of insolvency of a carrier and if no other carrier has active enrolled participants under a group plan with the affected agreement holder, or if the commissioner determines that the other carriers lack sufficient health care delivery resources to assure that health services will be available or accessible to all of the group enrollees of the insolvent carrier, then the commissioner shall allocate equitably the insolvent carrier's group agreements for these groups among all carriers that operate within a portion of the insolvent carrier's area, taking into consideration the health care delivery resources of each carrier. Each carrier to which a group or groups are allocated shall offer the agreement holder, without medical underwriting, the carrier's existing coverage that is most similar to each group's coverage with the insolvent carrier at rates determined in accordance with the successor carrier's existing rating methodology. The eligible enrolled participants shall not be subject to preexisting condition limitations except to the extent that a waiting period for a preexisting condition has not been satisfied under the insolvent carrier's group plan. No offering by a carrier shall be required where the agreement holder participates in a self-insured, self-funded, or other health plan exempt from commissioner rule. The carrier may offer the agreement holder the same coverage as any self-insured plan or plans offered by the agreement holder without regard to coverage, benefit, or provider requirements mandated by this title for the duration of the current agreement period.

(2) The commissioner shall also allocate equitably the insolvent carrier's nongroup enrolled participants who are unable to obtain coverage among all carriers that operate within a portion of the insolvent carrier's service area, taking into consideration the health care delivery resources of the carrier. Each carrier to which nongroup enrolled participants are allocated shall offer the nongroup enrolled participants the carrier's existing comprehensive conversion plan, without additional medical underwriting, at rates determined in accordance with the successor carrier's existing rating methodology. The eligible enrolled participants shall not be subject to preexisting condition limitations except to the extent that a waiting period for a preexisting condition has not been satisfied under the insolvent carrier's plan.

(3) Any agreements covering participants allocated pursuant to subsections (1)(b) and (2) of this section to carriers pursuant to this section may be rerated after ninety days of coverage.

(4) A limited health care service contractor shall not be required to offer services other than its one limited health care service to any enrolled participant of an insolvent carrier. [1990 c 119 § 9.]

**48.46.250 Coverage of dependent children—Newborn infants, congenital anomalies—Notification period.** (1) Any health maintenance agreement under this chapter which provides coverage for dependent children of the enrolled participant shall provide the same coverage for newborn infants of the enrolled participant from and after the moment of birth. Coverage provided under this section shall include, but not be limited to, coverage for congenital anomalies of such children from the moment of birth.

(2) If payment of an additional premium is required to provide coverage for a child, the agreement may require that notification of birth of a newly born child and payment of the required premiums must be furnished to the health maintenance organization. The notification period shall be no less than sixty days from the date of birth. This subsection applies to agreements issued or renewed on or after January 1, 1984. [1984 c 4 § 2; 1983 c 202 § 12.]

**48.46.260 Individual health maintenance agreement—Return within ten days of delivery—Refunds—Void from beginning.** Every subscriber of an individual health maintenance agreement may return the agreement to the health maintenance organization or the agent through whom it was purchased within ten days of its delivery to the subscriber if, after examination of the agreement, the subscriber is not satisfied with it for any reason. The health maintenance organization shall refund promptly any fee paid for the agreement. An additional ten percent penalty shall be added to any premium refund due which is not paid within thirty days of return of the policy to the health maintenance organization or agent. Upon such return of the agreement, it shall be void from the beginning and the parties shall be in the same position as if no agreement had been issued. Notice of the provisions of this section shall be printed on the face of each such agreement or be attached thereto. [1983 c 202 § 13.]

**48.46.270 Financial interests of health maintenance organization authorities, restricted—Exceptions, regulations.** (1) No person having any authority in the investment or disposition of the funds of a health maintenance organization and no officer or director of a health maintenance organization shall accept, except for the health maintenance organization, or be the beneficiary of any fee, brokerage, gift, commission, or other emolument because of any sale of health care service agreements or any investment, loan, deposit, purchase, sale, payment, or exchange made by or for the health maintenance organization, or be pecuniarily interested therein in any capacity; except, that such a person may procure a loan from the health maintenance organization directly upon approval by two-thirds of its directors and

upon the pledge of securities eligible for the investment of the health maintenance organization's funds under this title.

(2) The commissioner may, by regulations, from time to time, define and permit additional exceptions to the prohibition contained in subsection (1) of this section solely to enable payment of reasonable compensation to a director who is not otherwise an officer or employee of the health maintenance organization, or to a corporation or firm in which the director is interested, for necessary services performed or sales or purchases made to or for the health maintenance organization in the ordinary course of the health maintenance organization's business and in the usual private professional or business capacity of the director or the corporation or firm. [1985 c 320 § 5; 1983 c 202 § 14.]

**48.46.275 Mammograms—Insurance coverage.** Each health maintenance agreement issued or renewed after January 1, 1990, that provides benefits for hospital or medical care shall provide benefits for screening or diagnostic mammography services, provided that such services are delivered upon the recommendation of the patient's physician or advanced registered nurse practitioner as authorized by the nursing care quality assurance commission pursuant to chapter 18.79 RCW or physician assistant pursuant to chapter 18.71A RCW.

All services must be provided by the health maintenance organization or rendered upon referral by the health maintenance organization. This section shall not be construed to prevent the application of standard agreement provisions applicable to other benefits such as deductible or copayment provisions. This section does not limit the authority of a health maintenance organization to negotiate rates and contract with specific providers for the delivery of mammography services. This section shall not apply to medicare supplement policies or supplemental contracts covering a specified disease or other limited benefits. [1994 sp.s. c 9 § 735; 1989 c 338 § 4.]

**Severability—Headings and captions not law—Effective date—1994 sp.s. c 9:** See RCW 18.79.900 through 18.79.902.

**48.46.280 Reconstructive breast surgery.** (1) Any health care service plan issued, amended, or renewed after July 24, 1983, shall provide coverage for reconstructive breast surgery resulting from a mastectomy which resulted from disease, illness, or injury.

(2) Any health care service plan issued, amended, or renewed after January 1, 1986, shall provide coverage for all stages of one reconstructive breast reduction on the nondiseased breast to make it equal in size with the diseased breast after definitive reconstructive surgery on the diseased breast has been performed. [1985 c 54 § 8; 1983 c 113 § 4.]

**Effective date—1985 c 54:** See note following RCW 48.20.397.

**48.46.285 Mastectomy, lumpectomy.** No health maintenance organization under this chapter may refuse coverage or cancel or decline coverage solely because of a mastectomy or lumpectomy performed on the insured or prospective insured more than five years previously. The amount of benefits payable, or any term, rate, condition, or type of coverage shall not be restricted, modified, excluded, increased, or reduced solely on the basis of a mastectomy or

lumpectomy performed on the insured or prospective insured more than five years previously. [1985 c 54 § 4.]

**Effective date—1985 c 54:** See note following RCW 48.20.397.

**48.46.290 Mental health treatment, optional supplemental coverage—Waiver.** (1) Each health maintenance organization providing services or benefits for hospital or medical care coverage in this state under group health maintenance agreements which are issued, delivered, or renewed in this state on or after July 1, 1986, shall offer optional supplemental coverage for mental health treatment to the enrolled participant and the enrolled participant's covered dependents.

(2) Benefits shall be provided under the optional supplemental coverage for mental health treatment whether treatment is rendered by the health maintenance organization or the health maintenance organization refers the enrolled participant or the enrolled participant's covered dependents for treatment to: (a) A physician licensed under chapter 18.71 or 18.57 RCW; (b) a psychologist licensed under chapter 18.83 RCW; (c) a community mental health agency licensed by the department of social and health services pursuant to chapter 71.24 RCW; or (d) a state hospital as defined in RCW 72.23.010. The treatment shall be covered at the usual and customary rates for such treatment. The insurer, health care service contractor, or health maintenance organization providing optional coverage under the provisions of this section for mental health services may establish separate usual and customary rates for services rendered by physicians licensed under chapter 18.71 or 18.57 RCW, psychologists licensed under chapter 18.83 RCW, and community mental health centers licensed under chapter 71.24 RCW and state hospitals as defined in RCW 72.23.010. However, the treatment may be subject to contract provisions with respect to reasonable deductible amounts or copayments. In order to qualify for coverage under this section, a licensed community mental health agency shall have in effect a plan for quality assurance and peer review, and the treatment shall be supervised by a physician licensed under chapter 18.71 or 18.57 RCW or by a psychologist licensed under chapter 18.83 RCW.

(3) The group health maintenance agreement may provide that all the coverage for mental health treatment is waived for all covered members if the contract holder so states in advance in writing to the health maintenance organization.

(4) This section shall not apply to a group health maintenance agreement that has been entered into in accordance with a collective bargaining agreement between management and labor representatives prior to March 1, 1987. [1987 c 283 § 5; 1986 c 184 § 4; 1983 c 35 § 3.]

**Severability—Savings—1987 c 283:** See notes following RCW 43.20A.020.

**Legislative intent—Effective date—Severability—1986 c 184:** See notes following RCW 48.21.240.

**Effective date—Severability—1983 c 35:** See notes following RCW 48.21.240.

**48.46.292 Mental health treatment—Waiver of preauthorization for persons involuntarily committed.** A health maintenance organization providing services or benefits for hospital or medical care coverage in this state

shall waive a preauthorization from the health maintenance organization before an enrolled participant or the enrolled participant's covered dependents receive mental health treatment rendered by a state hospital as defined in RCW 72.23.010 if the enrolled participant or the enrolled participant's covered dependents are involuntarily committed to a state hospital as defined in RCW 72.23.010. [1993 c 272 § 5.]

**Savings—Severability—1993 c 272:** See notes following RCW 43.20B.347.

**48.46.300 Future dividends or refunds, restricted—Issuance or sale of securities regulated.** (1) No health maintenance organization nor any individual acting in behalf thereof may guarantee or agree to the payment of future dividends or future refunds of unused charges or savings in any specific or approximate amounts or percentages in respect to any contract being offered to the public, except in a group contract containing an experience refund provision.

(2) The issuance, sale, or offer for sale in this state of securities of its own issue by any health maintenance organization domiciled in this state other than the memberships and bonds of a nonprofit corporation are subject to the provisions of chapter 48.06 RCW relating to obtaining solicitation permits. [1983 c 106 § 8.]

**48.46.310 Registration not endorsement.** The granting of a certificate of registration to a health maintenance organization is permissive only, and does not constitute an endorsement by the insurance commissioner of any person or thing related to the health maintenance organization, and no person may advertise or display a certificate of registration for use as an inducement in any solicitation. [1983 c 106 § 9.]

**48.46.320 Dependent children, termination of coverage, conditions.** Any health maintenance agreement which provides that coverage of a dependent child shall terminate upon attainment of the limiting age for dependent children specified in the agreement shall also provide in substance that attainment of such limiting age shall not operate to terminate the coverage of such child while the child is and continues to be both: (1) Incapable of self-sustaining employment by reason of developmental disability or physical handicap; and (2) chiefly dependent upon the subscriber for support and maintenance, if proof of such incapacity and dependency is furnished to the health maintenance organization by the enrolled participant within thirty-one days of the child's attainment of the limiting age and subsequently as required by the health maintenance organization but not more frequently than annually after the two-year period following the child's attainment of the limiting age. [1985 c 320 § 6; 1983 c 106 § 10.]

**48.46.340 Return of agreement within ten days.** Every subscriber of an individual health maintenance agreement may return the agreement to the health maintenance organization or the agent through whom it was purchased within ten days of its delivery to the subscriber if, after examination of the agreement, the subscriber is not satisfied with it for any reason. The health maintenance

organization shall refund promptly any fee paid for the agreement. Upon such return of the agreement, it shall be void from the beginning and the parties shall be in the same position as if no agreement had been issued. Notice of the substance of this section shall be printed on the face of each such agreement or be attached thereto. [1983 c 106 § 12.]

**48.46.350 Chemical dependency treatment.** Each group agreement for health care services that is delivered or issued for delivery or renewed on or after January 1, 1988, shall contain provisions providing benefits for the treatment of chemical dependency rendered to covered persons by a provider which is an "approved treatment facility or program" under \*RCW 70.96A.020(3): PROVIDED, That this section does not apply to any agreement written as supplemental coverage to any federal or state programs of health care including, but not limited to, Title XVIII health insurance for the aged (commonly referred to as Medicare, Parts A&B), and amendments thereto. Treatment shall be covered under the chemical dependency coverage if treatment is rendered by the health maintenance organization or if the health maintenance organization refers the enrolled participant or the enrolled participant's dependents to a physician licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW, or to a qualified counselor employed by an approved treatment facility or program described in \*RCW 70.96A.020(3). In all cases, a health maintenance organization shall retain the right to diagnose the presence of chemical dependency and select the modality of treatment that best serves the interest of the health maintenance organization's enrolled participant, or the enrolled participant's covered dependent. [1990 1st ex.s. c 3 § 14; 1987 c 458 § 18; 1983 c 106 § 13.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 70.96A.020(3) defines "approved treatment program."

**Effective date—Severability—1987 c 458:** See notes following RCW 48.21.160.

*Chemical dependency benefits, rules:* RCW 48.21.197.

**48.46.355 "Chemical dependency" defined.** For the purposes of RCW 48.46.350, "chemical dependency" means an illness characterized by a physiological or psychological dependency, or both, on a controlled substance regulated under chapter 69.50 RCW and/or alcoholic beverages. It is further characterized by a frequent or intense pattern of pathological use to the extent the user exhibits a loss of self-control over the amount and circumstances of use; develops symptoms of tolerance or physiological and/or psychological withdrawal if use of the controlled substance or alcoholic beverage is reduced or discontinued; and the user's health is substantially impaired or endangered or his or her social or economic function is substantially disrupted. [1987 c 458 § 19.]

**Effective date—Severability—1987 c 458:** See notes following RCW 48.21.160.

**48.46.360 Payment of cost of agreement directly to holder during labor dispute—Changes restricted—Notice to employee.** Any employee whose compensation includes a health maintenance agreement, the cost of which is paid in full or in part by an employer including the state of Washington, its political subdivisions, or municipal corporations,

or paid by payroll deduction, may pay the cost as it becomes due directly to the agreement holder whenever the employee's compensation is suspended or terminated directly or indirectly as a result of a strike, lockout, or other labor dispute, for a period not exceeding six months and at the rate and coverages as the health maintenance agreement provides. During that period of time, such agreement may not be altered or changed. Nothing in this section impairs the right of the health maintenance organization to make normal decreases or increases in the cost of the health maintenance agreement upon expiration and renewal of the agreement, in accordance with the agreement. Thereafter, if such health maintenance agreement is no longer available, the employee shall be given the opportunity to convert as specified in RCW 48.46.450 and 48.46.460. When the employee's compensation is so suspended or terminated, the employee shall be notified immediately by the agreement holder in writing, by mail addressed to the address last of record with the agreement holder, that the employee may pay the cost of the health maintenance agreement to the agreement holder as it becomes due as provided in this section. Payment must be made when due or the coverage may be terminated by the health maintenance organization. [1985 c 7 § 116; 1983 c 106 § 14.]

**48.46.370 Coverage not denied for handicap.** No health maintenance organization may deny coverage to a person solely on account of the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical handicap. Nothing in this section may be construed as limiting a health maintenance organization's authority to deny or otherwise limit coverage to a person when the person because of a medical condition does not meet the essential eligibility requirements established by the health maintenance organization for purposes of determining coverage for any person. [1983 c 106 § 15.]

**48.46.375 Benefits for prenatal diagnosis of congenital disorders—Agreements entered into or renewed on or after January 1, 1990.** On or after January 1, 1990, every group health maintenance agreement entered into or renewed that covers hospital, medical, or surgical expenses and which provides benefits for pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions to enrollees of such groups, shall offer benefits for prenatal diagnosis of congenital disorders of the fetus by means of screening and diagnostic procedures during pregnancy to such enrollees when those services are determined to be medically necessary by the health maintenance organization in accord with standards set in rule by the board of health: PROVIDED, That such procedures shall be covered only if rendered directly by the health maintenance organization or upon referral by the health maintenance organization. Every group health maintenance organization shall communicate the availability of such coverage to all groups covered and to all groups with whom they are negotiating. [1988 c 276 § 8.]

*Prenatal testing—Limitation on changes to coverage:* RCW 48.42.090.

**48.46.380 Notice of reason for cancellation, denial, or refusal to renew agreement.** Every authorized health maintenance organization, upon canceling, denying, or refusing to renew any individual health maintenance agree-

ment, shall, upon written request, directly notify in writing the applicant or enrolled participant as appropriate, of the reasons for the action by the health maintenance organization. Any benefits, terms, rates, or conditions of such agreement which are restricted, excluded, modified, increased, or reduced shall, upon written request, be set forth in writing and supplied to the individual. The written communications required by this section shall be phrased in simple language which is readily understandable to a person of average intelligence, education, and reading ability. [1993 c 492 § 291; 1983 c 106 § 16.]

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

**Short title—Severability—Savings—Captions not law—Reservation of legislative power—Effective dates—1993 c 492:** See RCW 43.72.910 through 43.72.915.

**48.46.390 Providing information on cancellation or refusal—No liability for insurance commissioner or health maintenance organization.** With respect to the provisions of health maintenance agreements as set forth in RCW 48.46.380, there shall be no liability on the part of, and no cause of action of any nature shall arise against, the insurance commissioner, the commissioner's agents, or members of the commissioner's staff, or against any health maintenance organization, its authorized representative, its agents, its employees, for providing to the health maintenance organization information as to reasons for cancellation or refusal to issue or renew, for libel or slander on the basis of any statement made by any of them in any written notice of cancellation or refusal to issue or renew, or in any other communications, oral or written, specifying the reasons for cancellation or refusal to issue or renew or the providing of information pertaining thereto, or for statements made or evidence submitted in any hearing conducted in connection therewith. [1983 c 106 § 17.]

**48.46.400 False or misleading advertising prohibited.** No person may knowingly make, publish, or disseminate any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or advertising in the conduct of the business of a health maintenance organization, or relative to the business of a health maintenance organization or to any person engaged therein. [1983 c 106 § 18.]

**48.46.410 Misrepresentations to induce termination or retention of agreement prohibited.** No health maintenance organization nor any person representing a health maintenance organization may by misrepresentation or misleading comparisons induce or attempt to induce any member of a health maintenance organization to terminate or retain an agreement or membership in the organization. [1983 c 106 § 19.]

**48.46.420 Penalty for violations.** (1) Any health maintenance organization which, or person who, violates any provision of this chapter shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

(2) A health maintenance organization that fails to comply with the net worth requirements of this chapter must cure that defect in compliance with an order of the commissioner rendered in conformity with rules adopted pursuant to

chapter 34.05 RCW. The commissioner is authorized to take appropriate action to assure that the continued operation of the health maintenance organization will not be hazardous to its enrolled participants. [1990 c 119 § 10; 1983 c 106 § 20.]

**48.46.430 Enforcement authority of commissioner.** For the purposes of this chapter, the insurance commissioner shall have the same powers and duties of enforcement as are provided in RCW 48.02.080. [1983 c 106 § 21.]

**48.46.440 Continuation option to be offered.** Every health maintenance organization that issues agreements providing group coverage for hospital or medical care shall offer the agreement holder an option to include an agreement provision granting a person who becomes ineligible for coverage under the group agreement, the right to continue the group benefits for a period of time and at a rate agreed upon. The agreement provision shall provide that when such coverage terminates the covered person may convert to an agreement as provided in RCW 48.46.450. [1984 c 190 § 8.]

**Legislative intent—Application—Severability—1984 c 190:** See notes following RCW 48.21.250.

**48.46.450 Conversion agreement to be offered—Exceptions, conditions.** (1) Except as otherwise provided by this section, any group health maintenance agreement entered into or renewed on or after January 1, 1985, that provides benefits for hospital or medical care shall contain a provision granting a person covered by the group agreement the right to obtain a conversion agreement from the health maintenance organization upon termination of the person's eligibility for coverage under the group agreement.

(2) A health maintenance organization need not offer a conversion agreement to:

(a) A person whose coverage under the group agreement ended when the person's employment or membership was terminated for misconduct: PROVIDED, That when a person's employment or membership is terminated for misconduct, a conversion policy shall be offered to the spouse and/or dependents of the terminated employee or member. The policy shall include in the conversion provisions the same conversion rights and conditions which are available to employees or members and their spouses and/or dependents who are terminated for reasons other than misconduct;

(b) A person who is eligible for federal Medicare coverage; or

(c) A person who is covered under another group plan, policy, contract, or agreement providing benefits for hospital or medical care.

(3) To obtain the conversion agreement, a person must submit a written application and the first premium payment for the conversion agreement not later than thirty-one days after the date the person's eligibility for group coverage terminates. The conversion agreement shall become effective without lapse of coverage, immediately following termination of coverage under the group agreement.

(4) If a health maintenance organization or group agreement holder does not renew, cancels, or otherwise



terminates the group agreement, the health maintenance organization shall offer a conversion agreement to any person who was covered under the terminated agreement unless the person is eligible to obtain group benefits for hospital or medical care within thirty-one days after such nonrenewal, cancellation, or termination of the group agreement.

(5) The health maintenance organization shall determine the premium for the conversion agreement in accordance with the organization's table of premium rates applicable to the age and class of risk of each person to be covered under the agreement and the type and amount of benefits provided. [1984 c 190 § 9.]

**Legislative intent—Severability—1984 c 190:** See notes following RCW 48.21.250.

**48.46.460 Conversion agreement—Restrictions and requirements.** (1) A health maintenance organization must offer a conversion agreement for comprehensive health care services and shall not require proof of insurability as a condition for issuance of the conversion agreement.

(2) A conversion agreement may not contain an exclusion for preexisting conditions except to the extent that a waiting period for a preexisting condition has not been satisfied under the group agreement.

(3) A conversion agreement need not provide benefits identical to those provided under the group agreement. The conversion agreement may contain provisions requiring the person covered by the conversion agreement to pay reasonable deductibles and copayments.

(4) The insurance commissioner shall adopt rules to establish minimum benefit standards for conversion agreements.

(5) The commissioner shall adopt rules to establish specific standards for conversion agreement provisions. These rules may include but are not limited to:

- (a) Terms of renewability;
- (b) Nonduplication of coverage;
- (c) Benefit limitations, exceptions, and reductions; and
- (d) Definitions of terms. [1984 c 190 § 10.]

**Legislative intent—Severability—1984 c 190:** See notes following RCW 48.21.250.

**48.46.470 Endorsement of modifications.** If an individual health care service agreement is issued on any basis other than as applied for, an endorsement setting forth such modification must accompany and be attached to the agreement. No agreement shall be effective unless the endorsement is signed by the applicant, and a signed copy thereof returned to the health maintenance organization. [1985 c 320 § 7.]

**48.46.480 Continuation of coverage of former family members.** Every health care service agreement issued, amended, or renewed after January 1, 1986, for an individual and his or her dependents shall contain provisions to assure that the covered spouse and/or dependents, in the event that any cease to be a qualified family member by reason of termination of marriage or death of the principal enrollee, shall have the right to continue the health maintenance

agreement without a physical examination, statement of health, or other proof of insurability. [1985 c 320 § 8.]

**48.46.490 Coverage for adopted children.** (1) Any health maintenance agreement under this chapter which provides coverage for dependent children, as defined in the agreement of the enrolled participant, shall cover adoptive children placed with the enrolled participant on the same basis as other dependents, as provided in RCW 48.01.180.

(2) If payment of an additional premium is required to provide coverage for a child, the agreement may require that notification of placement of a child for adoption and payment of the required premium must be furnished to the health maintenance organization. The notification period shall be no less than sixty days from the date of placement. [1986 c 140 § 5.]

**Effective date, application—Severability—1986 c 140:** See notes following RCW 48.01.180.

**48.46.500 Cancellation of rider.** Upon application by an enrollee, a rider shall be canceled if at least five years after its issuance, no health care services have been received by the enrollee during that time for the condition specified in the rider, and a physician, selected by the carrier for that purpose, agrees in writing to the full medical recovery of the enrollee from that condition, such agreement not to be unreasonably withheld. The option of the enrollee to apply for cancellation shall be disclosed on the face of the rider in clear and conspicuous language.

For purposes of this section, a rider is a legal document that modifies a contract to exclude, limit, or reduce coverage or benefits for specifically named or described preexisting diseases or physical conditions. [1987 c 37 § 4.]

**48.46.510 Phenylketonuria.** (1) The legislature finds that:

(a) Phenylketonuria is a rare inherited genetic disorder.  
 (b) Children with phenylketonuria are unable to metabolize an essential amino acid, phenylalanine, which is found in the proteins of most food.

(c) To remain healthy, children with phenylketonuria must maintain a strict diet and ingest a mineral and vitamin-enriched formula.

(d) Children who do not maintain their diets with the formula acquire severe mental and physical difficulties.

(e) Originally, the formulas were listed as prescription drugs but were reclassified as medical foods to increase their availability.

(2) Subject to requirements and exceptions which may be established by rules adopted by the commissioner, any agreement for health care services delivered or issued for delivery or renewed in this state on or after September 1, 1988, shall provide coverage for the formulas necessary for the treatment of phenylketonuria. Such formulas shall be covered when deemed medically necessary by the medical director or his or her designee of the health maintenance organization and if provided by the health maintenance organization or upon the health maintenance organization's referral. Formulas shall be covered at the usual and customary rates for such formulas, subject to contract provisions

with respect to deductible amounts or co-payments. [1988 c 173 § 4.]

**48.46.520 Neurodevelopmental therapies—Employer-sponsored group contracts.** (1) Each employer-sponsored group contract for comprehensive health care service which is entered into, or renewed, on or after twelve months after July 23, 1989, shall include coverage for neurodevelopmental therapies for covered individuals age six and under.

(2) Benefits provided under this section shall cover the services of those authorized to deliver occupational therapy, speech therapy, and physical therapy. Covered benefits and treatment must be rendered or referred by the health maintenance organization, and delivered pursuant to the referral and periodic review of a holder of a license issued pursuant to chapter 18.71 or 18.57 RCW or where treatment is rendered by such licensee. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a health maintenance organization from negotiating rates with qualified providers.

(3) Benefits provided under this section shall be for medically necessary services as determined by the health maintenance organization. Benefits shall be provided for the maintenance of a covered enrollee in cases where significant deterioration in the patient's condition would result without the service. Benefits shall be provided to restore and improve function.

(4) It is the intent of this section that employers purchasing comprehensive group coverage including the benefits required by this section, together with the health maintenance organization, retain authority to design and employ utilization and cost controls. Therefore, benefits provided under this section may be subject to contractual provisions regarding deductible amounts and/or copayments established by the employer purchasing coverage and the health maintenance organization. Benefits provided under this section may be subject to standard waiting periods for preexisting conditions, and may be subject to the submission of written treatment plans.

(5) In recognition of the intent expressed in subsection (4) of this section, benefits provided under this section may be subject to contractual provisions establishing annual and/or lifetime benefit limits. Such limits may define the total dollar benefits available, or may limit the number of services delivered as agreed by the employer purchasing coverage and the health maintenance organization. [1989 c 345 § 3.]

**48.46.530 Temporomandibular joint disorders—Insurance coverage.** (1) Except as provided in this section, a health maintenance agreement entered into or renewed after December 31, 1989, shall offer optional coverage for the treatment of temporomandibular joint disorders.

(a) Health maintenance organizations offering medical coverage only may limit benefits in such coverages to medical services related to treatment of temporomandibular joint disorders. No health maintenance organizations offering medical and dental coverage may limit benefits in such coverage to dental services related to treatment of temporomandibular joint disorders. No health maintenance

organization offering medical coverage only may define all temporomandibular joint disorders as purely dental in nature.

(b) Health maintenance organizations offering optional temporomandibular joint disorder coverage as provided in this section may, but are not required to, offer lesser or no temporomandibular joint disorder coverage as part of their basic group disability contract.

(c) Benefits and coverage offered under this section may be subject to negotiation to promote broad flexibility in potential benefit coverage. This flexibility shall apply to services to be reimbursed, determination of treatments to be considered medically necessary, systems through which services are to be provided, including referral systems and use of other providers, and related issues.

(2) Unless otherwise directed by law, the insurance commissioner shall adopt rules, to be implemented on January 1, 1993, establishing minimum benefits, terms, definitions, conditions, limitations, and provisions for the use of reasonable deductibles and copayments.

(3) A health maintenance organization need not make the offer of coverage required by this section to an employer or other group that offers to its eligible enrollees a self-insured health plan not subject to mandated benefit statutes under Title 48 RCW that does not provide coverage for temporomandibular joint disorders. [1989 c 331 § 4.]

**Legislative finding—Effective date—1989 c 331:** See notes following RCW 48.21.320.

**48.46.535 Prescriptions—Preapproval of individual claims—Subsequent rejection prohibited—Written record required.** Health maintenance organizations who through an authorized representative have first approved, by any means, an individual prescription claim as eligible may not reject that claim at some later date. Pharmacists or drug dispensing outlets who obtain preapproval of claims shall keep a written record of the preapproval that consists of identification by name and telephone number of the person who approved the claim. [1993 c 253 § 5.]

**Findings—Effective date—1993 c 253:** See notes following RCW 48.20.525.

**48.46.540 Nonresident pharmacies.** For the purposes of this chapter, a nonresident pharmacy is defined as any pharmacy located outside this state that ships, mails, or delivers, in any manner, except when delivered in person to an enrolled participant or his/her representative, controlled substances, legend drugs, or devices into this state.

After October 1, 1991, a health maintenance organization providing coverage of prescription drugs from nonresident pharmacies may only provide coverage from licensed nonresident pharmacies. The health maintenance organizations shall obtain proof of current licensure in conformity with this section and RCW 18.64.350 through 18.64.400 from the nonresident pharmacy and keep that proof of licensure on file.

The department may request from the health maintenance organization the proof of current licensure for all nonresident pharmacies through which the insurer is providing coverage for prescription drugs for residents of the state of Washington. This information, which may constitute a full or partial customer list, shall be confidential and

exempt from public disclosure, and from the requirements of chapter 42.17 RCW. The board or the department shall not be restricted in the disclosure of the name of a nonresident pharmacy that is or has been licensed under RCW 18.64.360 or 18.64.370 or of the identity of a nonresident pharmacy disciplined under RCW 18.64.350 through 18.64.400. [1991 c 87 § 10.]

**Effective date—1991 c 87:** See note following RCW 18.64.350.

**48.46.570 Denturist services.** Notwithstanding any provision of any health maintenance organization agreement covering dental care as provided for in this chapter, effective January 1, 1995, benefits shall not be denied thereunder for any service performed by a denturist licensed under chapter 18.30 RCW if (1) the service performed was within the lawful scope of such person's license, and (2) such agreement would have provided benefits if such service had been performed by a dentist licensed under chapter 18.32 RCW. [1995 c 1 § 25 (Initiative Measure No. 607, approved November 8, 1994).]

**Short title—Severability—1995 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 607):** See RCW 18.30.900 and 18.30.901.

**48.46.575 Doctor of osteopathic medicine and surgery—Discrimination based on board certification is prohibited.** A health maintenance organization that provides health care services to the general public may not discriminate against a qualified doctor of osteopathic medicine and surgery licensed under chapter 18.57 RCW, who has applied to practice with the health maintenance organization, solely because that practitioner was board certified or eligible under an approved osteopathic certifying board instead of board certified or eligible respectively under an approved medical certifying board. [1995 c 64 § 1.]

**48.46.600 Disclosure of certain material transactions—Report—Information is confidential.** (1) Every health maintenance organization domiciled in this state shall file a report with the commissioner disclosing material acquisitions and dispositions of assets or material nonrenewals, cancellations, or revisions of ceded reinsurance agreements unless these acquisitions and dispositions of assets or material nonrenewals, cancellations, or revisions of ceded reinsurance agreements have been submitted to the commissioner for review, approval, or information purposes under other provisions of this title or other requirements.

(2) The report required in subsection (1) of this section is due within fifteen days after the end of the calendar month in which any of the transactions occur.

(3) One complete copy of the report, including any exhibits or other attachments filed as part of the report, shall be filed with the:

- (a) Commissioner; and
- (b) National association of insurance commissioners.

(4) All reports obtained by or disclosed to the commissioner under this section and RCW 48.46.605 through 48.46.625 are exempt from public inspection and copying and shall not be subject to subpoena. These reports shall not be made public by the commissioner, the national association of insurance commissioners, or any other person, except to insurance departments of other states, without the prior

written consent of the health maintenance organization to which it pertains unless the commissioner, after giving the health maintenance organization that would be affected by disclosure notice and a hearing under chapter 48.04 RCW, determines that the interest of policyholders, subscribers, shareholders, or the public will be served by the publication, in which event the commissioner may publish all or any part of the report in the manner he or she deems appropriate. [1995 c 86 § 19.]

**48.46.605 Material acquisitions or dispositions.** No acquisitions or dispositions of assets need be reported pursuant to RCW 48.46.600 if the acquisitions or dispositions are not material. For purposes of RCW 48.46.600 through 48.46.625, a material acquisition, or the aggregate of any series of related acquisitions during any thirty-day period; or disposition, or the aggregate of any series of related dispositions during any thirty-day period is an acquisition or disposition that is nonrecurring and not in the ordinary course of business and involves more than five percent of the reporting health maintenance organization's total assets as reported in its most recent statutory statement filed with the commissioner. [1995 c 86 § 20.]

**48.46.610 Asset acquisitions—Asset dispositions.** (1) Asset acquisitions subject to RCW 48.46.600 through 48.46.625 include every purchase, lease, exchange, merger, consolidation, succession, or other acquisition other than the construction or development of real property by or for the reporting health maintenance organization or the acquisition of materials for such purpose.

(2) Asset dispositions subject to RCW 48.46.600 through 48.46.625 include every sale, lease, exchange, merger, consolidation, mortgage, hypothecation, abandonment, destruction, other disposition, or assignment, whether for the benefit of creditors or otherwise. [1995 c 86 § 21.]

**48.46.615 Report of a material acquisition or disposition of assets—Information required.** The following information is required to be disclosed in any report of a material acquisition or disposition of assets:

- (1) Date of the transaction;
- (2) Manner of acquisition or disposition;
- (3) Description of the assets involved;
- (4) Nature and amount of the consideration given or received;
- (5) Purpose of or reason for the transaction;
- (6) Manner by which the amount of consideration was determined;
- (7) Gain or loss recognized or realized as a result of the transaction; and
- (8) Names of the persons from whom the assets were acquired or to whom they were disposed. [1995 c 86 § 22.]

**48.46.620 Material nonrenewals, cancellations, or revisions of ceded reinsurance agreements.** (1) No nonrenewals, cancellations, or revisions of ceded reinsurance agreements need be reported under RCW 48.46.600 if the nonrenewals, cancellations, or revisions are not material. For purposes of RCW 48.46.600 through 48.46.625, a

material nonrenewal, cancellation, or revision is one that affects:

(a) More than fifty percent of a health maintenance organization's total reserve credit taken for business ceded, on an annualized basis, as indicated in the health maintenance organization's most recent annual statement;

(b) More than ten percent of a health maintenance organization's total cession when it is replaced by one or more unauthorized reinsurers; or

(c) Previously established collateral requirements, when they have been reduced or waived as respects one or more unauthorized reinsurers representing collectively more than ten percent of a total cession.

(2) However, a filing is not required if a health maintenance organization's total reserve credit taken for business ceded represents, on an annualized basis, less than ten percent of the statutory reserve requirement prior to any cession. [1995 c 86 § 23.]

**48.46.625 Report of a material nonrenewal, cancellation, or revision of ceded reinsurance agreements—Information required.** The following is required to be disclosed in any report of a material nonrenewal, cancellation, or revision of ceded reinsurance agreements:

(1) The effective date of the nonrenewal, cancellation or revision;

(2) The description of the transaction with an identification of the initiator;

(3) The purpose of or reason for the transaction; and

(4) If applicable, the identity of the replacement reinsurers. [1995 c 86 § 24.]

**48.46.900 Liberal construction.** It is intended that the provisions of this chapter shall be liberally construed to accomplish the purposes provided for and authorized herein. [1975 1st ex.s. c 290 § 24.]

**48.46.910 Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 290.** If any provision of this 1975 amendatory act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1975 1st ex.s. c 290 § 26.]

**48.46.920 Short title.** This 1975 amendatory act may be known and cited as "The Washington Health Maintenance Organization Act of 1975". [1975 1st ex.s. c 290 § 27.]

## Chapter 48.48

### STATE FIRE PROTECTION

(Formerly: State fire marshal)

#### Sections

48.48.030	Examination of premises.
48.48.040	Standards of safety.
48.48.045	Schools—Standards for fire prevention and safety—Plan reviews and construction inspections.
48.48.050	Removal of fire hazards—Appeal of order—Penalty.
48.48.060	Reports and investigation of fires—Police powers.
48.48.065	Statistical information and reports.

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48.48.080	Criminal prosecutions.
48.48.090	Record of fires.
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48.48.140	Smoke detection devices in dwelling units—Penalty.
48.48.150	Premises with guard animals—Registration, posting—Acts permitted fire fighters—Liability for injury to fire fighters.

*Director of fire protection, state fire protection policy board:* RCW 43.43.932, 43.43.938.

*Duties of chief of the Washington state patrol and director of fire protection:*

*agencies for care of children, expectant mothers, developmentally disabled:* RCW 74.15.050.

*maternity homes:* RCW 18.46.110.

*nursing homes:* RCW 18.51.140.

*public fireworks displays:* RCW 70.77.250.

*Fire protection districts:* Title 52 RCW.

*Safety requirements as to doors, public buildings, and places of entertainment:* RCW 70.54.070.

*Transient accommodations, adoption of rules:* RCW 70.62.290.

**48.48.030 Examination of premises.** (1) The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection or his or her authorized deputy, shall have authority at all times of day and night, in the performance of duties imposed by this chapter, to enter upon and examine any building or premises where any fire has occurred and other buildings and premises adjoining or near thereto.

(2) The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection or his or her authorized deputy, shall have authority at any reasonable hour to enter into any public building or premises or any building or premises used for public purposes to inspect for fire hazards. [1995 c 369 § 25; 1986 c 266 § 67; 1985 c 470 § 17; 1947 c 79 § .33.03; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.33.03.]

**Effective date—1995 c 369:** See note following RCW 43.43.930.

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**Severability—1985 c 470:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1985 c 470 § 38.]

**Effective date—1985 c 470:** "This act shall take effect on January 1, 1986." [1985 c 470 § 40.]

**48.48.040 Standards of safety.** (1) The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection or his or her authorized deputy, shall have authority to enter upon all premises and into all buildings except private dwellings for the purpose of inspection to ascertain if any fire hazard exists, and to require conformance with minimum standards for the prevention of fire and for the protection of life and property against fire and panic as to use of premises, and may adopt by reference nationally recognized standards applicable to local conditions.

(2) The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection or his or her authorized deputy, may, upon request by the chief fire official or the local governing body or of taxpayers of such area, assist in the enforcement of any such code. [1995 c 369 § 26; 1986 c 266 § 68; 1985 c 470 § 18; 1947 c 79 § .33.04; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.33.04.]

**Effective date—1995 c 369:** See note following RCW 43.43.930.

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**Severability—Effective date—1985 c 470:** See notes following RCW 48.48.030.

**48.48.045 Schools—Standards for fire prevention and safety—Plan reviews and construction inspections.** Nonconstruction standards relative to fire prevention and safety for all schools under the jurisdiction of the superintendent of public instruction and state board of education shall be established by the state fire protection board. The director of fire protection shall make or cause to be made plan reviews and construction inspections for all E-1 occupancies as may be necessary to insure compliance with the state building code and standards for schools adopted under chapter 19.27 RCW. Nothing in this section prohibits the director of fire protection from delegating construction inspection authority to any local jurisdiction. [1991 c 170 § 2; 1986 c 266 § 69; 1985 c 470 § 19; 1981 c 198 § 3; 1972 ex.s. c 70 § 1.]

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**Severability—Effective date—1985 c 470:** See notes following RCW 48.48.030.

**48.48.050 Removal of fire hazards—Appeal of order—Penalty.** (1) If the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection or his or her authorized deputy, finds in any building or premises subject to their inspection under this chapter, any combustible material or flammable conditions or fire hazards dangerous to the safety of the building, premises, or to the public, he or she shall by written order require such condition to be remedied, and such order shall forthwith be complied with by the owner or occupant of the building or premises.

(2) An owner or occupant aggrieved by any such order made by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection or his or her deputy, may appeal such order pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW. If the order is confirmed, the order shall remain in force and be complied with by the owner or occupant.

(3) Any owner or occupant failing to comply with any such order not appealed from or with any order so confirmed shall be punishable by a fine of not less than ten dollars nor more than fifty dollars for each day such failure exists. [1995 c 369 § 27; 1986 c 266 § 70; 1985 c 470 § 20; 1947 c 79 § .33.05; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.33.05.]

**Effective date—1995 c 369:** See note following RCW 43.43.930.

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**Severability—Effective date—1985 c 470:** See notes following RCW 48.48.030.

**48.48.060 Reports and investigation of fires—Police powers.** (1) The responsibility for investigating the origin, cause, circumstances, and extent of loss of all fires shall be assigned as follows:

(a) Within any city or town, the chief of the fire department;

(b) Within unincorporated areas of a county, the county fire marshal, or other fire official so designated by the county legislative authority.

(2) No fire marshal, or other person, may enter the scene of an emergency until permitted by the officer in charge of the emergency incident.

(3) Nothing shall prevent any city, town, county, or fire protection district, or any combination thereof, from entering into interlocal agreements to meet the responsibility required by this section.

(4) When any fire investigation indicates that the cause of the fire is determined to be suspicious or criminal in nature, the person responsible for the fire investigation shall immediately report the results of said investigation to the local law enforcement agency and the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the state fire marshal.

(5) In addition to the responsibility imposed by this section, any law enforcement agency, sheriff, or chief of police may assist in the investigation of the origin, cause, circumstances, and extent of loss of all fires within his or her respective jurisdiction.

(6) The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection or his or her deputy, may investigate any fire for the purpose of determining its cause, origin, and the extent of the loss. The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection or his or her deputy, shall assist in the investigation of those fires of criminal, suspected, or undetermined cause when requested by the reporting agency. In the investigation of any fire of criminal, suspected, or undetermined cause, the chief of the Washington state patrol and the director of fire protection or his or her deputy, are vested with police powers to enforce the laws of this state. To exercise these powers, authorized deputies must receive prior written authorization from the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, and shall have completed a course of training prescribed by the Washington state criminal justice training commission. [1996 c 161 § 1; 1995 c 369 § 28; 1986 c 266 § 71; 1985 c 470 § 21; 1981 c 104 § 1; 1980 c 181 § 1; 1947 c 79 § .33.06; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.33.06.]

**Effective date—1995 c 369:** See note following RCW 43.43.930.

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**Severability—Effective date—1985 c 470:** See notes following RCW 48.48.030.

**48.48.065 Statistical information and reports.** (1) The chief of each organized fire department, or the sheriff or other designated county official having jurisdiction over areas not within the jurisdiction of any fire department, shall report statistical information and data to the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, on each fire occurring within the official's jurisdiction. Reports shall be consistent with the national fire incident reporting system developed by the United States fire administration and rules established by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection. The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, and the department of natural resources shall jointly determine the statistical information to be reported on fires on land under the jurisdiction of the department of natural resources.

(2) The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, shall analyze the information and data reported, compile a report, and distribute a copy annually by May 1st to each chief fire official in the state. Upon request, the chief of the Washington state patrol,

through the director of fire protection, shall also furnish a copy of the report to any other interested person at cost.

(3) In carrying out the duties relating to collecting, analyzing, and reporting statistical fire data, the fire protection policy board may purchase statistical fire data from a qualified individual or organization. The information shall meet the diverse needs of state and local fire reporting agencies and shall be (a) defined in understandable terms of common usage in the fire community; (b) adaptable to the varying levels of resources available; (c) maintained in a manner that will foster both technical support and resource sharing; and (d) designed to meet both short and long-term needs. [1995 c 369 § 29; 1986 c 266 § 72; 1985 c 470 § 22; 1980 c 181 § 2.]

**Effective date—1995 c 369:** See note following RCW 43.43.930.

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**Severability—Effective date—1985 c 470:** See notes following RCW 48.48.030.

**48.48.070 Examination of witnesses.** In the conduct of any investigation into the cause, origin, or loss resulting from any fire, the chief of the Washington state patrol and the director of fire protection shall have the same power and rights relative to securing the attendance of witnesses and the taking of testimony under oath as is conferred upon the insurance commissioner under RCW 48.03.070. False swearing by any such witness shall be deemed to be perjury and shall be subject to punishment as such. [1995 c 369 § 30; 1986 c 266 § 73; 1985 c 470 § 23; 1947 c 79 § .33.07; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.33.07.]

**Effective date—1995 c 369:** See note following RCW 43.43.930.

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**Severability—Effective date—1985 c 470:** See notes following RCW 48.48.030.

**48.48.080 Criminal prosecutions.** If as the result of any such investigation, or because of any information received, the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, is of the opinion that there is evidence sufficient to charge any person with any crime, he or she may cause such person to be arrested and charged with such offense, and shall furnish to the prosecuting attorney of the county in which the offense was committed, the names of witnesses and all pertinent and material evidence and testimony within his or her possession relative to the offense. [1995 c 369 § 31; 1986 c 266 § 74; 1985 c 470 § 24; 1947 c 79 § .33.08; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.33.08.]

**Effective date—1995 c 369:** See note following RCW 43.43.930.

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**Severability—Effective date—1985 c 470:** See notes following RCW 48.48.030.

**48.48.090 Record of fires.** The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, shall keep on file all reports of fires made to him or her pursuant to this code. Such records shall at all times during business hours be open to public inspection; except, that any testimony taken in a fire investigation may, in the discretion of the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, be withheld from public scrutiny. The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of

fire protection, may destroy any such report after five years from its date. [1995 c 369 § 32; 1986 c 266 § 75; 1985 c 470 § 25; 1947 c 79 § .33.09; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.33.09.]

**Effective date—1995 c 369:** See note following RCW 43.43.930.

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**Severability—Effective date—1985 c 470:** See notes following RCW 48.48.030.

**48.48.110 Annual report.** The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, shall submit annually a report to the governor of this state. The report shall contain a statement of his or her official acts pursuant to this chapter. [1995 c 369 § 33; 1986 c 266 § 76; 1985 c 470 § 26; 1977 c 75 § 71; 1947 c 79 § .33.11; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.33.11.]

**Effective date—1995 c 369:** See note following RCW 43.43.930.

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**Severability—Effective date—1985 c 470:** See notes following RCW 48.48.030.

**48.48.140 Smoke detection devices in dwelling units—Penalty.** (1) Smoke detection devices shall be installed inside all dwelling units:

(a) Occupied by persons other than the owner on and after December 31, 1981; or

(b) Built or manufactured in this state after December 31, 1980.

(2) The smoke detection devices shall be designed, manufactured, and installed inside dwelling units in conformance with:

(a) Nationally accepted standards; and

(b) As provided by the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW, rules and regulations promulgated by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection.

(3) Installation of smoke detection devices shall be the responsibility of the owner. Maintenance of smoke detection devices, including the replacement of batteries where required for the proper operation of the smoke detection device, shall be the responsibility of the tenant, who shall maintain the device as specified by the manufacturer. At the time of a vacancy, the owner shall insure that the smoke detection device is operational prior to the reoccupancy of the dwelling unit.

(4) Any owner or tenant failing to comply with this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than two hundred dollars.

(5) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Dwelling unit" means a single unit providing complete, independent living facilities for one or more persons including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation; and

(b) "Smoke detection device" means an assembly incorporating in one unit a device which detects visible or invisible particles of combustion, the control equipment, and the alarm-sounding device, operated from a power supply either in the unit or obtained at the point of installation. [1995 c 369 § 34; 1991 c 154 § 1; 1986 c 266 § 89; 1980 c 50 § 1.]

**Effective date—1995 c 369:** See note following RCW 43.43.930.

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**48.48.150 Premises with guard animals—Registration, posting—Acts permitted fire fighters—Liability for injury to fire fighters.** (1) All premises guarded by guard animals, which are animals professionally trained to defend and protect premises or the occupants of the premises, shall be registered with the local fire department. Front entrances to residences and all entrances to business premises shall be posted in a visible location with signs approved by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, indicating that guard animals are present.

(2) A fire fighter, who reasonably believes that his or her safety is endangered by the presence of a guard animal, may without liability: (a) Refuse to enter the premises, or (b) take any reasonable action necessary to protect himself or herself from attack by the guard animal.

(3) If the person responsible for the guard animal being on the premises does not comply with subsection (1) of this section, that person may be held liable for any injury to the fire fighter caused by the presence of the guard animal. [1995 c 369 § 35; 1986 c 266 § 90; 1983 c 258 § 1.]

**Effective date—1995 c 369:** See note following RCW 43.43.930.

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

## Chapter 48.50

### INSURANCE FRAUD REPORTING IMMUNITY ACT

(Formerly: Arson reporting immunity act)

#### Sections

48.50.010	Short title.
48.50.020	Definitions ( <i>as amended by 1995 c 285</i> ).
48.50.020	Definitions ( <i>as amended by 1995 c 369</i> ).
48.50.030	Release of information or evidence by insurer.
48.50.040	Notification by insurer ( <i>as amended by 1995 c 285</i> ).
48.50.040	Notification by insurer ( <i>as amended by 1995 c 369</i> ).
48.50.050	Release of information by authorized agencies.
48.50.070	Immunity from liability for releasing information.
48.50.075	Immunity from liability for denying claim based on written opinion of authorized agency.
48.50.090	Local ordinances not preempted.
48.50.900	Severability—1979 ex.s. c 80.

**48.50.010 Short title.** This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the Insurance Fraud Reporting Immunity Act. [1995 c 285 § 20; 1979 ex.s. c 80 § 1.]

**Effective date—1995 c 285:** See RCW 48.30A.900.

**48.50.020 Definitions (*as amended by 1995 c 285*).** As used in this chapter the following terms have the meanings indicated unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Authorized agency" means a public agency or its official representative having legal authority to investigate criminal activity or the cause of a fire ~~(and) or to initiate criminal proceedings~~ ~~(or further investigations if the cause was not accidental)~~, including the following persons and agencies:

(a) The ~~(director)~~ department of community, trade, and economic development and the director of fire protection;

(b) The prosecuting attorney of the county where the ~~(fire)~~ criminal activity occurred;

(c) State, county, and local law enforcement agencies;

(d) The state attorney general ~~(when engaged in a prosecution which is or may be connected with the fire);~~

~~((d))~~ (e) The Federal Bureau of Investigation, or any other federal law enforcement agency; ~~(and~~

~~(e))~~ (f) The United States attorney's office ~~(when authorized or charged with investigation or prosecution concerning the fire); and~~

(g) The office of the insurance commissioner.

(2) "Insurer" means any insurer, as defined in RCW 48.01.050 ~~(which insures against loss by fire, and includes insurers under the Washington F.A.I.R. plan)~~ and any self-insurer.

(3) "Relevant information" means information having any tendency to make the existence of any fact that is of consequence to the investigation or determination of criminal activity or the cause of any fire more probable or less probable than it would be without the information. [1995 c 285 § 21; 1986 c 266 § 77; 1985 c 470 § 27; 1979 ex.s. c 80 § 2.]

**Effective date—1995 c 285:** See RCW 48.30A.900.

**48.50.020 Definitions (*as amended by 1995 c 369*).** As used in this chapter the following terms have the meanings indicated unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Authorized agency" means a public agency or its official representative having legal authority to investigate the cause of a fire and to initiate criminal proceedings or further investigations if the cause was not accidental, including the following persons and agencies:

(a) The ~~(director of community development)~~ chief of the Washington state patrol and the director of fire protection;

(b) The prosecuting attorney of the county where the fire occurred;

(c) The state attorney general, when engaged in a prosecution which is or may be connected with the fire;

(d) The Federal Bureau of Investigation, or any other federal agency; and

(e) The United States attorney's office when authorized or charged with investigation or prosecution concerning the fire.

(2) "Insurer" means any insurer, as defined in RCW 48.01.050, which insures against loss by fire, and includes insurers under the Washington F.A.I.R. plan.

(3) "Relevant information" means information having any tendency to make the existence of any fact that is of consequence to the investigation or determination of the cause of any fire more probable or less probable than it would be without the information. [1995 c 369 § 36; 1986 c 266 § 77; 1985 c 470 § 27; 1979 ex.s. c 80 § 2.]

**Reviser's note:** RCW 48.50.020 was amended twice during the 1995 legislative session, each without reference to the other. For rule of construction concerning sections amended more than once during the same legislative session, see RCW 1.12.025.

**Effective date—1995 c 369:** See note following RCW 43.43.930.

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**Severability—Effective date—1985 c 470:** See notes following RCW 48.48.030.

**48.50.030 Release of information or evidence by insurer.** (1) Any authorized agency may request, in writing, that an insurer release to the agency any or all relevant information or evidence which the insurer may have in its possession relating to criminal activity, if such information or evidence is deemed important by the agency in its discretion.

(2) An insurer who has reason to believe that a person participated or is participating in criminal activity relating to a contract of insurance may report relevant information to an authorized agency.

(3) The information provided to an authorized agency under this section may include, without limitation:

(a) Pertinent insurance policy information relating to a claim under investigation and any application for such a policy;

(b) Policy premium payment records which are available;

(c) History of previous claims in which the person was involved; and

(d) Material relating to the investigation of the loss, including statements of any person, proof of loss, and any other evidence found in the investigation.

(4) The insurer receiving a request under subsection (1) of this section shall furnish all relevant information requested to the agency within a reasonable time, orally or in writing. [1995 c 285 § 22; 1979 ex.s. c 80 § 3.]

**Effective date—1995 c 285:** See RCW 48.30A.900.

**48.50.040 Notification by Insurer (as amended by 1995 c 285).** (1) When an insurer has reason to believe that a fire loss reported to the insurer may be of other than accidental cause, the insurer shall notify the (~~director~~) department of community, trade, and economic development, through the director of fire protection, in the manner prescribed under RCW 48.05.320 concerning the circumstances of the fire loss, including any and all relevant material developed from the insurer's inquiry into the fire loss.

(2) Notification of the (~~director~~) department of community, trade, and economic development, through the director of fire protection, under subsection (1) of this section does not relieve the insurer of the duty to respond to a request for information from any other authorized agency and does not bar an insurer from other reporting under RCW 48.50.030(2). [1995 c 285 § 23; 1986 c 266 § 91; 1979 ex.s. c 80 § 4.]

**Effective date—1995 c 285:** See RCW 48.30A.900.

**48.50.040 Notification by insurer (as amended by 1995 c 369).** (1) When an insurer has reason to believe that a fire loss reported to the insurer may be of other than accidental cause, the insurer shall notify the (~~director of community development~~) chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, in the manner prescribed under RCW 48.05.320 concerning the circumstances of the fire loss, including any and all relevant material developed from the insurer's inquiry into the fire loss.

(2) Notification of the (~~director of community development~~) chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, under subsection (1) of this section does not relieve the insurer of the duty to respond to a request for information from any other authorized agency. [1995 c 369 § 37; 1986 c 266 § 91; 1979 ex.s. c 80 § 4.]

**Reviser's note:** RCW 48.50.040 was amended twice during the 1995 legislative session, each without reference to the other. For rule of construction concerning sections amended more than once during the same legislative session, see RCW 1.12.025.

**Effective date—1995 c 369:** See note following RCW 43.43.930.

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**48.50.050 Release of information by authorized agencies.** An authorized agency receiving information under RCW 48.50.030 or 48.50.040 may release or provide such information to any other authorized agencies. [1979 ex.s. c 80 § 5.]

**48.50.070 Immunity from liability for releasing information.** Any licensed insurance agent, any licensed insurance broker, or any insurer or person acting in the insurer's behalf or any authorized agency which releases information, whether oral or written, under RCW 48.50.030, 48.50.040, 48.50.050, or \*48.50.060 shall be immune from liability in any civil or criminal action, suit, or prosecution arising from the release of the information, unless actual malice on the part of the agent, broker, insurer, or authorized agency against the insured is shown. [1980 c 102 § 9; 1979 ex.s. c 80 § 7.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 48.50.060 was repealed by 1995 c 285 § 37, effective July 1, 1995.

**48.50.075 Immunity from liability for denying claim based on written opinion of authorized agency.** In denying a claim, an insurer who relies upon a written

opinion from an authorized agency specifically enumerated in RCW 48.50.020(1) (a) through (g) that criminal activity that is related to that claim is being investigated, or a crime has been charged, and that the claimant is a target of the investigation or has been charged with a crime, is not liable for bad faith or other noncontractual theory of damages as a result of this reliance.

Immunity under this section shall exist only so long as the incident for which the claimant may be responsible is under active investigation or prosecution, or the authorized agency states its position that the claim includes or is a result of criminal activity in which the claimant was a participant. [1995 c 285 § 24; 1981 c 320 § 2.]

**Effective date—1995 c 285:** See RCW 48.30A.900.

**48.50.090 Local ordinances not preempted.** This chapter does not preempt or preclude any county or municipality from enacting ordinances relating to fire prevention or control of arson. [1979 ex.s. c 80 § 9.]

**48.50.900 Severability—1979 ex.s. c 80.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1979 ex.s. c 80 § 11.]

## Chapter 48.53

### FIRE INSURANCE—ARSON FRAUD REDUCTION

#### Sections

48.53.010	Purpose.
48.53.020	Designation of high arson incidence areas and classes of occupancy—Anti-arson application, contents.
48.53.030	Cancellation of policy—Conditions required for.
48.53.040	Cancellation of policy—Procedure.
48.53.050	Issuance or cancellation of policy in violation of chapter.
48.53.060	Adoption of rules.

**48.53.010 Purpose.** It is the purpose of this chapter to reduce the incidence of arson fraud by requiring insurers to obtain specified information prior to issuing a fire insurance policy for certain structures and by authorizing insurers to cancel fire insurance policies when characteristics frequently associated with arson fraud are present. [1982 c 110 § 1.]

**48.53.020 Designation of high arson incidence areas and classes of occupancy—Anti-arson application, contents.** (1) The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, may designate certain classes of occupancy within a geographic area or may designate geographic areas as having an abnormally high incidence of arson. This designation shall not be a valid reason for cancellation, refusal to issue or renew, modification, or increasing the premium for any fire insurance policy.

(2) A fire insurance policy may not be issued to insure any property within a class of occupancy within a geographic area or within a geographic area designated by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, as having an abnormally high incidence of arson



until the applicant has submitted an anti-arson application and the insurer or the insurer's representative has inspected the property. The application shall be prescribed by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, and shall contain but not be limited to the following:

(a) The name and address of the prospective insured and any mortgagees or other parties having an ownership interest in the property to be insured;

(b) The amount of insurance requested and the method of valuation used to establish the amount of insurance;

(c) The dates and selling prices of the property, if any, during the previous three years;

(d) Fire losses exceeding one thousand dollars during the previous five years for property in which the prospective insured held an equity interest or mortgage;

(e) Current corrective orders pertaining to fire, safety, health, building, or construction codes that have not been complied with within the time period or any extension of such time period authorized by the authority issuing such corrective order applicable to the property to be insured;

(f) Present or anticipated occupancy of the structure, and whether a certificate of occupancy has been issued;

(g) Signature and title, if any, of the person submitting the application.

(3) If the facts required to be reported by subsection (2) of this section materially change, the insured shall notify the insurer of any such change within fourteen days.

(4) An anti-arson application is not required for: (a) Fire insurance policies covering one to four-unit owner-occupied residential dwellings; (b) policies existing as of June 10, 1982; or (c) the renewal of these policies.

(5) An anti-arson application shall contain a notice stating: "Designation of a class of occupancy within a geographic area or geographic areas as having an abnormally high incidence of arson shall not be a valid reason for cancellation, refusal to issue or renew, modification, or increasing the premium for any fire insurance policy." [1995 c 369 § 38; 1986 c 266 § 92; 1982 c 110 § 2.]

**Effective date—1995 c 369:** See note following RCW 43.43.930.

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

**48.53.030 Cancellation of policy—Conditions required for.** Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 48.18.290, where two or more of the following conditions exist, an insurer may, under RCW 48.53.040, cancel a fire insurance policy for any structure:

(1) Which, without reasonable explanation, is unoccupied for more than sixty consecutive days, or in which at least sixty-five percent of the rental units are unoccupied for more than one hundred twenty consecutive days unless the structure is maintained for seasonal occupancy or is under construction or repair;

(2) On which, without reasonable explanation, progress toward completion of permanent repairs has not occurred within sixty days after receipt of funds following satisfactory adjustment or adjudication of loss resulting from a fire;

(3) Which, because of its physical condition, is in danger of collapse;

(4) For which, because of its physical condition, a vacation or demolition order has been issued, or which has been declared unsafe in accordance with applicable law;

(5) From which fixed and salvageable items have been removed, indicating an intent to vacate the structure;

(6) For which, without reasonable explanation, heat, water, sewer, and electricity are not furnished for sixty consecutive days; and

(7) Which is not maintained in substantial compliance with fire, safety, and building codes. [1982 c 110 § 3.]

**48.53.040 Cancellation of policy—Procedure.** An insurer may cancel a fire insurance policy when the requirements of RCW 48.53.030 are met only in accordance with the following procedure:

(1) The insurer shall, not less than five days prior to cancellation, issue written notice of cancellation to the insured or the insured's representative in charge of the policy. The notice shall contain at least the following:

(a) The date that the policy will be canceled;

(b) A description of the specific facts justifying the cancellation;

(c) A copy of this chapter; and

(d) The name, title, address, and telephone number of the insurer's employee who may be contacted regarding cancellation of the policy.

(2) The notice required by this section shall be actually delivered or mailed to the insured by certified mail, return receipt requested, and in addition by first class mail. A copy of the notice shall, at the time of delivery or mailing to the insured, or the insured's representative in charge of the policy, be mailed to the insurance commissioner.

(3) The insurer shall also comply with the requirements of RCW 48.18.290 (1)(b), (2) and (3), and shall provide not less than twenty days notice of cancellation to each mortgagee, pledgee, or other person shown by the policy to have an interest in any loss which may occur thereunder except as provided in subsection (1) of this section.

(4) The portion of any premium paid to the insurer on account of the policy, unearned because of the cancellation and in an amount as computed on a pro rata basis, must be actually paid or mailed to the insured or other person entitled thereto as shown by the policy or any endorsement thereon, as soon as possible, and no later than thirty days after the date that the notice of cancellation was issued. [1982 c 110 § 4.]

**48.53.050 Issuance or cancellation of policy in violation of chapter.** (1) Any fire insurance policy issued in violation of this chapter shall not be canceled by the insurer under the procedures authorized by this chapter.

(2) Cancellation of a fire insurance policy in violation of this chapter shall constitute a violation of this title. [1982 c 110 § 5.]

**48.53.060 Adoption of rules.** Rules designating geographic areas or classes of occupancy as having an abnormally high incidence of arson, and any other rules necessary to implement this chapter shall be adopted by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of

fire protection, under chapter 34.05 RCW. [1995 c 369 § 39; 1986 c 266 § 93; 1982 c 110 § 6.]

**Effective date—1995 c 369:** See note following RCW 43.43.930.

**Severability—1986 c 266:** See note following RCW 38.52.005.

### Chapter 48.56

## INSURANCE PREMIUM FINANCE COMPANY ACT

### Sections

48.56.010	Short title.
48.56.020	Definitions.
48.56.030	License—Required—Fee—Information to be furnished—Penalty.
48.56.040	Investigation of applicant—Qualifications—Hearing.
48.56.050	Revocation, suspension, or refusal to renew.
48.56.060	Records.
48.56.070	Rules and regulations.
48.56.080	Premium finance agreement.
48.56.090	Service charge.
48.56.100	Delinquency charge—Cancellation charge.
48.56.110	Cancellation of insurance contract.
48.56.120	Cancellation of insurance contract—Return of unearned premiums.
48.56.130	Filing of agreement.
48.56.900	Effective date—1969 ex.s. c 190.

**48.56.010 Short title.** This chapter shall be known and may be cited as "The Insurance Premium Finance Company Act". [1969 ex.s. c 190 § 1.]

**48.56.020 Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

(1) "Insurance premium finance company" means a person engaged in the business of entering into insurance premium finance agreements.

(2) "Premium finance agreement" means an agreement by which an insured or prospective insured promises to pay to a premium finance company the amount advanced or to be advanced under the agreement to an insurer or to an insurance agent or broker in payment of premiums on an insurance contract together with a service charge as authorized and limited by this chapter and as security therefor the insurance premium finance company receives an assignment of the unearned premium.

(3) "Licensee" means a premium finance company holding a license issued by the insurance commissioner under this chapter. [1969 ex.s. c 190 § 2.]

**48.56.030 License—Required—Fee—Information to be furnished—Penalty.** (1) No person shall engage in the business of financing insurance premiums in the state without first having obtained a license as a premium finance company from the commissioner. Any person who shall engage in the business of financing insurance premiums in the state without obtaining a license as provided hereunder shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to the penalties provided in this chapter.

(2) The annual license fee shall be one hundred dollars. Licenses may be renewed from year to year as of the first day of May of each year upon payment of the fee of one hundred dollars. The fee for said license shall be paid to the insurance commissioner.

(3) The person to whom the license or the renewal thereof may be issued shall file sworn answers, subject to

the penalties of perjury, to such interrogatories as the commissioner may require. The commissioner shall have authority, at any time, to require the applicant fully to disclose the identity of all stockholders, partners, officers, and employees and he may, in his discretion, refuse to issue or renew a license in the name of any firm, partnership, or corporation if he is not satisfied that any officer, employee, stockholder, or partner thereof who may materially influence the applicant's conduct meets the standards of this chapter.

(4) This section shall not apply to any savings and loan association, bank, trust company, \*small loan company, industrial loan company or credit union authorized to do business in this state but RCW 48.56.080 through 48.56.130 and any rules promulgated by the commissioner pertaining to such sections shall be applicable to such organizations, if otherwise eligible, under all premium finance transactions wherein an insurance policy, other than a life or disability insurance policy, or any rights thereunder is made the security or collateral for the repayment of the debt, however, neither this section nor the provisions of this chapter shall be applicable to the inclusion of insurance in a retail installment transaction or to insurance purchased in connection with a real estate transaction, mortgage, deed of trust or other security instrument or an insurance company authorized to do business in this state unless the insurance company elects to become a licensee. [1969 ex.s. c 190 § 3.]

**\*Reviser's note:** In chapter 31.08 RCW, the term "small loan company" was changed to "consumer finance business" by 1979 c 18. Chapter 31.08 RCW was repealed by 1991 c 208 § 24, effective January 1, 1993.

**48.56.040 Investigation of applicant—Qualifications—Hearing.** (1) Upon the filing of an application and the payment of the license fee the commissioner shall make an investigation of each applicant and shall issue a license if the applicant is qualified in accordance with this chapter. If the commissioner does not so find, he shall, within thirty days after he has received such application, at the request of the applicant, give the applicant a full hearing.

(2) The commissioner shall issue or renew a license as may be applied for when he is satisfied that the person to be licensed—

(a) is competent and trustworthy and intends to act in good faith in the capacity involved by the license applied for,

(b) has a good business reputation and has had experience, training, or education so as to be qualified in the business for which the license is applied for, and

(c) if a corporation, is a corporation incorporated under the laws of the state or a foreign corporation authorized to transact business in the state. [1969 ex.s. c 190 § 4.]

**48.56.050 Revocation, suspension, or refusal to renew.** (1) The commissioner may revoke or suspend the license of any premium finance company when and if after investigation it appears to the commissioner that—

(a) any license issued to such company was obtained by fraud,

(b) there was any misrepresentation in the application for the license,

(c) the holder of such license has otherwise shown himself untrustworthy or incompetent to act as a premium finance company, or

(d) such company has violated any of the provisions of this chapter.

(2) Before the commissioner shall revoke, suspend, or refuse to renew the license of any premium finance company, he shall give to such person an opportunity to be fully heard and to introduce evidence in his behalf. In lieu of revoking or suspending the license for any of the causes enumerated in this section, after hearing as herein provided, the commissioner may subject such company to a penalty of not more than two hundred dollars for each offense when in his judgment he finds that the public interest would not be harmed by the continued operation of such company. The amount of any such penalty shall be paid by such company through the office of the commissioner to the state treasurer. At any hearing provided by this section, the commissioner shall have authority to administer oaths to witnesses. Anyone testifying falsely, after having been administered such oath, shall be subject to the penalty of perjury.

(3) If the commissioner refuses to issue or renew any license or if any applicant or licensee is aggrieved by any action of the commissioner, said applicant or licensee shall have the right to a hearing and court proceeding as provided by statute. [1969 ex.s. c 190 § 5.]

**48.56.060 Records.** (1) Every licensee shall maintain records of its premium finance transactions and the said records shall be open to examination and investigation by the commissioner. The commissioner may at any time require any licensee to bring such records as he may direct to the commissioner's office for examination.

(2) Every licensee shall preserve its records of such premium finance transactions, including cards used in a card system, for at least three years after making the final entry in respect to any premium finance agreement. The preservation of records in photographic form shall constitute compliance with this requirement. [1969 ex.s. c 190 § 6.]

**48.56.070 Rules and regulations.** The commissioner shall have authority to make and enforce such reasonable rules and regulations as may be necessary in making effective the provisions of this chapter, but such rules and regulations shall not be contrary to nor inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter. [1969 ex.s. c 190 § 7.]

**48.56.080 Premium finance agreement.** (1) A premium finance agreement shall—

(a) be dated, signed by or on behalf of the insured, and the printed portion thereof shall be in at least eight point type;

(b) contain the name and place of business of the insurance agent negotiating the related insurance contract, the name and residence or the place of business of the premium finance company to which payments are to be made, a description of the insurance contracts involved and the amount of the premium therefor; and

(c) set forth the following items where applicable—

- (i) the total amount of the premiums,
- (ii) the amount of the down payment,

(iii) the principal balance (the difference between items (i) and (ii)),

(iv) the amount of the service charge,

(v) the balance payable by the insured (sum of items (iii) and (iv)), and

(vi) the number of installments required, the amount of each installment expressed in dollars, and the due date or period thereof.

(2) The items set out in paragraph (c) of subsection (1) need not be stated in the sequence or order in which they appear in such paragraph (c), and additional items may be included to explain the computations made in determining the amount to be paid by the insured.

(3) The information required by subsection (1) of this section shall only be required in the initial agreement where the premium finance company and the insured enter into an open end credit transaction, which is defined as follows: A plan prescribing the terms of credit transactions which may be made thereunder from time to time and under the terms of which a finance charge may be computed on the outstanding unpaid balance from time to time thereunder.

(4) A copy of the premium finance agreement shall be given to the insured at the time or within ten days of its execution, except where the application has been signed by the insured and all the finance charges are one dollar or less per payment. In addition, the premium finance company shall deliver or mail a copy of the premium finance agreement or notice identifying policy, insured and producing agent to each insurer that has premiums involved in the transaction, within thirty days of the execution of the premium finance agreement.

(5) It shall be illegal for a premium finance company to offset funds of an agent with funds belonging to an insured. Premiums advanced by a premium finance company are funds belonging to the insured and shall be held in a fiduciary relationship. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 119 § 6; 1969 ex.s. c 190 § 8.]

**48.56.090 Service charge.** (1) A premium finance company shall not charge, contract for, receive, or collect a service charge other than as permitted by this chapter.

(2) The service charge is to be computed on the balance of the premiums due (after subtracting the down payment made by the insured in accordance with the premium finance agreement) from the effective date of the insurance coverage, for which the premiums are being advanced, to and including the date when the final installment of the premium finance agreement is payable.

(3) The service charge shall be a maximum of ten dollars per one hundred dollars per year plus an acquisition charge of ten dollars per premium finance agreement which need not be refunded upon cancellation or prepayment. [1969 ex.s. c 190 § 9.]

**48.56.100 Delinquency charge—Cancellation charge.** A premium finance agreement may provide for the payment by the insured of a delinquency charge of one dollar to a maximum of five percent of the delinquent installment that is in default for a period of five days or more except that if the loan is primarily for personal, family, or household

purposes the delinquency charge shall not exceed five dollars.

If the default results in the cancellation of any insurance contract listed in the agreement, the agreement may provide for the payment by the insured of a cancellation charge equal to the difference between any delinquency charge imposed with respect to the installment in default and five dollars. [1995 c 72 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 190 § 10.]

**48.56.110 Cancellation of insurance contract.** (1) When a premium finance agreement contains a power of attorney enabling the premium finance company to cancel any insurance contract or contracts listed in the agreement, the insurance contract or contracts shall not be canceled by the premium finance company unless such cancellation is effectuated in accordance with this section.

(2) Not less than ten days' written notice shall be mailed to the insured of the intent of the premium finance company to cancel the insurance contract unless the default is cured within such ten day period.

(3) After expiration of such ten day period, the premium finance company may thereafter request in the name of the insured, cancellation of such insurance contract or contracts by mailing to the insurer a notice of cancellation, and the insurance contract shall be canceled as if such notice of cancellation had been submitted by the insured himself, but without requiring the return of the insurance contract or contracts. The premium finance company shall also mail a notice of cancellation to the insured at his last known address.

(4) All statutory, regulatory, and contractual restrictions providing that the insurance contract may not be canceled unless notice is given to a governmental agency, mortgagee, or other third party shall apply where cancellation is effected under the provisions of this section. The insurer shall give the prescribed notice in behalf of itself or the insured to any governmental agency, mortgagee, or other third party on or before the second business day after the day it receives the notice of cancellation from the premium finance company and shall determine the effective date of cancellation taking into consideration the number of days notice required to complete the cancellation. [1969 ex.s. c 190 § 11.]

**48.56.120 Cancellation of insurance contract—Return of unearned premiums.** (1) Whenever a financed insurance contract is canceled, the insurer shall return whatever gross unearned premiums are due under the insurance contract to the premium finance company for the account of the insured or insureds.

(2) In the event that the crediting of return premiums to the account of the insured results in a surplus over the amount due from the insured, the premium finance company shall refund such excess to the insured: PROVIDED, That no such refund shall be required if it amounts to less than one dollar. [1969 ex.s. c 190 § 12.]

**48.56.130 Filing of agreement.** No filing of the premium finance agreement shall be necessary to perfect the validity of such agreement as a secured transaction as against creditors, subsequent purchasers, pledgees, encumbrancers, successors, or assigns. [1969 ex.s. c 190 § 13.]

**48.56.900 Effective date—1969 ex.s. c 190.** 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 on the sixtieth day following passage by the legislature and submission to the governor for action. [1969 ex.s. c 190 § 15.]

## Chapter 48.58

### RIOT REINSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT

#### Sections

48.58.010 Riot reinsurance reimbursement—Assessments.

**48.58.010 Riot reinsurance reimbursement—Assessments.** (1) The commissioner may reimburse the secretary of the department of housing and urban development under the provisions of Section 1223(a)(1) of the Urban Property Protection and Reinsurance Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-448) for losses reinsured by the secretary of the department of housing and urban development and occurring in this state on or after August 1, 1968. After receipt by the state treasurer of a statement requesting reimbursement from the secretary of the department of housing and urban development and upon certification promptly made by the commissioner of insurance, hereafter referred to as the commissioner, of the correctness of the amount thereof, the commissioner is hereby authorized to provide for an assessment upon insurers authorized to do business in this state in amounts sufficient to pay reimbursement to the secretary of the department of housing and urban development: PROVIDED, That the amount assessed each insurer shall be in the same proportion that the premiums written by each insurer in this state bear to the aggregate premiums written in this state by all insurance companies on those lines for which reinsurance was available in this state from the secretary of the department of housing and urban development during the preceding calendar year.

(2) In the event any insurer fails, by reason of insolvency, to pay any assessment as provided herein, the amount assessed each insurer, as computed under subsection (1) of this section, shall be immediately recalculated excluding therefrom the insolvent insurer so that its assessment is, in effect, assumed and redistributed among the remaining insurers.

(3) When assessments as provided herein are made, the individual insurer, after having paid the full amount assessed against the insurer, may deduct from future premium tax liabilities an amount not to exceed twenty percent per annum until such deductions equal the amount of the assessment levied against the insurer.

(4) This section shall cease to be of any force and effect upon termination of the Urban Property Protection and Reinsurance Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-448), except that obligations incurred pursuant to the provisions of this section shall not be impaired by the expiration of the same.

(5) Notwithstanding the termination of the Urban Property Protection and Reinsurance Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-448), the commissioner is authorized to continue in force the program developed in response to that act, the Washington essential property insurance inspection and

placement program, in order to provide essential property insurance within the state where it cannot be obtained through the normal insurance market. [1987 c 128 § 1; 1980 c 32 § 9; 1969 ex.s. c 140 § 1.]

### Chapter 48.62

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT INSURANCE TRANSACTIONS

#### Sections

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**48.62.011 Legislative intent—Construction.** This chapter is intended to provide the exclusive source of local government entity authority to individually or jointly self-insure risks, jointly purchase insurance or reinsurance, and to contract for risk management, claims, and administrative services. This chapter shall be liberally construed to grant local government entities maximum flexibility in self-insuring to the extent the self-insurance programs are operated in a safe and sound manner. This chapter is intended to require prior approval for the establishment of every individual local government self-insured employee health and welfare benefit program and every joint local government self-insurance program. In addition, this chapter is intended to require every local government entity that establishes a self-insurance program not subject to prior approval to notify the state of the existence of the program and to comply with the regulatory and statutory standards governing the management and operation of the programs as provided in this chapter. This chapter is not intended to authorize or regulate self-insurance of unemployment compensation under chapter 50.44 RCW, or industrial insurance under chapter 51.14 RCW. [1991 sp.s. c 30 § 1.]

**48.62.021 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Local government entity" or "entity" means every unit of local government, both general purpose and special purpose, and includes, but is not limited to, counties, cities, towns, port districts, public utility districts, water districts, sewer districts, school districts, fire protection districts, irrigation districts, metropolitan municipal corporations, conservation districts, and other political subdivisions, governmental subdivisions, municipal corporations, and quasi-municipal corporations.

(2) "Risk assumption" means a decision to absorb the entity's financial exposure to a risk of loss without the creation of a formal program of advance funding of anticipated losses.

(3) "Self-insurance" means a formal program of advance funding and management of entity financial exposure to a risk of loss that is not transferred through the purchase of an insurance policy or contract.

(4) "Health and welfare benefits" means a plan or program established by a local government entity or entities for the purpose of providing its employees and their dependents, and in the case of school districts, its district employees, students, directors, or any of their dependents, with health care, accident, disability, death, and salary protection benefits.

(5) "Property and liability risks" includes the risk of property damage or loss sustained by a local government entity and the risk of claims arising from the tortious or negligent conduct or any error or omission of the local government entity, its officers, employees, agents, or volunteers as a result of which a claim may be made against the local government entity.

(6) "State risk manager" means the state risk manager of the division of risk management within the department of general administration. [1991 sp.s. c 30 § 2.]

**48.62.031 Authority to self-insure—Options—Risk manager.** (1) The governing body of a local government entity may individually self-insure, may join or form a self-insurance program together with other entities, and may jointly purchase insurance or reinsurance with other entities for property and liability risks, and health and welfare benefits only as permitted under this chapter. In addition, the entity or entities may contract for or hire personnel to provide risk management, claims, and administrative services in accordance with this chapter.

(2) The agreement to form a joint self-insurance program shall be made under chapter 39.34 RCW.

(3) Every individual and joint self-insurance program is subject to audit by the state auditor.

(4) If provided for in the agreement or contract established under chapter 39.34 RCW, a joint self-insurance program may, in conformance with this chapter:

(a) Contract or otherwise provide for risk management and loss control services;

(b) Contract or otherwise provide legal counsel for the defense of claims and other legal services;

(c) Consult with the state insurance commissioner and the state risk manager;

(d) Jointly purchase insurance and reinsurance coverage in such form and amount as the program's participants agree by contract; and

(e) Possess any other powers and perform all other functions reasonably necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(5) A local government entity that has decided to assume a risk of loss must have available for inspection by the state auditor a written report indicating the class of risk or risks the governing body of the entity has decided to assume.

(6) Every joint self-insurance program governed by this chapter shall appoint the risk manager as its attorney to receive service of, and upon whom shall be served, all legal process issued against it in this state upon causes of action arising in this state.

(a) Service upon the risk manager as attorney shall constitute service upon the program. Service upon joint insurance programs subject to chapter 30, Laws of 1991 1st sp. sess. can be had only by service upon the risk manager. At the time of service, the plaintiff shall pay to the risk manager a fee to be set by the risk manager, taxable as costs in the action.

(b) With the initial filing for approval with the risk manager, each joint self-insurance program shall designate by name and address the person to whom the risk manager shall forward legal process so served upon him or her. The joint self-insurance program may change such person by filing a new designation.

(c) The appointment of the risk manager as attorney shall be irrevocable, shall bind any successor in interest or to the assets or liabilities of the joint self-insurance program, and shall remain in effect as long as there is in force in this state any contract made by the joint self-insurance program or liabilities or duties arising therefrom.

(d) The risk manager shall keep a record of the day and hour of service upon him or her of all legal process. A copy of the process, by registered mail with return receipt requested, shall be sent by the risk manager, to the person designated for the purpose by the joint self-insurance program in its most recent such designation filed with the risk manager. No proceedings shall be had against the joint self-insurance program, and the program shall not be required to appear, plead, or answer, until the expiration of forty days after the date of service upon the risk manager. [1991 sp.s. c 30 § 3.]

**48.62.041 Property and liability advisory board—Creation—Membership—Duties.** (1) The property and liability advisory board is created, consisting of the insurance commissioner and the state risk manager, or their designees, as ex officio members and five members appointed by the governor on the basis of their experience and knowledge in matters pertaining to local government risk management, self-insurance, and management of joint self-insurance programs. The board shall include at least two representatives from individual property or liability self-insurance programs and at least two representatives from joint property or liability self-insurance programs.

(2) The board shall assist the state risk manager in:

(a) Adopting rules governing the operation and management of both individual and joint self-insurance programs covering liability and property risks;

(b) Reviewing and approving the creation of joint self-insurance programs covering property or liability risks;

(c) Reviewing annual reports filed by joint self-insurance programs covering property and liability risks and recommending that corrective action be taken by the programs when necessary; and

(d) Responding to concerns of the state auditor related to the management and operation of both individual and joint self-insurance programs covering liability or property risks.

(3) The board shall annually elect a chair and a vice-chair from its members. The board shall meet at least quarterly at such times as the state risk manager may fix. The board members who are appointed shall serve without compensation from the state but shall suffer no loss because of absence from their regular employment. Members of the board who are not public employees shall be compensated in accordance with RCW 43.03.240.

(4) A majority of the board constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

(5) The board shall keep public records of its proceedings. [1991 sp.s. c 30 § 4.]

**48.62.051 Health and welfare advisory board—Creation—Membership—Duties.** (1) The health and welfare advisory board is created consisting of the insurance commissioner and the state risk manager, or their designees, as ex officio members and six members appointed by the governor on the basis of their experience and knowledge pertaining to local government self-insured health and welfare benefits programs. The board shall include one city management representative; one county management representative; two management representatives from local government self-insured health and welfare programs; and two representatives of state-wide employee organizations representing local government employees.

(2) The board shall assist the state risk manager in:

(a) Adopting rules governing the operation and management of both individual and joint self-insured health and welfare benefits programs;

(b) Reviewing and approving the creation of both individual and joint self-insured health and welfare benefits programs;

(c) Reviewing annual reports filed by health and welfare benefits programs and in recommending that corrective action be taken by the programs when necessary; and

(d) Responding to concerns of the state auditor related to the management and operation of health and welfare benefits programs.

(3) The board shall annually elect a chair and a vice-chair from its members. The board shall meet at least quarterly at such times as the state risk manager may fix. The board members who are appointed shall serve without compensation from the state but shall suffer no loss because of absence from their regular employment. Members of the board who are not public employees shall be compensated in accordance with RCW 43.03.240.

(4) A majority of the board constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

(5) The board shall keep public records of its proceedings. [1991 sp.s. c 30 § 5.]

**48.62.061 Rule making by state risk manager—Standards.** The state risk manager, in consultation with the property and liability advisory board, shall adopt rules governing the management and operation of both individual and joint local government self-insurance programs covering property or liability risks. The state risk manager shall also adopt rules governing the management and operation of both individual and joint local government self-insured health and welfare benefits programs in consultation with the health and welfare benefits advisory board. All rules shall be appropriate for the type of program and class of risk covered. The state risk manager's rules shall include:

- (1) Standards for the management, operation, and solvency of self-insurance programs, including the necessity and frequency of actuarial analyses and claims audits;
- (2) Standards for claims management procedures; and
- (3) Standards for contracts between self-insurance programs and private businesses including standards for contracts between third-party administrators and programs. [1991 sp.s. c 30 § 6.]

**48.62.071 Program approval required—State risk manager—Plan of management and operation.** Before the establishment of a joint self-insurance program covering property or liability risks by local government entities, or an individual or joint local government self-insured health and welfare benefits program, the entity or entities must obtain the approval of the state risk manager. Risk manager approval is not required for the establishment of an individual local government self-insurance program covering property or liability risks. The entity or entities proposing creation of a self-insurance program requiring prior approval shall submit a plan of management and operation to the state risk manager and the state auditor that provides at least the following information:

- (1) The risk or risks to be covered, including any coverage definitions, terms, conditions, and limitations or in the case of health and welfare benefits programs, the benefits to be provided, including any benefit definitions, terms, conditions, and limitations;
- (2) The amount and method of financing the benefits or covered risks, including the initial capital and proposed rates and projected premiums;
- (3) The proposed claim reserving practices;
- (4) The proposed purchase and maintenance of insurance or reinsurance in excess of the amounts retained by the self-insurance program;
- (5) In the case of a joint program, the legal form of the program, including but not limited to any bylaws, charter, or trust agreement;
- (6) In the case of a joint program, the agreements with members of the program defining the responsibilities and benefits of each member and management;
- (7) The proposed accounting, depositing, and investment practices of the program;
- (8) The proposed time when actuarial analysis will be first conducted and the frequency of future actuarial analysis;

(9) A designation of the individual upon whom service of process shall be executed on behalf of the program. In the case of a joint program, a designation of the individual to whom service of process shall be forwarded by the risk manager on behalf of the program;

(10) All contracts between the program and private persons providing risk management, claims, or other administrative services;

(11) A professional analysis of the feasibility of creation and maintenance of the program; and

(12) Any other information required by rule of the state risk manager that is necessary to determine the probable financial and management success of the program or that is necessary to determine compliance with this chapter. [1991 sp.s. c 30 § 7.]

**48.62.081 Multistate program participants—Requirements.** A local government entity may participate in a joint self-insurance program covering property or liability risks with similar local government entities from other states if the program satisfies the following requirements:

(1) Only those local government entities of this state and similar entities of other states that are provided insurance by the program may have ownership interest in the program;

(2) The participating local government entities of this state and other states shall elect a board of directors to manage the program, a majority of whom shall be affiliated with one or more of the participating entities;

(3) The program must provide coverage through the delivery to each participating entity of one or more written policies effecting insurance of covered risks;

(4) The program shall be financed, including the payment of premiums and the contribution of initial capital, in accordance with the plan of management and operation submitted to the state risk manager in accordance with this chapter;

(5) The financial statements of the program shall be audited annually by the certified public accountants for the program, and such audited financial statements shall be delivered to the Washington state auditor and the state risk manager not more than one hundred twenty days after the end of each fiscal year of the program;

(6) The investments of the program shall be initiated only with financial institutions and/or broker-dealers doing business in those states in which participating entities are located, and such investments shall be audited annually by the certified public accountants for the program, and a list of such investments shall be delivered to the Washington state auditor not more than one hundred twenty days after the end of each fiscal year of the program;

(7) The treasurer of a multistate joint self-insurance program shall be designated by resolution of the program and such treasurer shall be located in the state of one of the participating entities;

(8) The participating entities may have no contingent liabilities for covered claims, other than liabilities for unpaid premiums, retrospective premiums, or assessments, if assets of the program are insufficient to cover the program's liabilities; and

(9) The program shall obtain approval from the state risk manager in accordance with this chapter and shall remain in compliance with the provisions of this chapter, except to the extent that such provisions are modified by or inconsistent with this section. [1991 sp.s. c 30 § 8.]

**48.62.091 Program approval or disapproval—Procedures—Annual report.** (1) Within one hundred twenty days of receipt of a plan of management and operation, the state risk manager shall either approve or disapprove the formation of the self-insurance program after reviewing the plan to determine whether the proposed program complies with this chapter and all rules adopted in accordance with this chapter.

(2) If the state risk manager denies a request for approval, the state risk manager shall specify in detail the reasons for denial and the manner in which the program fails to meet the requirements of this chapter or any rules adopted in accordance with this chapter.

(3) Whenever the state risk manager determines that a joint self-insurance program covering property or liability risks or an individual or joint self-insured health and welfare benefits program is in violation of this chapter or is operating in an unsafe financial condition, the state risk manager may issue and serve upon the program an order to cease and desist from the violation or practice.

(a) The state risk manager shall deliver the order to the appropriate entity or entities directly or mail it to the appropriate entity or entities by registered mail with return receipt requested.

(b) If the program violates the order or has not taken steps to comply with the order after the expiration of twenty days after the cease and desist order has been received by the program, the program is deemed to be operating in violation of this chapter, and the state risk manager shall notify the state auditor and the attorney general of the violation.

(c) After hearing or with the consent of a program governed by this chapter and in addition to or in lieu of a continuation of the cease and desist order, the risk manager may levy a fine upon the program in an amount not less than three hundred dollars and not more than ten thousand dollars. The order levying such fine shall specify the period within which the fine shall be fully paid. The period within which such fines shall be paid shall not be less than fifteen nor more than thirty days from the date of such order. Upon failure to pay any such fine when due the risk manager shall request the attorney general to bring a civil action on the risk manager's behalf to collect the fine. The risk manager shall pay any fine so collected to the state treasurer for the account of the general fund.

(4) Each self-insurance program approved by the state risk manager shall annually file a report with the state risk manager and state auditor providing:

- (a) Details of any changes in the articles of incorporation, bylaws, or interlocal agreement;
- (b) Copies of all the insurance coverage documents;
- (c) A description of the program structure, including participants' retention, program retention, and excess insurance limits and attachment point;
- (d) An actuarial analysis, if required;

- (e) A list of contractors and service providers;
- (f) The financial and loss experience of the program; and
- (g) Such other information as required by rule of the state risk manager.

(5) No self-insurance program requiring the state risk manager's approval may engage in an act or practice that in any respect significantly differs from the management and operation plan that formed the basis for the state risk manager's approval of the program unless the program first notifies the state risk manager in writing and obtains the state risk manager's approval. The state risk manager shall approve or disapprove the proposed change within sixty days of receipt of the notice. If the state risk manager denies a requested change, the risk manager shall specify in detail the reasons for denial and the manner in which the program would fail to meet the requirements of this chapter or any rules adopted in accordance with this chapter. [1991 sp.s. c 30 § 9.]

**48.62.101 Access to information—Executive sessions—Public disclosure act.** (1) All self-insurance programs governed by this chapter may provide for executive sessions in accordance with chapter 42.30 RCW to consider litigation and settlement of claims when it appears that public discussion of these matters would impair the program's ability to conduct its business effectively.

(2) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary contained in the public disclosure act, chapter 42.17 RCW, in a claim or action against the state or a local government entity, no person is entitled to discover that portion of any funds or liability reserve established for purposes of satisfying a claim or cause of action, except that the reserve is discoverable in a supplemental or ancillary proceeding to enforce a judgment. All other records of individual or joint self-insurance programs are subject to disclosure in accordance with chapter 42.17 RCW.

(3) In accordance with chapter 42.17 RCW, bargaining groups representing local government employees shall have reasonable access to information concerning the experience and performance of any health and welfare benefits program established for the benefit of such employees. [1991 sp.s. c 30 § 10.]

**48.62.111 Investments—Designated treasurer—Deposit requirements—Bond.** (1) The assets of a joint self-insurance program governed by this chapter may be invested only in accordance with the general investment authority that participating local government entities possess as a governmental entity.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, a joint self-insurance program may invest all or a portion of its assets by depositing the assets with the treasurer of a county within whose territorial limits any of its member local government entities lie, to be invested by the treasurer for the joint program.

(3) Local government members of a joint self-insurance program may by resolution of the program designate some other person having experience in financial or fiscal matters as treasurer of the program, if that designated treasurer is located in Washington state. The program shall, unless the



program's treasurer is a county treasurer, require a bond obtained from a surety company authorized to do business in Washington in an amount and under the terms and conditions that the program finds will protect against loss arising from mismanagement or malfeasance in investing and managing program funds. The program may pay the premium on the bond.

All program funds must be paid to the treasurer and shall be disbursed by the treasurer only on warrants issued by the treasurer or a person appointed by the program and upon orders or vouchers approved by the program or as authorized under chapters 35A.40 and 42.24 RCW. The treasurer shall establish a program account, into which shall be recorded all program funds, and the treasurer shall maintain such special accounts as may be created by the program into which the treasurer shall record all money as the program may direct by resolution.

(4) The treasurer of the joint program shall deposit all program funds in a qualified public depository or depositories as defined in \*RCW 39.58.010(2) and under the same restrictions, contracts, and security as provided for any participating local government entity, and such depository shall be designated by resolution of the program.

(5) A joint self-insurance program may invest all or a portion of its assets by depositing the assets with the state investment board, to be invested by the state investment board in accordance with chapter 43.33A RCW. The state investment board shall designate a manager for those funds to whom the program may direct requests for disbursement upon orders or vouchers approved by the program or as authorized under chapters 35A.40 and 42.24 RCW.

(6) All interest and earnings collected on joint program funds belong to the program and must be deposited to the program's credit in the proper program account.

(7) A joint program may require a reasonable bond from any person handling money or securities of the program and may pay the premium for the bond.

(8) Subsections (3) and (4) of this section do not apply to a multistate joint self-insurance program governed by RCW 48.62.081. [1991 sp.s. c 30 § 11.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 39.58.010 was amended by 1996 c 256 § 1 and now defines the term "public depository."

**48.62.121 General operating regulations—Employee remuneration—Governing control—School districts—Use of agents and brokers—Health care services—Trusts.** (1) No employee or official of a local government entity may directly or indirectly receive anything of value for services rendered in connection with the operation and management of a self-insurance program other than the salary and benefits provided by his or her employer or the reimbursement of expenses reasonably incurred in furtherance of the operation or management of the program. No employee or official of a local government entity may accept or solicit anything of value for personal benefit or for the benefit of others under circumstances in which it can be reasonably inferred that the employee's or official's independence of judgment is impaired with respect to the management and operation of the program.

(2)(a) No local government entity may participate in a joint self-insurance program in which local government

entities do not retain complete governing control. This prohibition does not apply to:

(i) Local government contribution to a self-insured employee health and welfare benefits plan otherwise authorized and governed by state statute;

(ii) Local government participation in a multistate joint program where control is shared with local government entities from other states; or

(iii) Local government contribution to a self-insured employee health and welfare benefit trust in which the local government shares governing control with their employees.

(b) If a local government self-insured health and welfare benefit program, established by the local government as a trust, shares governing control of the trust with its employees:

(i) The local government must maintain at least a fifty percent voting control of the trust;

(ii) No more than one voting, nonemployee, union representative selected by employees may serve as a trustee; and

(iii) The trust agreement must contain provisions for resolution of any deadlock in the administration of the trust.

(3) Moneys made available and moneys expended by school districts and educational service districts for self-insurance under this chapter are subject to such rules of the superintendent of public instruction as the superintendent may adopt governing budgeting and accounting. However, the superintendent shall ensure that the rules are consistent with those adopted by the state risk manager for the management and operation of self-insurance programs.

(4) RCW 48.30.140, 48.30.150, 48.30.155, and 48.30.157 apply to the use of agents and brokers by local government self-insurance programs.

(5) Every individual and joint local government self-insured health and welfare benefits program that provides comprehensive coverage for health care services shall include mandated benefits that the state health care authority is required to provide under RCW 41.05.170 and 41.05.180. The state risk manager may adopt rules identifying the mandated benefits.

(6) An employee health and welfare benefit program established as a trust shall contain a provision that trust funds be expended only for purposes of the trust consistent with statutes and rules governing the local government or governments creating the trust. [1993 c 458 § 1; 1991 sp.s. c 30 § 12.]

**Review of health care trusts—1993 c 458:** "If chapter 492, Laws of 1993 is enacted into law, the provisions of chapter 48.62 RCW shall be reviewed to evaluate the extent to which health care trusts provide benefits to certain individuals in the state; and to review the federal laws that may constrain the organization or operation of these joint employee-employer entities. The health services commission shall make appropriate recommendations to the governor and the legislature as to how these trusts can be brought under the provisions of chapter 492, Laws of 1993." [1993 c 458 § 3.]

**48.62.123 Existing benefit program established as a trust—Risk manager—Limited extension of deadline for compliance.** No local government self-insured employee health and welfare benefit program established as a trust by a local government entity or entities prior to July 25, 1993, may continue in operation unless such program complies with the provisions of this chapter within one hundred eighty

days after July 25, 1993. The state risk manager may extend such period if the risk manager finds that such local government entity or entities are making a good faith effort and taking all necessary steps to comply with this chapter; however, in no event may the risk manager extend the period required for compliance more than ninety days after the expiration of the initial one hundred eighty-day period. [1993 c 458 § 2.]

**Review of health care trusts—1993 c 458:** See note following RCW 48.62.121.

**48.62.125 Educational service districts—Rules—Superintendent of public instruction.** All rules adopted by the superintendent of public instruction by January 1, 1992, that apply to self-insurance programs of educational service districts remain in effect until expressly amended, repealed, or superseded by the state risk manager or the state health care authority. [1991 sp.s. c 30 § 31.]

**48.62.131 Preexisting programs—Notice to state auditor.** Every local government entity that has established a self-insurance program not subject to the prior approval requirements of this chapter shall provide written notice to the state auditor of the existence of the program. The notice must identify the manager of the program and the class or classes of risk self-insured. The notice must also identify all investments and distribution of assets of the program, the current depository of assets and the program's designation of asset depository and investment agent as required by RCW 48.62.111. In addition, the local government entity shall notify the state auditor whenever the program covers a new class of risk or discontinues the self-insurance of a class of risk. [1991 sp.s. c 30 § 13.]

*Application of chapter to preexisting programs: RCW 48.62.100.*

**48.62.141 Insufficient assets—Program requirement.** Every joint self-insurance program covering liability or property risks, excluding multistate programs governed by RCW 48.62.081, shall provide for the contingent liability of participants in the program if assets of the program are insufficient to cover the program's liabilities. [1991 sp.s. c 30 § 14.]

**48.62.151 Insurance premium taxes—Exemption.** A joint self-insurance program approved in accordance with this chapter is exempt from insurance premium taxes, from fees assessed under chapter 48.02 RCW, from chapters 48.32 and 48.32A RCW, from business and occupations taxes imposed under chapter 82.04 RCW, and from any assigned risk plan or joint underwriting association otherwise required by law. This section does not apply to and no exemption is provided for insurance companies issuing policies to cover program risks, nor does it apply to or provide an exemption for third-party administrators or brokers serving the self-insurance program. [1991 sp.s. c 30 § 15.]

**48.62.161 Establishment of fee to cover costs—Boards—State risk manager.** (1) The state risk manager shall establish and charge an investigation fee in an amount necessary to cover the costs for the initial review and approval of a self-insurance program. The fee must accom-

pany the initial submission of the plan of operation and management.

(2) The costs of subsequent reviews and investigations shall be charged to the self-insurance program being reviewed or investigated in accordance with the actual time and expenses incurred in the review or investigation.

(3) After the formation of the two advisory boards, each board may calculate, levy, and collect from each joint property and liability self-insurance program and each individual and joint health and welfare benefit program regulated by this chapter a start-up assessment to pay initial expenses and operating costs of the boards and the risk manager's office in administering this chapter. Any program failing to remit its assessment when due is subject to denial of permission to operate or to a cease and desist order until the assessment is paid. [1991 sp.s. c 30 § 16.]

**48.62.171 Dissemination of information—Civil immunity.** (1) Any person who files reports or furnishes other information required under Title 48 RCW, required by the risk manager or the state auditor under authority granted by Title 48 RCW, or which is useful to the risk manager or the state auditor in the administration of Title 48 RCW, shall be immune from liability in any civil action or suit arising from the filing of any such report or furnishing such information to the risk manager or to the state auditor, unless actual malice, fraud, or bad faith is shown.

(2) The risk manager and the state auditor, and the agents and employees of each, are immune from liability in any civil action or suit arising from the publication of any report or bulletins or arising from dissemination of information related to the official activities of the risk manager, the advisory boards, or the state auditor, unless actual malice, fraud, or bad faith is shown.

(3) The immunity granted by this section is in addition to any common law or statutory privilege or immunity enjoyed by such person, and nothing in this section is intended to abrogate or modify in any way such common law or statutory privilege or immunity. [1991 sp.s. c 30 § 17.]

**48.62.900 Effective date, implementation, application—1991 sp.s. c 30.** (1) This act shall take effect January 1, 1992, but the state risk manager shall take all steps necessary to implement this act on its effective date.

(2) Every individual local government self-insured employee health and welfare plan and self-insurance program that has been in continuous operation for at least one year before January 1, 1992, need not obtain approval to continue operations until January 1, 1993, but must comply with all other provisions of this act.

(3) Local government entity authority to self-insure employee health and welfare benefits applies retroactively to 1979. [1991 sp.s. c 30 § 30.]

**48.62.901 Severability—1991 sp.s. c 30.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1991 sp.s. c 30 § 32.]

## Chapter 48.66

MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTAL HEALTH  
INSURANCE ACT

## Sections

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**48.66.010 Short title—Intent—Application of chapter.** This chapter shall be known and may be cited as "The Medicare Supplemental Health Insurance Act" and is intended to govern the content and sale of medicare supplemental insurance as defined in this chapter. The provisions of this chapter shall apply in addition to, rather than in place of, other requirements of Title 48 RCW. [1981 c 153 § 1.]

**48.66.020 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Medicare supplemental insurance" or "medicare supplement insurance policy" refers to a group or individual policy of disability insurance or a subscriber contract of a health care service contractor, a health maintenance organization, or a fraternal benefit society, which relates its benefits to medicare, or which is advertised, marketed, or designed primarily as a supplement to reimbursements under medicare for the hospital, medical, or surgical expenses of persons eligible for medicare. Such term does not include:

(a) A policy or contract of one or more employers or labor organizations, or of the trustees of a fund established by one or more employers or labor organizations, or combination thereof, for employees or former employees, or combination thereof, or for members or former members, or combination thereof, of the labor organizations; or

(b) A policy issued pursuant to a contract under Section 1876 of the federal social security act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 1395 et seq.), or an issued policy under a demonstration specified in 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1395(g)(1); or

(c) Insurance policies or health care benefit plans, including group conversion policies, provided to medicare

eligible persons, that are not marketed or held to be medicare supplement policies or benefit plans.

(2) "Medicare" means the "Health Insurance for the Aged Act," Title XVIII of the Social Security Amendments of 1965, as then constituted or later amended.

(3) "Medicare eligible expenses" means health care expenses of the kinds covered by medicare, to the extent recognized as reasonable and medically necessary by medicare.

(4) "Applicant" means:

(a) In the case of an individual medicare supplement insurance policy or subscriber contract, the person who seeks to contract for insurance benefits; and

(b) In the case of a group medicare supplement insurance policy or subscriber contract, the proposed certificate holder.

(5) "Certificate" means any certificate delivered or issued for delivery in this state under a group medicare supplement insurance policy.

(6) "Loss ratio" means the incurred claims as a percentage of the earned premium computed under rules adopted by the insurance commissioner.

(7) "Preexisting condition" means a covered person's medical condition that caused that person to have received medical advice or treatment during a specified time period immediately prior to the effective date of coverage.

(8) "Disclosure form" means the form designated by the insurance commissioner which discloses medicare benefits, the supplemental benefits offered by the insurer, and the remaining amount for which the insured will be responsible.

(9) "Issuer" includes insurance companies, health care service contractors, health maintenance organizations, fraternal benefit societies, and any other entity delivering or issuing for delivery medicare supplement policies or certificates to a resident of this state. [1996 c 269 § 1; 1995 c 85 § 1; 1992 c 138 § 1; 1981 c 153 § 2.]

**Effective date—1996 c 269:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately [March 29, 1996]." [1996 c 269 § 2.]

**48.66.030 Renewability—Benefit standards—Benefit limitations.** (1) A medicare supplement insurance policy which provides for the payment of benefits may not be based on standards described as "usual and customary," "reasonable and customary," or words of similar import.

(2) Limitations on benefits, such as policy exclusions or waiting periods, shall be labeled in a separate section of the policy or placed with the benefit provisions to which they apply, rather than being included in other sections of the policy, rider, or endorsement. [1992 c 138 § 2; 1981 c 153 § 3.]

**48.66.035 Commissioner's approval required.** (1) A medicare supplement insurance policy or certificate form or application form, rider, or endorsement shall not be issued, delivered, or used unless it has been filed with and approved by the commissioner.

(2) Rates, or modification of rates, for medicare supplement policies or certificates shall not be used until filed with and approved by the commissioner.

(3) Every filing shall be received not less than thirty days in advance of any such issuance, delivery, or use. At the expiration of such thirty days the form or rate so filed shall be deemed approved unless prior thereto it has been affirmatively approved or disapproved by order of the commissioner. The commissioner may extend by not more than an additional fifteen days the period within which he or she may affirmatively approve or disapprove any such form or rate, by giving notice of such extension before expiration of the initial thirty-day waiting period. At the expiration of any such period as so extended, and in the absence of such prior affirmative approval or disapproval, any such form or rate shall be deemed approved. A filing of a form or rate or modification thereto may not be deemed approved unless the filing contains all required documents prescribed by the commissioner. The commissioner may withdraw any such approval at any time for cause. By approval of any such form or rate for immediate use, the commissioner may waive any unexpired portion of such initial thirty-day waiting period.

(4) The commissioner's order disapproving any such form or rate or withdrawing a previous approval shall state the grounds therefor.

(5) A form or rate shall not knowingly be issued, delivered, or used if the commissioner's approval does not then exist. [1992 c 138 § 3.]

**48.66.041 Minimum standards required by rule—Waiver.** (1) The insurance commissioner shall adopt rules to establish minimum standards for benefits in medicare supplement insurance policies and certificates.

(2) The commissioner shall adopt rules to establish specific standards for medicare supplement insurance policy or certificate provisions. These rules may include but are not limited to:

- (a) Terms of renewability;
- (b) Nonduplication of coverage;
- (c) Benefit limitations, exceptions, and reductions;
- (d) Definitions of terms;
- (e) Requiring refunds or credits if the policies or certificates do not meet loss ratio requirements;
- (f) Establishing uniform methodology for calculating and reporting loss ratios;
- (g) Assuring public access to policies, premiums, and loss ratio information of an issuer of medicare supplement insurance;
- (h) Establishing a process for approving or disapproving proposed premium increases; and
- (i) Establishing standards for medicare SELECT policies and certificates.

(3) The insurance commissioner may adopt rules that establish disclosure standards for replacement of policies or certificates by persons eligible for medicare.

(4) The insurance commissioner may by rule prescribe that an informational brochure, designed to improve the buyer's understanding of medicare and ability to select the most appropriate coverage, be provided to persons eligible for medicare by reason of age. The commissioner may require that the brochure be provided to applicants concurrently with delivery of the outline of coverage, except with respect to direct response insurance, when the brochure may

be provided upon request but no later than the delivery of the policy.

(5) In the case of a state or federally qualified health maintenance organization, the commissioner may waive compliance with one or all provisions of this section until January 1, 1983. [1993 c 388 § 1; 1992 c 138 § 4; 1982 c 200 § 1.]

**48.66.045 Mandated coverage for replacement policies—Rates on a community-rated basis.** Every issuer of a medicare supplement insurance policy or certificate providing coverage to a resident of this state issued on or after January 1, 1996, shall:

(1) Issue coverage under its standardized benefit plans B, C, D, E, F, and G without evidence of insurability to any resident of this state who is eligible for both medicare hospital and physician services by reason of age or by reason of disability or end-stage renal disease, if the medicare supplement policy replaces another medicare supplement standardized benefit plan policy or certificate B, C, D, E, F, or G, or other more comprehensive coverage than the replaced policy;

(2) Issue coverage under its standardized plans A, H, I, and J without evidence of insurability to any resident of this state who is eligible for both medicare hospital and physician services by reason of age or by reason of disability or end-stage renal disease, if the medicare supplement policy replaces another medicare supplement policy or certificate which is the same standardized plan as the replaced policy; and

(3) Set rates only on a community-rated basis. Premiums shall be equal for all policyholders and certificate holders under a standardized medicare supplement benefit plan form, except that an issuer may develop no more than two rating pools that distinguish between an insured's eligibility for medicare by reason of:

- (a) Age; or
- (b) Disability or end-stage renal disease. [1995 c 85 § 3.]

**48.66.050 Policy or certificate provisions prohibited by rule—Waivers restricted.** (1) The insurance commissioner may issue reasonable rules that specify prohibited policy provisions not otherwise specifically authorized by statute which, in the opinion of the commissioner, are unfair, unjust, or unfairly discriminatory to any person insured or proposed to be insured under a medicare supplement insurance policy or certificate.

(2) No medicare supplement insurance policy may use waivers to exclude, limit, or reduce coverage or benefits for specifically named or described preexisting diseases or physical conditions. [1992 c 138 § 5; 1981 c 153 § 5.]

**48.66.060 Equal coverage of sickness and accidents.** A medicare supplement insurance policy may not indemnify against losses resulting from sickness on a different basis than losses resulting from accidents. [1981 c 153 § 6.]

**48.66.070 Adjustment of benefits and premiums for medicare cost-sharing.** A medicare supplement insurance policy must provide that benefits designed to cover cost-

sharing amounts under medicare will be changed automatically to coincide with any changes in the applicable medicare deductible amount and copayment percentage factors. Premiums may be modified to correspond with such changes. [1981 c 153 § 7.]

**48.66.080 "Benefit period"—"Medicare benefit period"—Minimum requirements.** "Benefit period" or "medicare benefit period" may not be defined more restrictively than as defined in the medicare program. [1981 c 153 § 8.]

**48.66.090 Guaranteed renewable—Exceptions.** All medicare supplement policies must be guaranteed renewable and a medicare supplement insurance policy may not provide that the policy may be cancelled or nonrenewed by the insurer solely on the grounds of deterioration of health. The issuer shall not cancel or nonrenew the policy for any reason other than nonpayment of premium or material misrepresentation. All medicare supplement policies and certificates must include a renewal or continuation provision. The language or specifications of such provision must be appropriately captioned, appear on the first page of the policy, and shall include any reservation by the issuer or a right to change premium. [1992 c 138 § 6; 1981 c 153 § 9.]

**48.66.100 Loss ratio requirements—Mass sales practices of individual policies.** (1) Medicare supplement insurance policies shall return to policyholders in the form of aggregate benefits under the policy, for the entire period for which rates are computed to provide coverage, loss ratios of:

(a) At least seventy-five percent of the aggregate amount of premiums earned in the case of group policies; and

(b) At least sixty-five percent of the aggregate amount of premiums earned in the case of individual policies.

(2) For the purpose of this section, medicare supplement insurance policies issued as a result of solicitation of individuals through the mail or mass media advertising, including both print and broadcast advertising, shall be treated as individual policies.

(3) The insurance commissioner may adopt rules sufficient to accomplish the provisions of this section and may, by such rules, impose more stringent or appropriate loss ratio requirements when it is necessary for the protection of the public interest. [1992 c 138 § 7; 1982 c 200 § 2; 1981 c 153 § 10.]

**48.66.110 Disclosure by insurer—Outline of coverage required.** In order to provide for full and fair disclosure in the sale of medicare supplement policies, a medicare supplement policy or certificate shall not be delivered in this state unless an outline of coverage is delivered to the potential policyholder not later than the time of application for the policy. [1992 c 138 § 8; 1981 c 153 § 11.]

**48.66.120 Return of policy and refund of premium—Notice required—Effect of return.** Every individual medicare supplement insurance policy issued after January 1, 1982, and every certificate issued pursuant to a group

medicare supplement policy after January 1, 1982, shall have prominently displayed on the first page of the policy form or certificate a notice stating in substance that the person to whom the policy or certificate is issued shall be permitted to return the policy or certificate within thirty days of its delivery to the purchaser and to have the premium refunded if, after examination of the policy or certificate, the purchaser is not satisfied with it for any reason. An additional ten percent penalty shall be added to any premium refund due which is not paid within thirty days of return of the policy to the insurer or agent. If a policyholder or purchaser, pursuant to such notice, returns the policy or certificate to the insurer at its home or branch office or to the agent through whom it was purchased, it shall be void from the beginning and the parties shall be in the same position as if no policy or certificate had been issued. [1983 1st ex.s. c 32 § 12; 1982 c 200 § 3; 1981 c 153 § 12.]

**48.66.130 Preexisting condition limitations.** (1) On or after January 1, 1996, and notwithstanding any other provision of Title 48 RCW, a medicare supplement policy or certificate shall not exclude or limit benefits for losses incurred more than three months from the effective date of coverage because it involved a preexisting condition.

(2) On or after January 1, 1996, a medicare supplement policy or certificate shall not define a preexisting condition more restrictively than as a condition for which medical advice was given or treatment was recommended by or received from a physician, or other health care provider acting within the scope of his or her license, within three months before the effective date of coverage.

(3) If a medicare supplement insurance policy or certificate contains any limitations with respect to preexisting conditions, such limitations must appear as a separate paragraph of the policy or certificate and be labeled as "Preexisting Condition Limitations." [1995 c 85 § 2; 1992 c 138 § 9; 1981 c 153 § 13.]

**48.66.140 Medical history.** Any time that completion of a medical history of a patient is required in order for an application for a medicare supplement insurance policy to be accepted, that medical history must be completed by the applicant, a relative of the applicant, a legal guardian of the applicant, or a physician. [1981 c 153 § 14.]

**48.66.150 Reporting and recordkeeping, separate data required.** Commencing with reports for accounting periods beginning on or after January 1, 1982, insurers, health care service contractors, health maintenance organizations, and fraternal benefit societies shall, for reporting and recordkeeping purposes, separate data concerning medicare supplement insurance policies and contracts from data concerning other disability insurance policies and contracts. [1981 c 153 § 15.]

**48.66.160 Federal law supersedes.** In any case where the provisions of this chapter conflict with provisions of the "Health Insurance For The Aged Act," Title XVIII of the Social Security Amendments of 1965, or any amendments thereto or regulations promulgated thereunder, regarding any contract between the secretary of health and

human services and a health maintenance organization, the provisions of the "Health Insurance For The Aged Act" shall supersede and be paramount. [1981 c 153 § 16.]

**48.66.165 Conformity with federal law—Rules.** The commissioner may adopt, from time-to-time, such rules as are necessary with respect to medicare supplemental insurance to conform Washington policies, contracts, certificates, standards, and practices to the requirements of federal law, specifically including 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1395ss, and federal regulations adopted thereunder. [1991 c 120 § 1.]

**48.66.900 Severability—1981 c 153.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1981 c 153 § 17.]

**48.66.910 Effective date—1981 c 153.** This act shall take effect January 1, 1982. [1981 c 153 § 19.]

### Chapter 48.68

#### HEALTH CARE SAVINGS ACCOUNT ACT

##### Sections

48.68.005 Intent—Health care savings accounts authorized.  
48.68.010 Duties of governor and responsible agencies—Chapter to remain in effect.

**48.68.005 Intent—Health care savings accounts authorized.** (1) This chapter shall be known as the health care savings account act.

(2) The legislature recognizes that the costs of health care are increasing rapidly and most individuals are removed from participating in the purchase of their health care.

As a result, it becomes critical to encourage and support solutions to alleviate the demand for diminishing state resources. In response to these increasing costs in health care spending, the legislature intends to clarify that health care savings accounts may be offered as health benefit options to all residents as incentives to reduce unnecessary health services utilization, administration, and paperwork, and to encourage individuals to be in charge of and participate directly in their use of service and health care spending. To alleviate the possible impoverishment of residents requiring long-term care, health care savings accounts may promote savings for long-term care and provide incentives for individuals to protect themselves from financial hardship due to a long-term health care need.

(3) Health care savings accounts are authorized in Washington state as options to employers and residents. [1995 c 265 § 2.]

**Captions not law—Effective dates—Savings—Severability—1995 c 265:** See notes following RCW 70.47.015.

**48.68.010 Duties of governor and responsible agencies—Chapter to remain in effect.** The governor and responsible agencies shall:

(1) Request that the United States congress amend the internal revenue code to treat premiums and contributions to

health benefits plans, such as health care savings account programs, basic health plans, conventional and standard health plans offered through a health carrier, by employers, self-employed persons, and individuals, as fully excluded employer expenses and deductible from individual adjusted gross income for federal tax purposes.

(2) Request that the United States congress amend the internal revenue code to exempt from federal income tax interest that accrues in health care savings accounts until such money is withdrawn for expenditures other than eligible health expenses as defined in law.

(3) If all federal statute or regulatory waivers necessary to fully implement this chapter have not been obtained by July 1, 1995, this chapter shall remain in effect. [1995 c 265 § 3.]

**Captions not law—Effective dates—Savings—Severability—1995 c 265:** See notes following RCW 70.47.015.

### Chapter 48.70

#### SPECIFIED DISEASE INSURANCE ACT

##### Sections

48.70.010 Legislative intent.  
48.70.020 Definitions—Rules.  
48.70.030 Expected returns to policyholders—Rules.  
48.70.040 Rules required.  
48.70.900 Application of chapter.  
48.70.910 Severability—1982 c 181.

**48.70.010 Legislative intent.** This chapter shall be known as the specified disease insurance act and is intended to govern the content and sale of specified disease insurance as defined in this chapter. This chapter applies in addition to, rather than in place of, other requirements of Title 48 RCW. It is the intent of the legislature to guarantee that specified disease policies issued, delivered, or used in this state provide a reasonable level of benefits to the policyholders. This chapter shall be applied broadly to ensure achievement of its aim. [1982 c 181 § 20.]

**48.70.020 Definitions—Rules.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Specified disease policy" refers to any insurance policy or contract which provides benefits to a policyholder only in the event that the policyholder contracts the disease or diseases specifically named in the policy.

(2) "Loss ratio" means the incurred claims as a percentage of the earned premium, computed under rules adopted by the commissioner. Earned premiums and incurred claims shall be computed under rules adopted by the commissioner. [1982 c 181 § 21.]

**48.70.030 Expected returns to policyholders—Rules.**

(1) Commencing with reports for the accounting periods beginning on or after July 1, 1983, specified disease policies shall be expected to return to policyholders in the form of aggregate loss ratios under the policy:

(a) At least seventy-five percent of the earned premiums in the case of group policies; and

(b) At least sixty percent of the earned premiums in the case of individual policies.

(2) For the purpose of this section, specified disease insurance policies issued as a result of solicitation of individuals through the mail or mass media advertising, including both print and broadcast advertising, shall be treated as individual policies.

(3) By July 1, 1983, the commissioner shall adopt rules sufficient to accomplish the provisions of this section. [1982 c 181 § 22.]

**48.70.040 Rules required.** By July 1, 1983, the commissioner shall adopt all rules necessary to ensure that specified disease policies provide a reasonable level of benefits to policyholders, and that purchasers and potential purchasers of such policies are fully informed of the level of benefits provided. [1982 c 181 § 23.]

**48.70.900 Application of chapter.** This chapter shall apply to all policies issued on or after July 1, 1983. This chapter shall not apply to services provided by health care service contractors as defined in RCW 48.44.010. [1982 c 181 § 24.]

**48.70.910 Severability—1982 c 181.** See note following RCW 48.03.010.

## Chapter 48.74

### STANDARD VALUATION LAW

#### Sections

48.74.010	Short title—"NAIC" defined.
48.74.020	Valuation of reserve liabilities.
48.74.025	Reserves and related actuarial items—Opinion of a qualified actuary—Requirements for the opinion—Rules.
48.74.030	Minimum standard for valuation.
48.74.040	Amount of reserves required.
48.74.050	Minimum aggregate reserves.
48.74.060	Other methods of reserve calculation.
48.74.070	Minimum reserve if gross premium less than valuation net premium.
48.74.080	Procedure when specified methods of reserve determination unfeasible.
48.74.090	Valuation of disability insurance.

**48.74.010 Short title—"NAIC" defined.** This chapter may be known and cited as the standard valuation law. As used in this chapter, "NAIC" means the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. [1982 1st ex.s. c 9 § 1.]

**48.74.020 Valuation of reserve liabilities.** The commissioner shall annually value, or cause to be valued, the reserve liabilities, hereinafter called reserves, for all outstanding life insurance policies and annuity and pure endowment contracts of every life insurance company doing business in this state, and may certify the amount of any such reserves, specifying the mortality table or tables, rate or rates of interest, and methods, including net level premium method or other, used in the calculation of such reserves. In calculating such reserves, the commissioner may use group methods and approximate averages for fractions of a year or

otherwise. In lieu of the valuation of the reserves herein required of any foreign or alien company, the commissioner may accept any valuation made, or caused to be made, by the insurance supervisory official of any state or other jurisdiction when such valuation complies with the minimum standard provided in this chapter and if the official of such state or jurisdiction accepts as sufficient and valid for all legal purposes the certificate of valuation of the commissioner when such certificate states the valuation to have been made in a specified manner according to which the aggregate reserves would be at least as large as if they had been computed in the manner prescribed by the law of that state or jurisdiction. [1982 1st ex.s. c 9 § 2.]

**48.74.025 Reserves and related actuarial items—Opinion of a qualified actuary—Requirements for the opinion—Rules.** (1) Every life insurance company doing business in this state shall annually submit the opinion of a qualified actuary as to whether the reserves and related actuarial items held in support of the policies and contracts specified by the commissioner by rule are computed appropriately, are based on assumptions that satisfy contractual provisions, are consistent with prior reported amounts, and comply with applicable laws of this state. The commissioner by rule shall define the specifics of this opinion and add any other items deemed to be necessary to its scope.

(2)(a) Every life insurance company, except as exempted by rule, shall also include in the opinion required under subsection (1) of this section an opinion as to whether the reserves and related actuarial items held in support of the policies and contracts specified by the commissioner by rule, when considered in light of the assets held by the company with respect to the reserves and related actuarial items, including but not limited to the investment earnings on the assets and the considerations anticipated to be received and retained under the policies and contracts, make adequate provision for the company's obligations under the policies and contracts, including but not limited to the benefits under and expenses associated with the policies and contracts.

(b) The commissioner may provide by rule for a transition period for establishing higher reserves that the qualified actuary may deem necessary in order to render the opinion required by this section.

(3) Each opinion required under subsection (2) of this section is governed by the following provisions:

(a) A memorandum, in form and substance acceptable to the commissioner as specified by rule, must be prepared to support each actuarial opinion.

(b) If the insurance company fails to provide a supporting memorandum at the request of the commissioner within a period specified by rule or if the commissioner determines that the supporting memorandum provided by the insurance company fails to meet the standards prescribed by the rules or is otherwise unacceptable to the commissioner, the commissioner may engage a qualified actuary at the expense of the company to review the opinion and the basis for the opinion and prepare such supporting memorandum as is required by the commissioner.

(4) A memorandum in support of the opinion, and other material provided by the company to the commissioner in connection with it, must be kept confidential by the commis-

sioner and may not be made public and is not subject to subpoena, other than for the purpose of defending an action seeking damages from any person by reason of an action required by this section or by rules adopted under it. However, the commissioner may otherwise release the memorandum or other material (a) with the written consent of the company or (b) to the American Academy of Actuaries upon request stating that the memorandum or other material is required for the purpose of professional disciplinary proceedings and setting forth procedures satisfactory to the commissioner for preserving the confidentiality of the memorandum or other material. Once any portion of the confidential memorandum is cited by the company in its marketing or is cited before any governmental agency other than a state insurance department or is released by the company to the news media, all portions of the confidential memorandum are no longer confidential.

(5) Each opinion required under this section is governed by the following provisions:

(a) The opinion must be submitted with the annual statement reflecting the valuation of the reserve liabilities for each year ending on or after December 31, 1994.

(b) The opinion applies to all business in force, including individual and group disability insurance, in form and substance acceptable to the commissioner as specified by rule.

(c) The opinion must be based on standards adopted by the commissioner, who in setting the standards shall give due regard to the standards established by the actuarial standards board or its successors.

(d) In the case of an opinion required to be submitted by a foreign or alien company, the commissioner may accept the opinion filed by that company with the insurance supervisory official of another state if the commissioner determines that the opinion reasonably meets the requirements applicable to a company domiciled in this state.

(e) For purposes of this section, "qualified actuary" means a person who meets qualifications set by the commissioner with due regard to the qualifications established for membership in the American Academy of Actuaries or its successors.

(f) Except in cases of fraud or willful misconduct, the qualified actuary is not liable for damages to any person, other than the insurance company and the commissioner, for any act, error, omission, decision, or conduct with respect to the actuary's opinion.

(g) Rules adopted by the commissioner shall define disciplinary action by the commissioner against the company or the qualified actuary. [1993 c 462 § 85.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.74.030 Minimum standard for valuation.** (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section, or in RCW 48.74.090, the minimum standard for the valuation of all such policies and contracts issued prior to July 10, 1982, shall be that provided by the laws in effect immediately prior to such date. Except as otherwise provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section, or in RCW 48.74.090, the minimum standard for the valuation of all such policies and contracts issued on or after July 10, 1982, shall be the commissioner's reserve valuation methods

defined in RCW 48.74.040, 48.74.070, and 48.74.090, three and one-half percent interest, or in the case of life insurance policies and contracts, other than annuity and pure endowment contracts, issued on or after July 16, 1973, four percent interest for such policies issued prior to September 1, 1979, five and one-half percent interest for single premium life insurance policies and four and one-half percent interest for all other such policies issued on and after September 1, 1979, and the following tables:

(a) For all ordinary policies of life insurance issued on the standard basis, excluding any disability and accidental death benefits in such policies—the commissioner's 1941 standard ordinary mortality table for such policies issued prior to the operative date of \*RCW 48.23.350(5a) and the commissioner's 1958 standard ordinary mortality table for such policies issued on or after such operative date and prior to the operative date of RCW 48.76.050(4), except that for any category of such policies issued on female risks, all modified net premiums and present values referred to in this chapter may be calculated according to an age not more than six years younger than the actual age of the insured; and for such policies issued on or after the operative date of RCW 48.76.050(4): (i) The commissioner's 1980 standard ordinary mortality table; or (ii) at the election of the company for any one or more specified plans of life insurance, the commissioner's 1980 standard ordinary mortality table with ten-year select mortality factors; or (iii) any ordinary mortality table, adopted after 1980 by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, that is approved by regulation promulgated by the commissioner for use in determining the minimum standard of valuation for such policies.

(b) For all industrial life insurance policies issued on the standard basis, excluding any disability and accidental death benefits in such policies—the 1941 standard industrial mortality table for such policies issued prior to the operative date of \*RCW 48.23.350(5b), and for such policies issued on or after such operative date the commissioner's 1961 standard industrial mortality table or any industrial mortality table, adopted after 1980 by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, that is approved by rule of the commissioner for use in determining the minimum standard of valuation for such policies.

(c) For individual annuity and pure endowment contracts, excluding any disability and accidental death benefits in such policies—the 1937 standard annuity mortality table or, at the option of the company, the annuity mortality table for 1949, ultimate, or any modification of either of these tables approved by the commissioner.

(d) For group annuity and pure endowment contracts, excluding any disability and accidental death benefits in such policies—the group annuity mortality table for 1951, any modification of such table approved by the commissioner, or, at the option of the company, any of the tables or modifications of tables specified for individual annuity and pure endowment contracts.

(e) For total and permanent disability benefits in or supplementary to ordinary policies or contracts—for policies or contracts issued on or after January 1, 1966, the tables of period 2 disablement rates and the 1930 to 1950 termination rates of the 1952 disability study of the Society of Actuaries, with due regard to the type of benefit or any tables of disablement rates and termination rates, adopted after 1980



by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, that are approved by regulation promulgated by the commissioner for use in determining the minimum standard of valuation for such policies; for policies or contracts issued on or after January 1, 1961, and prior to January 1, 1966, either such tables or, at the option of the company, the class (3) disability table (1926); and for policies issued prior to January 1, 1961, the class (3) disability table (1926). Any such table shall, for active lives, be combined with a mortality table permitted for calculating the reserves for life insurance policies.

(f) For accidental death benefits in or supplementary to policies—for policies issued on or after January 1, 1966, the 1959 accidental death benefits table or any accidental death benefits table, adopted after 1980 by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, that is approved by regulation promulgated by the commissioner for use in determining the minimum standard of valuation for such policies; for policies issued on or after January 1, 1961, and prior to January 1, 1966, either such table or, at the option of the company, the intercompany double indemnity mortality table; and for policies issued prior to January 1, 1961, the intercompany double indemnity mortality table. Either table shall be combined with a mortality table permitted for calculating the reserves for life insurance policies.

(g) For group life insurance, life insurance issued on the substandard basis and other special benefits—such tables as may be approved by the commissioner.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, the minimum standard for the valuation of all individual annuity and pure endowment contracts issued on or after July 10, 1982, and for all annuities and pure endowments purchased on or after such effective date under group annuity and pure endowment contracts, shall be the commissioner's reserve valuation methods defined in RCW 48.74.040 and the following tables and interest rates:

(a) For individual annuity and pure endowment contracts issued before September 1, 1979, excluding any disability and accidental death benefit in such contracts—the 1971 individual annuity mortality table, or any modification of this table approved by the commissioner, and six percent interest for single premium immediate annuity contracts, and four percent interest for all other individual annuity and pure endowment contracts.

(b) For individual single premium immediate annuity contracts issued on or after September 1, 1979, excluding any disability and accidental death benefits in such contracts—the 1971 individual annuity mortality table or any individual annuity mortality table, adopted after 1980 by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, that is approved by regulation promulgated by the commissioner for use in determining the minimum standard of valuation for such contracts, or any modification of these tables approved by the commissioner, and seven and one-half percent interest.

(c) For individual annuity and pure endowment contracts issued on or after September 1, 1979, other than single premium immediate annuity contracts, excluding any disability and accidental death benefits in such contracts—the 1971 individual annuity mortality table or any individual annuity mortality table, adopted after 1980 by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, that is approved by

regulation promulgated by the commissioner for use in determining the minimum standard of valuation for such contracts, or any modification of these tables approved by the commissioner, and five and one-half percent interest for single premium deferred annuity and pure endowment contracts and four and one-half percent interest for all other such individual annuity and pure endowment contracts.

(d) For all annuities and pure endowments purchased prior to September 1, 1979, under group annuity and pure endowment contracts, excluding any disability and accidental death benefits purchased under such contracts—the 1971 group annuity mortality table, or any modification of this table approved by the commissioner, and six percent interest.

(e) For all annuities and pure endowments purchased on or after September 1, 1979, under group annuity and pure endowment contracts, excluding any disability and accidental death benefits purchased under such contracts—the 1971 group annuity mortality table or any group annuity mortality table, adopted after 1980 by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, that is approved by regulation promulgated by the commissioner for use in determining the minimum standard of valuation for such annuities and pure endowments, or any modification of these tables approved by the commissioner, and seven and one-half percent interest.

After July 16, 1973, any company may file with the commissioner a written notice of its election to comply with the provisions of this section after a specified date before January 1, 1979, which shall be the operative date of this section for such company. If a company makes no such election, the operative date of this section for such company shall be January 1, 1979.

(3)(a) The interest rates used in determining the minimum standard for the valuation of:

(i) All life insurance policies issued in a particular calendar year, on or after the operative date of RCW 48.76.050(4);

(ii) All individual annuity and pure endowment contracts issued in a particular calendar year on or after January 1, 1982;

(iii) All annuities and pure endowments purchased in a particular calendar year on or after January 1, 1982, under group annuity and pure endowment contracts; and

(iv) The net increase, if any, in a particular calendar year after January 1, 1982, in amounts held under guaranteed interest contracts shall be the calendar year statutory valuation interest rates as defined in this section.

(b) The calendar year statutory valuation interest rates,  $I$ , shall be determined as follows and the results rounded to the nearer one-quarter of one percent:

(i) For life insurance:

$$I = .03 + W (R_1 - .03) + W/2 (R_2 - .09);$$

(ii) For single premium immediate annuities and for annuity benefits involving life contingencies arising from other annuities with cash settlement options and from guaranteed interest contracts with cash settlement options:

$$I = .03 + W (R - .03)$$

where  $R_1$  is the lesser of  $R$  and  $.09$ ,

$R_2$  is the greater of  $R$  and  $.09$ ,

$R$  is the reference interest rate defined in this section,

and

$W$  is the weighting factor defined in this section;

(iii) For other annuities with cash settlement options and guaranteed interest contracts with cash settlement options, valued on an issue year basis, except as stated in (ii) of this subparagraph, the formula for life insurance stated in (i) of this subparagraph shall apply to annuities and guaranteed interest contracts with guarantee durations in excess of ten years and the formula for single premium immediate annuities stated in (ii) of this subparagraph shall apply to annuities and guaranteed interest contracts with guarantee duration of ten years or less;

(iv) For other annuities with no cash settlement options and for guaranteed interest contracts with no cash settlement options, the formula for single premium immediate annuities stated in (ii) of this subparagraph shall apply;

(v) For other annuities with cash settlement options and guaranteed interest contracts with cash settlement options, valued on a change in fund basis, the formula for single premium immediate annuities stated in (ii) of this subparagraph shall apply.

(c) However, if the calendar year statutory valuation interest rate for any life insurance policies issued in any calendar year determined without reference to this sentence differs from the corresponding actual rate for similar policies issued in the immediately preceding calendar year by less than one-half of one percent, the calendar year statutory valuation interest rate for such life insurance policies shall be equal to the corresponding actual rate for the immediately preceding calendar year. For purposes of applying the immediately preceding sentence, the calendar year statutory valuation interest rate for life insurance policies issued in a calendar year shall be determined for 1983 using the reference interest rate defined for 1982 and shall be determined for each subsequent calendar year regardless of when RCW 48.76.050(4) becomes operative.

(d) The weighting factors referred to in the formulas stated in subparagraph (b) of this subsection are given in the following tables:

(i) Weighting Factors for Life Insurance:

Guarantee Duration (Years)	Weighting Factors
10 or less	.50
More than 10, but not more than 20	.45
More than 20	.35

For life insurance, the guarantee duration is the maximum number of years the life insurance can remain in force on a basis guaranteed in the policy or under options to convert to plans of life insurance with premium rates or nonforfeiture values or both which are guaranteed in the original policy;

(ii) Weighting factor for single premium immediate annuities and for annuity benefits involving life contingencies arising from other annuities with cash settlement options and guaranteed interest contracts with cash settlement options: .80;

(iii) Weighting factors for other annuities and for guaranteed interest contracts, except as stated in (ii) of this subparagraph, shall be as specified in (d)(iii) (A), (B), and (C) of this subsection, according to the rules and definitions in (d)(iii) (D), (E), and (F) of this subsection:

(A) For annuities and guaranteed interest contracts valued on an issue year basis:

Guarantee Duration (Years)	Weighting Factor for Plan Type		
	A	B	C
5 or less:	.80	.60	.50
More than 5, but not more than 10:	.75	.60	.50
More than 10, but not more than 20:	.65	.50	.45
More than 20:	.45	.35	.35

(B) For annuities and guaranteed interest contracts valued on a change in fund basis, the factors shown in (d)(iii) (A) of this subsection increased by:

A	Plan Type	
	B	C
.15	.25	.05

(C) For annuities and guaranteed interest contracts valued on an issue year basis other than those with no cash settlement options which do not guarantee interest on considerations received more than one year after issue or purchase and for annuities and guaranteed interest contracts valued on a change in fund basis which do not guarantee interest rates on considerations received more than twelve months beyond the valuation date, the factors shown in (d)(iii) (A) of this subsection or derived in (d)(iii) (B) of this subsection increased by:

A	Plan Type	
	B	C
.05	.05	.05

(D) For other annuities with cash settlement options and guaranteed interest contracts with cash settlement options, the guarantee duration is the number of years for which the contract guarantees interest rates in excess of the calendar year statutory valuation interest rate for life insurance policies with guarantee duration in excess of twenty years. For other annuities with no cash settlement options and for guaranteed interest contracts with no cash settlement options, the guarantee duration is the number of years from the date of issue or date of purchase to the date annuity benefits are scheduled to commence.

(E) Plan type as used in the tables in (d)(iii) (A), (B), and (C) of this subsection is defined as follows:

Plan Type A: At any time a policyholder may withdraw funds only: (1) With an adjustment to reflect changes in interest rates or asset values since receipt of the funds by the insurance company; or (2) without such adjustment but in installments over five years or more; or (3) as an immediate life annuity; or (4) no withdrawal permitted.

Plan Type B: Before expiration of the interest rate guarantee, a policyholder may withdraw funds only: (1) With adjustment to reflect changes in interest rates or asset values since receipt of the funds by the insurance company; or (2) without such adjustment but in installments over five years or more; or (3) no withdrawal permitted. At the end of the interest rate guarantee, funds may be withdrawn without such adjustment in a single sum or installments over less than five years.

Plan Type C: A policyholder may withdraw funds before expiration of the interest rate guarantee in a single sum or installments over less than five years either: (1) Without adjustment to reflect changes in interest rates or

asset values since receipt of the funds by the insurance company; or (2) subject only to a fixed surrender charge stipulated in the contract as a percentage of the fund.

(F) A company may elect to value guaranteed interest contracts with cash settlement options and annuities with cash settlement options on either an issue year basis or on a change in fund basis. Guaranteed interest contracts with no cash settlement options and other annuities with no cash settlement options must be valued on an issue year basis. As used in this section, an issue year basis of valuation refers to a valuation basis under which the interest rate used to determine the minimum valuation standard for the entire duration of the annuity or guaranteed interest contract is the calendar year valuation interest rate for the year of issue or year of purchase of the annuity or guaranteed interest contract. The change in fund basis of valuation refers to a valuation basis under which the interest rate used to determine the minimum valuation standard applicable to each change in the fund held under the annuity or guaranteed interest contract is the calendar year valuation interest rate for the year of the change in the fund.

(e) The reference interest rate referred to in subparagraphs (b) and (c) of this subsection is defined as follows:

(i) For all life insurance, the lesser of the average over a period of thirty-six months and the average over a period of twelve months, ending on June 30th of the calendar year next preceding the year of issue, of Moody's corporate bond yield average—monthly average corporates, as published by Moody's Investors Service, Inc.

(ii) For single premium immediate annuities and for annuity benefits involving life contingencies arising from other annuities with cash settlement options and guaranteed interest contracts with cash settlement options, the average over a period of twelve months, ending on June 30th of the calendar year of issue or year of purchase of Moody's corporate bond yield average—monthly average corporates, as published by Moody's Investors Service, Inc.

(iii) For other annuities with cash settlement options and guaranteed interest contracts with cash settlement options, valued on a year of issue basis, except as stated in (ii) of this subparagraph, with guarantee duration in excess of ten years, the lesser of the average over a period of thirty-six months and the average over a period of twelve months, ending on June 30th of the calendar year of issue or purchase, of Moody's corporate bond yield average—monthly average corporates, as published by Moody's Investors Service, Inc.

(iv) For other annuities with cash settlement options and guaranteed interest contracts with cash settlement options, valued on a year of issue basis, except as stated in (ii) of this subparagraph, with guarantee duration of ten years or less, the average over a period of twelve months, ending on June 30th of the calendar year of issue or purchase, of Moody's corporate bond yield average—monthly average corporates, as published by Moody's Investors Service, Inc.

(v) For other annuities with no cash settlement options and for guaranteed interest contracts with no cash settlement options, the average over a period of twelve months, ending on June 30th of the calendar year of issue or purchase, of Moody's corporate bond yield average—monthly average corporates, as published by Moody's Investors Service, Inc.

(vi) For other annuities with cash settlement options and guaranteed interest contracts with cash settlement options, valued on a change in fund basis, except as stated in (ii) of this subparagraph, the average over a period of twelve months, ending on June 30th of the calendar year of the change in the fund, of Moody's corporate bond yield average—monthly average corporates, as published by Moody's Investors Service, Inc.

(f) If Moody's corporate bond yield average—monthly average corporates is no longer published by Moody's Investors Service, Inc., or if the National Association of Insurance Commissioners determines that Moody's corporate bond yield average—monthly average corporates as published by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. is no longer appropriate for the determination of the reference interest rate, then an alternative method for determination of the reference interest rate, which is adopted by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners and approved by rule adopted by the commissioner, may be substituted. [1993 c 462 § 86; 1982 1st ex.s. c 9 § 3.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 48.23.350 was repealed by 1982 1st ex.s. c 9 § 36. For later enactment, see chapter 48.76 RCW.

**48.74.040 Amount of reserves required.** (1) Except as otherwise provided in RCW 48.74.040(2), 48.74.070, and 48.74.090, reserves according to the commissioner's reserve valuation method, for the life insurance and endowment benefits of policies providing for a uniform amount of insurance and requiring the payment of uniform premiums, shall be the excess, if any, of the present value, at the date of valuation, of such future guaranteed benefits provided for by such policies, over the then present value of any future modified net premiums therefor. The modified net premiums for any such policy shall be such uniform percentage of the respective contract premiums for such benefits that the present value, at the date of issue of the policy, of all such modified net premiums shall be equal to the sum of the then present value of such benefits provided for by the policy and the excess of (a) over (b), as follows:

(a) A net level annual premium equal to the present value, at the date of issue, of such benefits provided for after the first policy year, divided by the present value, at the date of issue, of an annuity of one per annum payable on the first and each subsequent anniversary of such policy on which a premium falls due: PROVIDED HOWEVER, That such net level annual premium shall not exceed the net level annual premium on the nineteen year premium whole life plan for insurance of the same amount at an age one year higher than the age at issue of such policy.

(b) A net one year term premium for such benefits provided for in the first policy year: PROVIDED, That for any life insurance policy issued on or after January 1, 1986, for which the contract premium in the first policy year exceeds that of the second year and for which no comparable additional benefit is provided in the first year for such excess and which provides an endowment benefit or a cash surrender value or a combination thereof in an amount greater than such excess premium, the reserve according to the commissioner's reserve valuation method as of any policy anniversary occurring on or before the assumed ending date defined herein as the first policy anniversary on which the sum of any endowment benefit and any cash surrender value

then available is greater than such excess premium shall, except as otherwise provided in RCW 48.74.070, be the greater of the reserve as of such policy anniversary calculated as described in the preceding paragraph of this subsection and the reserve as of such policy anniversary calculated as described in that paragraph, but with: (i) The value defined in subparagraph (a) of that paragraph being reduced by fifteen percent of the amount of such excess first year premium; (ii) all present values of benefits and premiums being determined without reference to premiums or benefits provided for by the policy after the assumed ending date; (iii) the policy being assumed to mature on such date as an endowment; and (iv) the cash surrender value provided on such date being considered as an endowment benefit. In making the above comparison the mortality and interest bases stated in RCW 48.74.030 (1) and (3) shall be used.

Reserves according to the commissioner's reserve valuation method for life insurance policies providing for a varying amount of insurance or requiring the payment of varying premiums, group annuity and pure endowment contracts purchased under a retirement plan or plan of deferred compensation established or maintained by an employer, including a partnership or sole proprietorship, or by an employee organization, or by both, other than a plan providing individual retirement accounts or individual retirement annuities under section 408 of the Internal Revenue Code, as now or hereafter amended, disability and accidental death benefits in all policies and contracts, and all other benefits, except life insurance and endowment benefits in life insurance policies and benefits provided by all other annuity and pure endowment contracts, shall be calculated by a method consistent with the principles of the preceding paragraphs of this subsection.

(2) This section shall apply to all annuity and pure endowment contracts other than group annuity and pure endowment contracts purchased under a retirement plan or plan of deferred compensation, established or maintained by an employer, including a partnership or sole proprietorship, or by an employee organization, or by both, other than a plan providing individual retirement accounts or individual retirement annuities under section 408 of the Internal Revenue Code, as now or hereafter amended.

Reserves according to the commissioner's annuity reserve method for benefits under annuity or pure endowment contracts, excluding any disability and accidental death benefits in such contracts, shall be the greatest of the respective excesses of the present values, at the date of valuation, of the future guaranteed benefits, including guaranteed nonforfeiture benefits, provided for by such contracts at the end of each respective contract year, over the present value, at the date of valuation, of any future valuation considerations derived from future gross considerations, required by the terms of such contract, that become payable prior to the end of such respective contract year. The future guaranteed benefits shall be determined by using the mortality table, if any, and the interest rate, or rates, specified in such contracts for determining guaranteed benefits. The valuation considerations are the portions of the respective gross considerations applied under the terms of such contracts to determine nonforfeiture values. [1993 c 462 § 87; 1982 1st ex.s. c 9 § 4.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.74.050 Minimum aggregate reserves.** (1) In no event may a company's aggregate reserves for all life insurance policies, excluding disability and accidental death benefits, issued on or after July 10, 1982, be less than the aggregate reserves calculated in accordance with the methods set forth in RCW 48.74.040, 48.74.070, and 48.74.080 and the mortality table or tables and rate or rates of interest used in calculating nonforfeiture benefits for such policies.

(2) In no event may the aggregate reserves for all policies, contracts, and benefits be less than the aggregate reserves determined by the qualified actuary to be necessary to render the opinion required under RCW 48.74.025. [1993 c 462 § 88; 1982 1st ex.s. c 9 § 5.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.74.060 Other methods of reserve calculation.** Reserves for all policies and contracts issued prior to the operative date of this chapter, may be calculated, at the option of the company, according to any standards which produce greater aggregate reserves for all such policies and contracts than the minimum reserves required by the laws in effect immediately prior to such date.

Reserves for any category of policies, contracts, or benefits as established by the commissioner, issued on or after July 10, 1982, may be calculated, at the option of the company, according to any standards which produce greater aggregate reserves for such category than those calculated according to the minimum standard herein provided, but the rate or rates of interest used for policies and contracts, other than annuity and pure endowment contracts, shall not be higher than the corresponding rate or rates of interest used in calculating any nonforfeiture benefits provided therein.

Any such company which at any time has adopted any standard of valuation producing greater aggregate reserves than those calculated according to the minimum standard herein provided may, with the approval of the commissioner, adopt any lower standard of valuation, but not lower than the minimum herein provided. For the purposes of this section, the holding of additional reserves previously determined by a qualified actuary to be necessary to render the opinion required under RCW 48.74.025 is not to be the adoption of a higher standard of valuation. [1993 c 462 § 89; 1982 1st ex.s. c 9 § 6.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.74.070 Minimum reserve if gross premium less than valuation net premium.** If in any contract year the gross premium charged by any life insurance company on any policy or contract is less than the valuation net premium for the policy or contract calculated by the method used in calculating the reserve thereon but using the minimum valuation standards of mortality and rate of interest, the minimum reserve required for such policy or contract shall be the greater of either the reserve calculated according to the mortality table, rate of interest, and method actually used for such policy or contract, or the reserve calculated by the method actually used for such policy or contract but using

the minimum valuation standards of mortality and rate of interest and replacing the valuation net premium by the actual gross premium in each contract year for which the valuation net premium exceeds the actual gross premium. The minimum valuation standards of mortality and rate of interest referred to in this section are those standards stated in RCW 48.74.030 (1) and (3): PROVIDED, That for any life insurance policy issued on or after January 1, 1986, for which the gross premium in the first policy year exceeds that of the second year and for which no comparable additional benefit is provided in the first year for such excess and which provides an endowment benefit or a cash surrender value or a combination thereof in an amount greater than such excess premium, the foregoing provisions of this section shall be applied as if the method actually used in calculating the reserve for such policy were the method described in RCW 48.74.040, ignoring the second paragraph of that section. The minimum reserve at each policy anniversary of such a policy shall be the greater of the minimum reserve calculated in accordance with RCW 48.74.040, including the second paragraph of that section, and the minimum reserve calculated in accordance with this section. [1982 1st ex.s. c 9 § 7.]

**48.74.080 Procedure when specified methods of reserve determination unfeasible.** In the case of any plan of life insurance which provides for future premium determination, the amounts of which are to be determined by the insurance company based on then estimates of future experience, or in the case of any plan of life insurance or annuity which is of such a nature that the minimum reserves cannot be determined by the methods described in RCW 48.74.040 and 48.74.070, the reserves which are held under any such plan must, under regulations promulgated by the commissioner:

- (1) Be appropriate in relation to the benefits and the pattern of premiums for that plan; and
- (2) Be computed by a method which is consistent with the principles of this standard valuation law. [1982 1st ex.s. c 9 § 8.]

**48.74.090 Valuation of disability insurance.** The commissioner shall adopt rules containing the minimum standards applicable to the valuation of disability insurance. [1993 c 462 § 90.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

## Chapter 48.76

### STANDARD NONFORFEITURE LAW FOR LIFE INSURANCE

#### Sections

48.76.010	Short title—"NAIC" defined.
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48.76.040	Nonforfeiture benefit in case of premium default.
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48.76.070	Calculation of cash surrender value and paid-up nonforfeiture benefit.
48.76.080	Cash surrender value required for policies issued on or after January 1, 1986.
48.76.090	Chapter inapplicable to certain policies.
48.76.100	Operative date of chapter.

**48.76.010 Short title—"NAIC" defined.** This chapter may be known and cited as the standard nonforfeiture law for life insurance. As used in this chapter, "NAIC" means the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. [1982 1st ex.s. c 9 § 10.]

**48.76.020 Nonforfeiture and cash surrender provisions required.** In the case of policies issued on and after the operative date of this chapter as defined in RCW 48.76.100, no policy of life insurance, except as stated in RCW 48.76.090, may be delivered or issued for delivery in this state unless it contains in substance the following provisions, or corresponding provisions which in the opinion of the commissioner are at least as favorable to the defaulting or surrendering policyholder as are the minimum requirements specified in this chapter and are essentially in compliance with RCW 48.76.080:

(1) That, in the event of default in any premium payment, the company will grant, upon proper request not later than sixty days after the due date of the premium in default, a paid-up nonforfeiture benefit on a plan stipulated in the policy, effective as of such due date, of such amount as may be specified in this chapter. In lieu of such stipulated paid-up nonforfeiture benefit, the company may substitute, upon proper request not later than sixty days after the due date of the premium in default, an actuarially equivalent alternative paid-up nonforfeiture benefit which provides a greater amount or longer period of death benefits or, if applicable, a greater amount or earlier payment of endowment benefits.

(2) That, upon surrender of the policy within sixty days after the due date of any premium payment in default after premiums have been paid for at least three full years in the case of ordinary insurance or five full years in the case of industrial insurance, the company will pay, in lieu of any paid-up nonforfeiture benefit, a cash surrender value of such amount as may be specified in this chapter.

(3) That a specified paid-up nonforfeiture benefit becomes effective as specified in the policy unless the person entitled to make such election elects another available option not later than sixty days after the due date of the premium in default.

(4) That if the policy has become paid-up by completion of all premium payments or if it is continued under any paid-up nonforfeiture benefit which became effective on or after the third policy anniversary in the case of ordinary insurance or the fifth policy anniversary in the case of industrial insurance, the company will pay, upon surrender of the policy within thirty days after any policy anniversary, a cash surrender value of such amount as may be specified in this chapter.

(5) That policies which cause on a basis guaranteed in the policy unscheduled changes in benefits or premiums, or which provide an option for changes in benefits or premiums other than a change to a new policy, a statement of the

mortality table, interest rate, and method used in calculating cash surrender values and the paid-up nonforfeiture benefits available under the policy. In the case of all other policies, a statement of the mortality table and interest rate used in calculating the cash surrender values and the paid-up nonforfeiture benefits available under the policy, together with a table showing the cash surrender value, if any, and paid-up nonforfeiture benefit, if any, available under the policy on each policy anniversary either during the first twenty policy years or during the term of the policy, whichever is shorter, such values and benefits to be calculated upon the assumption that there are no dividends or paid-up additions credited to the policy and that there is no indebtedness to the company on the policy.

(6) A statement that the cash surrender values and the paid-up nonforfeiture benefits available under the policy are not less than the minimum values and benefits required by or pursuant to the insurance law of the state in which the policy is delivered; an explanation of the manner in which the cash surrender values and the paid-up nonforfeiture benefits are altered by the existence of any paid-up additions credited to the policy or any indebtedness to the company on the policy; if a detailed statement of the method of computation of the values and benefits shown in the policy is not stated therein, a statement that such method of computation has been filed with the insurance supervisory official of the state in which the policy is delivered; and a statement of the method to be used in calculating the cash surrender value and paid-up nonforfeiture benefit available under the policy on any policy anniversary beyond the last anniversary for which such values and benefits are consecutively shown in the policy.

Any of the foregoing provisions or portions thereof not applicable by reason of the plan of insurance may, to the extent inapplicable, be omitted from the policy.

The company shall reserve the right to defer the payment of any cash surrender value for a period of six months after demand therefor with surrender of the policy. [1982 1st ex.s. c 9 § 11.]

**48.76.030 Amount of cash surrender value.** (1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3) of this section, any cash surrender value available under the policy in the event of default in a premium payment due on any policy anniversary, whether or not required by RCW 48.76.020, shall be an amount not less than the excess, if any, of the present value, on such anniversary, of the future guaranteed benefits which would have been provided for by the policy, including any existing paid-up additions, if there had been no default, over the sum of the then present value of the adjusted premiums as defined in RCW 48.76.050, corresponding to premiums which would have fallen due on and after such anniversary, and the amount of any indebtedness to the company on the policy.

(2) For any policy issued on or after the operative date of RCW 48.76.050(4), which provides supplemental life insurance or annuity benefits at the option of the insured and for an identifiable additional premium by rider or supplemental policy provision, the cash surrender value referred to in subsection (1) of this section shall be an amount not less than the sum of the cash surrender value as defined in such

paragraph for an otherwise similar policy issued at the same age without such rider or supplemental policy provision and the cash surrender value as defined in such paragraph for a policy which provides only the benefits otherwise provided by such rider or supplemental policy provision.

(3) For any family policy issued on or after the operative date of RCW 48.76.050(4), which defines a primary insured and provides term insurance on the life of the spouse of the primary insured expiring before the spouse's age seventy-one, the cash surrender value shall be an amount not less than the sum of the cash surrender value as defined in this section for an otherwise similar policy issued at the same age without such term insurance on the life of the spouse and the cash surrender value as defined in this section for a policy which provides only the benefits otherwise provided by such term insurance on the life of the spouse.

(4) Any cash surrender value available within thirty days after any policy anniversary under any policy paid-up by completion of all premium payments or any policy continued under any paid-up nonforfeiture benefit, whether or not required by RCW 48.76.020, shall be an amount not less than the present value, on such anniversary, of the future guaranteed benefits provided for by the policy, including any existing paid-up additions, decreased by any indebtedness to the company on the policy. [1982 1st ex.s. c 9 § 12.]

**48.76.040 Nonforfeiture benefit in case of premium default.** Any paid-up nonforfeiture benefit available under the policy in the event of default in a premium payment due on any policy anniversary shall be such that its present value as of such anniversary is at least equal to the cash surrender value then provided for by the policy or, if none is provided for, that cash surrender value which would have been required by this chapter in the absence of the condition that premiums shall have been paid for at least a specified period. [1982 1st ex.s. c 9 § 13.]

**48.76.050 Calculation of adjusted premiums—Operative date of section.** (1)(a) This subsection does not apply to policies issued on or after the operative date of subsection (4) of this section. Except as provided in subparagraph (c) of this subsection, the adjusted premiums for any policy shall be calculated on an annual basis and shall be such uniform percentage of the respective premiums specified in the policy for each policy year, excluding amounts stated in the policy as extra premiums to cover impairments or special hazards, that the present value, at the date of issue of the policy, of all such adjusted premiums shall be equal to the sum of: (i) The then present value of the future guaranteed benefits provided for by the policy; (ii) two percent of the amount of insurance, if the insurance is uniform in amount, or of the equivalent uniform amount, as hereinafter defined, if the amount of insurance varies with duration of the policy; (iii) forty percent of the adjusted premium for the first policy year; (iv) twenty-five percent of either the adjusted premium for the first policy year or the adjusted premium for a whole life policy of the same uniform or equivalent uniform amount with uniform premiums for the whole of life issued at the same age for the same amount of insurance, whichever is less: PROVIDED,

That in applying the percentages specified in subparagraph (a)(iii) and (iv) of this subsection, no adjusted premium shall be deemed to exceed four percent of the amount of insurance or level amount equivalent thereto. The date of issue of a policy for the purpose of this section shall be the date as of which the rated age of the insured is determined.

(b) In the case of a policy providing an amount of insurance varying with duration of the policy, the equivalent level amount thereof for the purpose of this section shall be deemed to be the level amount of insurance provided by an otherwise similar policy, containing the same endowment benefit or benefits, if any, issued at the same age and for the same term, the amount of which does not vary with duration and the benefits under which have the same present value at the inception of the insurance as the benefits under the policy: PROVIDED HOWEVER, That in the case of a policy providing a varying amount of insurance issued on the life of a child under age ten, the equivalent uniform amount may be computed as though the amount provided by the policy prior to the attainment of age ten were the amount provided by such policy at age ten.

(c) The adjusted premiums for any policy providing term insurance benefits by rider or supplemental policy provision shall be equal to: (i) The adjusted premiums for an otherwise similar policy issued at the same age without such term insurance benefits, increased, during the period for which premiums for such term insurance benefits are payable, by (ii) the adjusted premiums for such term insurance, subparagraph (c) (i) and (ii) of this subsection being calculated separately and as specified in subparagraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection except that, for the purposes of subparagraph (a)(ii), (a)(iii), and (a)(iv) of this subsection, the amount of insurance or equivalent uniform amount of insurance used in the calculation of the adjusted premiums referred to in subparagraph (c)(ii) of this subsection shall be equal to the excess of the corresponding amount determined for the entire policy over the amount used in the calculation of the adjusted premiums in subparagraph (c)(i) of this subsection.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section, all adjusted premiums and present values referred to in this chapter shall for all policies of ordinary insurance be calculated on the basis of the commissioner's 1941 standard ordinary mortality table: PROVIDED, That for any category of ordinary insurance issued on female risks on or after July 1, 1957, adjusted premiums and present values may be calculated according to an age not more than six years younger than the actual age of the insured and such calculations for all policies of industrial insurance shall be made on the basis of the 1941 standard industrial mortality table. All calculations shall be made on the basis of the rate of interest, not exceeding three and one-half percent per annum, specified in the policy for calculating cash surrender values and paid-up nonforfeiture benefits: PROVIDED, That in calculating the present value of any paid-up term insurance with accompanying pure endowment, if any, offered as a nonforfeiture benefit, the rates of mortality assumed may be not more than one hundred thirty percent of the rates of mortality according to such applicable table: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That for insurance issued on a substandard basis, the calculation of any such adjusted premiums and present values may be based on such other table of mortality as may

be specified by the company and approved by the commissioner.

(2) This subsection does not apply to ordinary policies issued on or after the operative date of subsection (4) of this section. In the case of ordinary policies issued on or after the operative date of this section, all adjusted premiums and present values referred to in this chapter shall be calculated on the basis of the commissioner's 1958 standard ordinary mortality table and the rate of interest specified in the policy for calculating cash surrender values and paid-up nonforfeiture benefits provided that such rate of interest shall not exceed three and one-half percent per annum except that a rate of interest not exceeding four percent per annum may be used for policies issued on or after July 16, 1973, and before September 1, 1979, and a rate of interest not exceeding five and one-half percent per annum may be used for policies issued on or after September 1, 1979, except that for any single premium whole life or endowment insurance policy a rate of interest not exceeding six and one-half percent per annum may be used and provided that for any category of ordinary insurance issued on female risks, adjusted premiums and present values may be calculated according to an age not more than six years younger than the actual age of the insured: PROVIDED, That in calculating the present value of any paid-up term insurance with accompanying pure endowment, if any, offered as a nonforfeiture benefit, the rates of mortality assumed may be not more than those shown in the commissioner's 1958 extended term insurance table: PROVIDED FURTHER, That for insurance issued on a substandard basis, the calculation of any such adjusted premiums and present values may be based on such other table of mortality as may be specified by the company and approved by the commissioner.

After June 11, 1959, any company may file with the commissioner a written notice of its election to comply with the provisions of this section. After the filing of such notice, then upon such specified date (which shall be the operative date of this section for such company), this subsection shall become operative with respect to the ordinary policies thereafter issued by such company. If a company makes no such election, the operative date of this section for such company shall be January 1, 1966.

(3) This subsection does not apply to industrial policies issued on or after the operative date of subsection (4) of this section. In the case of industrial policies issued on or after the operative date of this chapter, all adjusted premiums and present values referred to in this chapter shall be calculated on the basis of the commissioner's 1961 standard industrial mortality table and the rate of interest specified in the policy for calculating cash surrender values and paid-up nonforfeiture benefits provided that such rate of interest shall not exceed three and one-half percent per annum, except that a rate of interest not exceeding four percent per annum may be used for policies issued on or after July 16, 1973, and prior to September 1, 1979, and a rate of interest not exceeding five and one-half percent per annum may be used for policies issued on or after September 1, 1979, except that for any single premium whole life or endowment insurance policy a rate of interest not exceeding six and one-half percent per annum may be used: PROVIDED, That in calculating the present value of any paid-up term insurance with accompanying pure endowment, if any, offered as a

nonforfeiture benefit, the rates of mortality assumed may be not more than those shown in the commissioner's 1961 industrial extended term insurance table: PROVIDED FURTHER, That for insurance issued on a substandard basis, the calculations of any such adjusted premiums and present values may be based on such other table of mortality as may be specified by the company and approved by the commissioner.

After July 10, 1982, any company may file with the commissioner a written notice of its election to comply with the provisions of this section. After the filing of such notice, then upon such specified date (which shall be the operative date of this section for such company), this subsection shall become operative with respect to the industrial policies thereafter issued by such company. If a company makes no such election, the operative date of this section for such company shall be January 1, 1968.

(4)(a) This section applies to all policies issued on or after the operative date of this subsection as defined herein. Except as provided in subparagraph (g) of this subsection, the adjusted premiums for any policy shall be calculated on an annual basis and shall be such uniform percentage of the respective premiums specified in the policy for each policy year, excluding amounts payable as extra premiums to cover impairments or special hazards and also excluding any uniform annual contract charge or policy fee specified in the policy in a statement of the method to be used in calculating the cash surrender values and paid-up nonforfeiture benefits, that the present value, at the date of issue of the policy, of all adjusted premiums shall be equal to the sum of: (i) The then present value of the future guaranteed benefits provided for by the policy; (ii) one percent of either the amount of insurance, if the insurance be uniform in amount, or the average amount of insurance at the beginning of each of the first ten policy years; and (iii) one hundred twenty-five percent of the nonforfeiture net level premium as defined in subparagraph (b) of this subsection: PROVIDED, That in applying the percentage specified in (iii) of this subparagraph no nonforfeiture net level premium shall be deemed to exceed four percent of either the amount of insurance, if the insurance be uniform in amount, or the average amount of insurance at the beginning of each of the first ten policy years. The date of issue of a policy for the purpose of this section shall be the date as of which the rated age of the insured is determined.

(b) The nonforfeiture net level premium shall be equal to the present value, at the date of issue of the policy, of the guaranteed benefits provided for by the policy divided by the present value, at the date of issue of the policy, of an annuity of one per annum payable on the date of issue of the policy and on each anniversary of such policy on which a premium falls due.

(c) In the case of policies which cause on a basis guaranteed in the policy unscheduled changes in benefits or premiums, or which provide an option for changes in benefits or premiums other than a change to a new policy, the adjusted premiums and present values shall initially be calculated on the assumption that future benefits and premiums do not change from those stipulated at the date of issue of the policy. At the time of any such change in the benefits or premiums the future adjusted premiums, nonforfeiture net level premiums and present values shall be

recalculated on the assumption that future benefits and premiums do not change from those stipulated by the policy immediately after the change.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (g) of this subsection, the recalculated future adjusted premiums for any such policy shall be such uniform percentage of the respective future premiums specified in the policy for each policy year, excluding amounts payable as extra premiums to cover impairments and special hazards, and also excluding any uniform annual contract charge or policy fee specified in the policy in a statement of the method to be used in calculating the cash surrender values and paid-up nonforfeiture benefits, that the present value, at the time of change to the newly defined benefits or premiums, of all such future adjusted premiums shall be equal to the excess of (i) the sum of (A) the then present value of the then future guaranteed benefits provided for by the policy and (B) the additional expense allowance, if any, over (ii) the then cash surrender value, if any, or present value of any paid-up nonforfeiture benefit under the policy.

(e) The additional expense allowance, at the time of the change to the newly defined benefits or premiums, shall be the sum of: (i) One percent of the excess, if positive, of the average amount of insurance at the beginning of each of the first ten policy years subsequent to the change over the average amount of insurance prior to the change at the beginning of each of the first ten policy years subsequent to the time of the most recent previous change, or, if there has been no previous change, the date of issue of the policy; and (ii) one hundred twenty-five percent of the increase, if positive, in the nonforfeiture net level premium.

(f) The recalculated nonforfeiture net level premium shall be equal to the result obtained by dividing (i) by (ii) where:

(i) Equals the sum of:

(A) The nonforfeiture net level premium applicable prior to the change times the present value of an annuity of one per annum payable on each anniversary of the policy on or subsequent to the date of the change on which a premium would have fallen due had the change not occurred; and

(B) The present value of the increase in future guaranteed benefits provided for by the policy; and

(ii) Equals the present value of an annuity of one per annum payable on each anniversary of the policy on or subsequent to the date of change on which a premium falls due.

(g) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section to the contrary, in the case of a policy issued on a substandard basis which provides reduced graded amounts of insurance so that, in each policy year, such policy has the same tabular mortality cost as an otherwise similar policy issued on the standard basis which provides higher uniform amounts of insurance, adjusted premiums and present values for such substandard policy may be calculated as if it were issued to provide such higher uniform amounts of insurance on the standard basis.

(h) All adjusted premiums and present values referred to in this chapter shall for all policies of ordinary insurance be calculated on the basis of the commissioner's 1980 standard ordinary mortality table or at the election of the company for any one or more specified plans of life insurance, the commissioner's 1980 standard ordinary mortality



table with ten-year select mortality factors, shall for all policies of industrial insurance be calculated on the basis of the commissioner's 1961 standard industrial mortality table, and shall for all policies issued in a particular calendar year be calculated on the basis of a rate of interest not exceeding the nonforfeiture interest rate as defined in this section, for policies issued in that calendar year, subject to the following provisions:

(i) At the option of the company, calculations for all policies issued in a particular calendar year may be made on the basis of a rate of interest not exceeding the nonforfeiture interest rate, as defined in this section, for policies issued in the immediately preceding calendar year.

(ii) Under any paid-up nonforfeiture benefit, including any paid-up dividend additions, any cash surrender value available, whether or not required by RCW 48.76.020, shall be calculated on the basis of the mortality table and rate of interest used in determining the amount of such paid-up nonforfeiture benefit and paid-up dividend additions, if any.

(iii) A company may calculate the amount of any guaranteed paid-up nonforfeiture benefit including any paid-up additions under the policy on the basis of an interest rate no lower than that specified in the policy for calculating cash surrender values.

(iv) In calculating the present value of any paid-up term insurance with accompanying pure endowment, if any, offered as a nonforfeiture benefit, the rates of mortality assumed may be not more than those shown in the commissioner's 1980 extended term insurance table for policies of ordinary insurance and not more than the commissioner's 1961 industrial extended term insurance table for policies of industrial insurance.

(v) For insurance issued on a substandard basis, the calculation of any such adjusted premiums and present values may be based on appropriate modifications of the aforementioned tables.

(vi) Any ordinary mortality tables, adopted after 1980 by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, that are approved by regulation promulgated by the commissioner for use in determining the minimum nonforfeiture standard may be substituted for the commissioner's 1980 standard ordinary mortality table with or without ten-year select mortality factors or for the commissioner's 1980 extended term insurance table.

(vii) Any industrial mortality tables, adopted after 1980 by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, that are approved by regulation promulgated by the commissioner for use in determining the minimum nonforfeiture standard may be substituted for the commissioner's 1961 standard industrial mortality table or the commissioner's 1961 industrial extended term insurance table.

(i) The nonforfeiture interest rate per annum for any policy issued in a particular calendar year shall be equal to one hundred twenty-five percent of the calendar year statutory valuation interest rate for such policy as defined in the standard valuation law (chapter 48.74 RCW), rounded to the nearer one quarter of one percent.

(j) Notwithstanding any other provision in this title to the contrary, any refiling of nonforfeiture values or their methods of computation for any previously approved policy form which involves only a change in the interest rate or mortality table used to compute nonforfeiture values shall

not require refiling of any other provisions of that policy form.

(k) After July 10, 1982, any company may file with the commissioner a written notice of its election to comply with the provision[s] of this section after a specified date before January 1, 1989, which shall be the operative date of this section for such company. If a company makes no such election, the operative date of this section for such company shall be January 1, 1989. [1982 1st ex.s. c 9 § 14.]

**48.76.060 Requirements when specified methods of minimum values determination unfeasible.** In the case of any plan of life insurance which provides for future premium determination, the amounts of which are to be determined by the insurance company based on then estimates of future experience, or in the case of any plan of life insurance which is of such a nature that minimum values cannot be determined by the methods described in RCW 48.76.020 through 48.76.050, then:

(1) The commissioner must be satisfied that the benefits provided under the plan are substantially as favorable to policyholders and insureds as the minimum benefits otherwise required by RCW 48.76.020 through 48.76.050;

(2) The commissioner must be satisfied that the benefits and the pattern of premiums of that plan are not such as to mislead prospective policyholders or insureds;

(3) The cash surrender values and paid-up nonforfeiture benefits provided by such plan must not be less than the minimum values and benefits required for the plan computed by a method consistent with the principles of this chapter, as determined by regulations promulgated by the commissioner. [1982 1st ex.s. c 9 § 15.]

**48.76.070 Calculation of cash surrender value and paid-up nonforfeiture benefit.** Any cash surrender value and any paid-up nonforfeiture benefit, available under the policy in the event of default in a premium payment due at any time other than on the policy anniversary, shall be calculated with allowance for the lapse of time and the payment of fractional premiums beyond the last preceding policy anniversary. All values referred to in RCW 48.76.030 through 48.76.050 may be calculated upon the assumption that any death benefit is payable at the end of the policy year of death. The net value of any paid-up additions, other than paid-up term additions, shall be not less than the amounts used to provide such additions. Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 48.76.030, additional benefits payable: (1) In the event of death or dismemberment by accident or accidental means; (2) in the event of total and permanent disability; (3) as reversionary annuity or deferred reversionary annuity benefits; (4) as term insurance benefits provided by a rider or supplemental policy provision to which, if issued as a separate policy, this chapter would not apply; (5) as term insurance on the life of a child or on the lives of children provided in a policy on the life of a parent of the child, if such term insurance expires before the child's age is twenty-six, is uniform in amount after the child's age is one, and has not become paid-up by reason of the death of a parent of the child; and (6) as other policy benefits additional to life insurance and endowment benefits, and premiums for all such additional benefits, shall be dis-

regarded in ascertaining cash surrender values and nonforfeiture benefits required by this chapter, and no such additional benefits shall be required to be included in any paid-up nonforfeiture benefits. [1982 1st ex.s. c 9 § 16.]

**48.76.080 Cash surrender value required for policies issued on or after January 1, 1986.** (1) This section, in addition to all other applicable sections of this chapter, shall apply to all policies issued on or after January 1, 1986. Any cash surrender value available under the policy in the event of default in a premium payment due on any policy anniversary shall be in an amount which does not differ by more than two-tenths of one percent of either the amount of insurance, if the insurance be uniform in amount, or the average amount of insurance at the beginning of each of the first ten policy years, from the sum of: (a) The greater of zero and the basic cash value specified in subsection (2) of this section; and (b) the present value of any existing paid-up additions less the amount of any indebtedness to the company under the policy.

(2) The basic cash value shall be equal to the present value, on such anniversary, of the future guaranteed benefits which would have been provided for by the policy, excluding any existing paid-up additions and before deduction of any indebtedness to the company, if there had been no default, less the then present value of the nonforfeiture factors, as defined in subsection (3) of this section, corresponding to premiums which would have fallen due on and after such anniversary: PROVIDED, That the effects on the basic cash value of supplemental life insurance or annuity benefits or of family coverage, as described in RCW 48.76.030 or 48.76.050(4), whichever is applicable, shall be the same as are the effects specified in RCW 48.76.030 or 48.76.050(4), whichever is applicable, on the cash surrender values defined in that section.

(3) The nonforfeiture factor for each policy year shall be an amount equal to a percentage of the adjusted premium for the policy year, as defined in RCW 48.76.050 (1) or (4). Except as is required by the next succeeding sentence of this paragraph, such percentage:

(a) Must be the same percentage for each policy year between the second policy anniversary and the later of: (i) The fifth policy anniversary; and (ii) The first policy anniversary at which there is available under the policy a cash surrender value in an amount, before including any paid-up additions and before deducting any indebtedness, of at least two-tenths of one percent of either the amount of insurance, if the insurance be uniform in amount, or the average amount of insurance at the beginning of each of the first ten policy years; and

(b) Must be such that no percentage after the later of the two policy anniversaries specified in subparagraph (a) of this subsection may apply to fewer than five consecutive policy years: PROVIDED, That no basic cash value may be less than the value which would be obtained if the adjusted premiums for the policy, as defined in RCW 48.76.050 (1) or (4), whichever is applicable, were substituted for the nonforfeiture factors in the calculation of the basic cash value.

(4) All adjusted premiums and present values referred to in this section shall for a particular policy be calculated

on the same mortality and interest bases as are used in demonstrating the policy's compliance with the other sections of this chapter. The cash surrender values referred to in this section shall include any endowment benefits provided for by the policy.

(5) Any cash surrender value available other than in the event of default in a premium payment due on a policy anniversary, and the amount of any paid-up nonforfeiture benefit available under the policy in the event of default in a premium payment shall be determined in manners consistent with the manners specified for determining the analogous minimum amounts in RCW 48.76.020 through 48.76.040, 48.76.050(4), and 48.76.070. The amounts of any cash surrender values and of any paid-up nonforfeiture benefits granted in connection with additional benefits such as those listed in RCW 48.76.070 shall conform with the principles of this section. [1982 1st ex.s. c 9 § 17.]

**48.76.090 Chapter inapplicable to certain policies.** This chapter does not apply to any of the following:

- (1) Reinsurance;
- (2) Group insurance;
- (3) A pure endowment;
- (4) An annuity or reversionary annuity contract;

(5) A term policy of a uniform amount, which provides no guaranteed nonforfeiture or endowment benefits, or renewal thereof, of twenty years or less expiring before age seventy-one, for which uniform premiums are payable during the entire term of the policy;

(6) A term policy of a decreasing amount, which provides no guaranteed nonforfeiture or endowment benefits, on which each adjusted premium, calculated as specified in RCW 48.76.050, is less than the adjusted premium so calculated, on a term policy of uniform amount, or renewal thereof, which provides no guaranteed nonforfeiture or endowment benefits, issued at the same age and for the same initial amount of insurance and for a term of twenty years or less expiring before age seventy-one, for which uniform premiums are payable during the entire term of the policy;

(7) A policy, which provides no guaranteed nonforfeiture or endowment benefits, for which no cash surrender value, if any, or present value of any paid-up nonforfeiture benefit, at the beginning of any policy year, calculated as specified in RCW 48.76.030 through 48.76.050, exceeds two and one-half percent of the amount of insurance at the beginning of the same policy year; nor

(8) A policy which is delivered outside this state through an agent or other representative of the company issuing the policy.

For purposes of determining the applicability of this chapter, the age at expiration for a joint term life insurance policy is the age at expiration of the oldest life. [1982 1st ex.s. c 9 § 18.]

**48.76.100 Operative date of chapter.** After July 10, 1982, any company may file with the commissioner a written notice of its election to comply with the provisions of this chapter. After the filing of such notice, then upon such specified date (which shall be the operative date for such company), this chapter becomes operative with respect to the policies thereafter issued by such company. If a

company makes no such election, the operative date of this chapter for such company shall be January 1, 1948. [1982 1st ex.s. c 9 § 19.]

### Chapter 48.80

#### HEALTH CARE FALSE CLAIM ACT

##### Sections

48.80.010	Legislative finding—Short title.
48.80.020	Definitions.
48.80.030	Making false claims, concealing information—Penalty—Exclusions.
48.80.040	Use of circumstantial evidence.
48.80.050	Civil action not limited.
48.80.060	Conviction of provider, notification to regulatory agency.
48.80.900	Severability—1986 c 243.

**48.80.010 Legislative finding—Short title.** The legislature finds and declares that the welfare of the citizens of this state is threatened by the spiraling increases in the cost of health care. It is further recognized that fraudulent health care claims contribute to these increases in health care costs. In recognition of these findings, it is declared that special attention must be directed at eliminating the unjustifiable costs of fraudulent health care claims by establishing specific penalties and deterrents. This chapter may be known and cited as "the health care false claim act." [1986 c 243 § 1.]

**48.80.020 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Claim" means any attempt to cause a health care payer to make a health care payment.

(2) "Deceptive" means presenting a claim to a health care payer that contains a statement of fact or fails to reveal a material fact, leading the health care payer to believe that the represented or suggested state of affairs is other than it actually is. For the purposes of this chapter, the determination of what constitutes a material fact is a question of law to be resolved by the court.

(3) "False" means wholly or partially untrue or deceptive.

(4) "Health care payment" means a payment for health care services or the right under a contract, certificate, or policy of insurance to have a payment made by a health care payer for a specified health care service.

(5) "Health care payer" means any insurance company authorized to provide health insurance in this state, any health care service contractor authorized under chapter 48.44 RCW, any health maintenance organization authorized under chapter 48.46 RCW, any legal entity which is self-insured and providing health care benefits to its employees, and any insurer or other person responsible for paying for health care services.

(6) "Person" means an individual, corporation, partnership, association, or other legal entity.

(7) "Provider" means any person lawfully licensed or authorized to render any health service. [1995 c 285 § 25; 1986 c 243 § 2.]

**Effective date—1995 c 285:** See RCW 48.30A.900.

**48.80.030 Making false claims, concealing information—Penalty—Exclusions.** (1) A person shall not make or present or cause to be made or presented to a health care payer a claim for a health care payment knowing the claim to be false.

(2) No person shall knowingly present to a health care payer a claim for a health care payment that falsely represents that the goods or services were medically necessary in accordance with professionally accepted standards. Each claim that violates this subsection shall constitute a separate offense.

(3) No person shall knowingly make a false statement or false representation of a material fact to a health care payer for use in determining rights to a health care payment. Each claim that violates this subsection shall constitute a separate violation.

(4) No person shall conceal the occurrence of any event affecting his or her initial or continued right under a contract, certificate, or policy of insurance to have a payment made by a health care payer for a specified health care service. A person shall not conceal or fail to disclose any information with intent to obtain a health care payment to which the person or any other person is not entitled, or to obtain a health care payment in an amount greater than that which the person or any other person is entitled.

(5) No provider shall willfully collect or attempt to collect an amount from an insured knowing that to be in violation of an agreement or contract with a health care payer to which the provider is a party.

(6) A person who violates this section is guilty of a class C felony punishable under chapter 9A.20 RCW.

(7) This section does not apply to statements made on an application for coverage under a contract or certificate of health care coverage issued by an insurer, health care service contractor, health maintenance organization, or other legal entity which is self-insured and providing health care benefits to its employees. [1990 c 119 § 11; 1986 c 243 § 3.]

**48.80.040 Use of circumstantial evidence.** In a prosecution under this chapter, circumstantial evidence may be presented to demonstrate that a false statement or claim was knowingly made. Such evidence may include but shall not be limited to the following circumstances:

(1) Where a claim for a health care payment is submitted with the person's actual, facsimile, stamped, typewritten, or similar signature on the form required for the making of a claim for health care payment; and

(2) Where a claim for a health care payment is submitted by means of computer billing tapes or other electronic means if the person has advised the health care payer in writing that claims for health care payment will be submitted by use of computer billing tapes or other electronic means. [1986 c 243 § 4.]

**48.80.050 Civil action not limited.** This chapter shall not be construed to prohibit or limit a prosecution of or civil action against a person for the violation of any other law of this state. [1986 c 243 § 5.]

**48.80.060 Conviction of provider, notification to regulatory agency.** Upon the conviction under this chapter of any provider, the prosecutor shall provide written notification to the appropriate regulatory or disciplinary agency of such conviction. [1986 c 243 § 6.]

**48.80.900 Severability—1986 c 243.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1986 c 243 § 7.]

## Chapter 48.84

### LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE ACT

#### Sections

- 48.84.010 General provisions, intent.
- 48.84.020 Definitions.
- 48.84.030 Rules—Benefits-premiums ratio, coverage limitations.
- 48.84.040 Policies and contracts—Prohibited provisions.
- 48.84.050 Disclosure rules—Required provisions in policy or contract.
- 48.84.060 Prohibited practices.
- 48.84.070 Separation of data regarding certain policies.
- 48.84.900 Severability—1986 c 170.
- 48.84.910 Effective date, application—1986 c 170.

*Long-term care insurance plans for eligible public employees: RCW 41.05.065.*

**48.84.010 General provisions, intent.** This chapter may be known and cited as the "long-term care insurance act" and is intended to govern the content and sale of long-term care insurance and long-term care benefit contracts as defined in this chapter. This chapter shall be liberally construed to promote the public interest in protecting purchasers of long-term care insurance from unfair or deceptive sales, marketing, and advertising practices. The provisions of this chapter shall apply in addition to other requirements of Title 48 RCW. [1986 c 170 § 1.]

**48.84.020 Definitions.** Unless the context requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Long-term care insurance" or "long-term care benefit contract" means any insurance policy or benefit contract primarily advertised, marketed, offered, or designed to provide coverage or services for either institutional or community-based convalescent, custodial, chronic, or terminally ill care. Such terms do not include and this chapter shall not apply to policies or contracts governed by chapter 48.66 RCW and continuing care retirement communities.

(2) "Loss ratio" means the incurred claims plus or minus the increase or decrease in reserves as a percentage of the earned premiums, or the projected incurred claims plus or minus the increase or decrease in projected reserves as a percentage of projected earned premiums, as defined by the commissioner.

(3) "Preexisting condition" means a covered person's medical condition that caused that person to have received medical advice or treatment during the specified time period before the effective date of coverage.

(4) "Medicare" means Title XVIII of the United States social security act, or its successor program.

(5) "Medicaid" means Title XIX of the United States social security act, or its successor program.

(6) "Nursing home" means a nursing home as defined in RCW 18.51.010. [1986 c 170 § 2.]

**48.84.030 Rules—Benefits-premiums ratio, coverage limitations.** (1) The commissioner shall adopt rules requiring reasonable benefits in relation to the premium or price charged for long-term care policies and contracts which rules may include but are not limited to the establishment of minimum loss ratios.

(2) In addition, the commissioner may adopt rules establishing standards for long-term care coverage benefit limitations, exclusions, exceptions, and reductions and for policy or contract renewability. [1986 c 170 § 3.]

**48.84.040 Policies and contracts—Prohibited provisions.** No long-term care insurance policy or benefit contract may:

(1) Use riders, waivers, endorsements, or any similar method to limit or reduce coverage or benefits;

(2) Indemnify against losses resulting from sickness on a different basis than losses resulting from accidents;

(3) Be canceled, nonrenewed, or segregated at the time of rating solely on the grounds of the age or the deterioration of the mental or physical health of the covered person;

(4) Exclude or limit coverage for preexisting conditions for a period of more than one year prior to the effective date of the policy or contract or more than six months after the effective date of the policy or contract;

(5) Differentiate benefit amounts on the basis of the type or level of nursing home care provided;

(6) Contain a provision establishing any new waiting period in the event an existing policy or contract is converted to a new or other form within the same company. [1986 c 170 § 4.]

**48.84.050 Disclosure rules—Required provisions in policy or contract.** (1) The commissioner shall adopt rules requiring disclosure to consumers of the level, type, and amount of benefits provided and the limitations, exclusions, and exceptions contained in a long-term care insurance policy or contract. In adopting such rules the commissioner shall require an understandable disclosure to consumers of any cost for services that the consumer will be responsible for in utilizing benefits covered under the policy or contract.

(2) Each long-term care insurance policy or contract shall include a provision, prominently displayed on the first page of the policy or contract, stating in substance that the person to whom the policy or contract is sold shall be permitted to return the policy or contract within thirty days of its delivery. In the case of policies or contracts solicited and sold by mail, the person may return the policy or contract within sixty days. Once the policy or contract has been returned, the person may have the premium refunded if, after examination of the policy or contract, the person is not satisfied with it for any reason. An additional ten percent penalty shall be added to any premium refund due which is not paid within thirty days of return of the policy

or contract to the insurer or agent. If a person, pursuant to such notice, returns the policy or contract to the insurer at its branch or home office, or to the agent from whom the policy or contract was purchased, the policy or contract shall be void from its inception, and the parties shall be in the same position as if no policy or contract had been issued. [1986 c 170 § 5.]

**48.84.060 Prohibited practices.** No agent, broker, or other representative of an insurer, contractor, or other organization selling or offering long-term care insurance policies or benefit contracts may: (1) Complete the medical history portion of any form or application for the purchase of such policy or contract; (2) knowingly sell a long-term care policy or contract to any person who is receiving medicaid; or (3) use or engage in any unfair or deceptive act or practice in the advertising, sale, or marketing of long-term care policies or contracts. [1986 c 170 § 6.]

**48.84.070 Separation of data regarding certain policies.** Commencing with reports for accounting periods beginning on or after January 1, 1988, all insurers, fraternal benefit societies, health care services contractors, and health maintenance organizations shall, for reporting and record keeping purposes, separate data concerning long-term care insurance policies and contracts from data concerning other insurance policies and contracts. [1986 c 170 § 7.]

**48.84.900 Severability—1986 c 170.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1986 c 170 § 9.]

**48.84.910 Effective date, application—1986 c 170.** RCW 48.84.060 shall take effect on November 1, 1986, and the commissioner shall adopt all rules necessary to implement RCW 48.84.060 by its effective date including rules prohibiting particular unfair or deceptive acts and practices in the advertising, sale, and marketing of long-term care policies and contracts. The commissioner shall adopt all rules necessary to implement the remaining sections of this chapter by July 1, 1987, and the remaining sections of this chapter shall apply to policies and contracts issued on or after January 1, 1988. [1986 c 170 § 10.]

**Chapter 48.85**

**WASHINGTON LONG-TERM CARE PARTNERSHIP**

Sections

- 48.85.010 Washington long-term care partnership program—Generally.
- 48.85.020 Protection of assets—Federal approval—Rules.
- 48.85.030 Insurance policy criteria—Rules.
- 48.85.040 Consumer education program.
- 48.85.050 Report to legislature.
- 48.85.900 Short title—Severability—Savings—Captions not law—Reservation of legislative power—Effective dates—1993 c 492.

**48.85.010 Washington long-term care partnership program—Generally.** The department of social and health services shall, in conjunction with the office of the insurance commissioner, coordinate a long-term care insurance program entitled the Washington long-term care partnership, whereby private insurance and medicaid funds shall be used to finance long-term care. For individuals purchasing a long-term care insurance policy or contract governed by chapter 48.84 RCW and meeting the criteria prescribed in this chapter, and any other terms as specified by the office of the insurance commissioner and the department of social and health services, this program shall allow for the exclusion of some or all of the individual's assets in determination of medicaid eligibility as approved by the federal health care financing administration. [1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 76; 1993 c 492 § 458.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Effective date—1995 1st sp.s. c 18:** See notes following RCW 74.39A.008.

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

**48.85.020 Protection of assets—Federal approval—Rules.** The department of social and health services shall seek approval from the federal health care financing administration to allow the protection of an individual's assets as provided in this chapter. The department shall adopt all rules necessary to implement the Washington long-term care partnership program, which rules shall permit the exclusion of all or some of an individual's assets in a manner specified by the department in a determination of medicaid eligibility to the extent that private long-term care insurance provides payment or benefits for services. [1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 77; 1993 c 492 § 459.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Effective date—1995 1st sp.s. c 18:** See notes following RCW 74.39A.008.

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

**48.85.030 Insurance policy criteria—Rules.** (1) The insurance commissioner shall adopt rules defining the criteria that long-term care insurance policies must meet to satisfy the requirements of this chapter. The rules shall provide that all long-term care insurance policies purchased for the purposes of this chapter:

- (a) Be guaranteed renewable;
- (b) Provide coverage for nursing home care and provide coverage for an alternative plan of care benefit as defined by the commissioner;
- (c) Provide optional coverage for home and community-based services. Such home and community-based services shall be included in the coverage unless rejected in writing by the applicant;
- (d) Provide automatic inflation protection or similar coverage for any policyholder through the age of seventy-nine and made optional at age eighty to protect the policyholder from future increases in the cost of long-term care;
- (e) Not require prior hospitalization or confinement in a nursing home as a prerequisite to receiving long-term care benefits; and

(f) Contain at least a six-month grace period that permits reinstatement of the policy or contract retroactive to the date of termination if the policy or contract holder's nonpayment of premiums arose as a result of a cognitive

impairment suffered by the policy or contract holder as certified by a physician.

(2) Insurers offering long-term care policies for the purposes of this chapter shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the insurance commissioner that they:

(a) Have procedures to provide notice to each purchaser of the long-term care consumer education program;

(b) Offer case management services;

(c) Have procedures that provide for the keeping of individual policy records and procedures for the explanation of coverage and benefits identifying those payments or services available under the policy that meet the purposes of this chapter;

(d) Agree to provide the insurance commissioner, on or before September 1 of each year, an annual report containing information derived from the long-term care partnership long-term care insurance uniform data set as specified by the office of the insurance commissioner. [1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 78; 1993 c 492 § 460.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Effective date—1995 1st sp.s. c 18:** See notes following RCW 74.39A.008.

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

**48.85.040 Consumer education program.** The insurance commissioner shall, with the cooperation of the department of social and health services and members of the long-term care insurance industry, develop a consumer education program designed to educate consumers as to the need for long-term care, methods for financing long-term care, the availability of long-term care insurance, and the availability and eligibility requirements of the asset protection program provided under this chapter. [1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 79; 1993 c 492 § 461.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Effective date—1995 1st sp.s. c 18:** See notes following RCW 74.39A.008.

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 492:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

**48.85.050 Report to legislature.** By January 1 of each year until 1998, the insurance commissioner, in conjunction with the department of social and health services, shall report to the legislature on the progress of the asset protection program. The report shall include:

(1) The success of the agencies in implementing the program;

(2) The number of insurers offering long-term care policies meeting the criteria for asset protection;

(3) The number, age, and financial circumstances of individuals purchasing long-term care policies meeting the criteria for asset protection;

(4) The number of individuals seeking consumer information services;

(5) The extent and type of benefits paid by insurers offering policies meeting the criteria for asset protection;

(6) Estimates of the impact of the program on present and future medicaid expenditures;

(7) The cost-effectiveness of the program; and

(8) A determination regarding the appropriateness of continuing the program. [1995 1st sp.s. c 18 § 80; 1993 c 492 § 462.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Effective date—1995 1st sp.s. c 18:** See notes following RCW 74.39A.008.

**Findings—Intent—1993 c 42:** See notes following RCW 43.20.050.

**48.85.900 Short title—Severability—Savings—Captions not law—Reservation of legislative power—Effective dates—1993 c 492.** See RCW 43.72.910 through 43.72.915.

## Chapter 48.87

### MIDWIVES AND BIRTHING CENTERS—JOINT UNDERWRITING ASSOCIATION

#### Sections

48.87.010	Intent.
48.87.020	Definitions.
48.87.030	Plan for establishing association—Commissioner's duty—Market assistance plan.
48.87.040	Composition of association.
48.87.050	Midwifery and birth center malpractice insurance—Rating plan modified according to practice volume.
48.87.060	Administering a plan.
48.87.070	Policies written on a claims made basis—Commissioner may not approve without insurer guarantees.
48.87.080	Risk management program—Part of plan.
48.87.090	Commissioner report to the legislature.
48.87.100	Rule making.

**48.87.010 Intent.** Certified nurse midwives and licensed midwives experience a major problem in both the availability and affordability of malpractice insurance. In particular midwives practicing outside hospital settings are unable to obtain malpractice insurance at any price in this state at this time. Licensed midwives have been unable to obtain hospital privileges due in part to the requirement of almost all Washington hospitals that professional staff members have liability insurance.

The services performed by midwives are in demand by many women for childbirth and prenatal care. Women often choose to have a home or birth center birth instead of a hospital birth. Women are entitled to the provider of their choice at such a critical life event. Studies document the safety of midwife-attended births and the safety of home births for low-risk women.

At a time when safety, cost-effectiveness, and individual choice are of paramount concern to the citizens of Washington state, midwifery care in a variety of settings must be available to the public. This is essential to the goals of increased access to maternity care and increased cost-effectiveness of care, as well as addressing problems of provider shortage. One of the primary impediments to the availability of maternity services performed by midwives is the lack of available and affordable malpractice liability insurance coverage.

This chapter is intended to increase the availability of cost-effective, high-quality maternity care by making malpractice insurance available for midwives. This chapter is implemented by requiring all insurers authorized to write commercial or professional liability insurance to be members of a joint underwriting association created to provide malpractice insurance for midwives. [1993 c 112 § 1.]

**48.87.020 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Association" means the joint underwriting association established under this chapter.

(2) "Midwifery and birth center malpractice insurance" means insurance coverage against the legal liability of the insured and against loss damage or expense incident to a claim arising out of the death or injury of a person as a result of negligence or malpractice in rendering professional service by a licensee.

(3) "Licensee" means a person or facility licensed to provide midwifery services under chapter 18.50, \*18.88, or 18.46 RCW. [1993 c 112 § 2.]

\*Reviser's note: Chapter 18.88 RCW was repealed by 1994 sp.s. c 9 § 433, effective July 1, 1994.

**48.87.030 Plan for establishing association—Commissioner's duty—Market assistance plan.** The insurance commissioner shall approve by December 31, 1993, a reasonable plan for the establishment of a nonprofit, joint underwriting association for midwifery and birth center malpractice insurance subject to the conditions and limitations contained in this chapter. Such plan shall include a market assistance plan to be used prior to activating a joint underwriting association. [1993 c 112 § 3.]

**48.87.040 Composition of association.** The association shall be comprised of all insurers possessing a certificate of authority to write and engaged in writing medical malpractice insurance within this state and general casualty companies. Every insurer shall be a member of the association and shall remain a member as a condition of its authority to continue to transact business in this state. Only licensed midwives under chapter 18.50 RCW, certified nurse midwives licensed under \*chapter 18.88 RCW, or birth centers licensed under chapter 18.46 RCW may participate in the joint underwriting authority. [1993 c 112 § 4.]

\*Reviser's note: Chapter 18.88 RCW was repealed by 1994 sp.s. c 9 § 433, effective July 1, 1994.

**48.87.050 Midwifery and birth center malpractice insurance—Rating plan modified according to practice volume.** A licensee may apply to the association to purchase midwifery and birth center malpractice insurance and the association shall offer a policy with liability limits of one million dollars per claim and three million dollars per annual aggregate, or such other minimum level of mandated coverage as determined by the department of health. The insurance commissioner shall require the use of a rating plan for midwifery malpractice insurance that permits rates to be modified according to practice volume. Any rating plan for midwifery malpractice insurance used under this section must be based on sound actuarial principles. Coverage may not exclude midwives who engage in home birth or birth center deliveries. [1994 c 90 § 1; 1993 c 112 § 5.]

**Effective date—1994 c 90:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately [March 23, 1994]." [1994 c 90 § 2.]

**48.87.060 Administering a plan.** The commissioner may select an insurer to administer a plan established under this chapter. The insurer must be admitted to transact the

business of insurance of the state of Washington. [1993 c 112 § 6.]

**48.87.070 Policies written on a claims made basis—Commissioner may not approve without insurer guarantees.** The insurance commissioner may not approve a policy written on a claims made basis by an insurer doing business in this state unless the insurer guarantees to the commissioner the continued availability of suitable liability protection for midwives subsequent to the discontinuance of professional practice by the midwife or the sooner termination of the insurance policy by the insurer for so long as there is a reasonable probability of a claim for injury for which the health care provider might be liable. [1993 c 112 § 7.]

**48.87.080 Risk management program—Part of plan.** A risk management program for insureds of the association must be established as a part of the plan. This program must include but not be limited to: Investigation and analysis of frequency, severity, and causes of adverse or untoward outcomes; development of measures to control these injuries; systematic reporting of incidents; investigation and analysis of patient complaints; and education of association members to improve quality of care and risk reduction. [1993 c 112 § 8.]

**48.87.090 Commissioner report to the legislature.** By December 1, 1996, the insurance commissioner shall file or cause to be filed a report to the legislature detailing the operations, finances, claims, and marketing experience of the association. [1993 c 112 § 9.]

**48.87.100 Rule making.** The commissioner may adopt all rules necessary to ensure the efficient, equitable operation of the association, including but not limited to, rules requiring or limiting certain policy provisions. [1993 c 112 § 10.]

## Chapter 48.88

### DAY CARE SERVICES—JOINT UNDERWRITING ASSOCIATION

#### Sections

48.88.010	Intent.
48.88.020	Definitions.
48.88.030	Plan for joint underwriting association.
48.88.040	Association—Membership.
48.88.050	Policies—Liability limits—Rating plan.
48.88.060	Report to legislature.
48.88.070	Rules.

**48.88.010 Intent.** Day care service providers have experienced major problems in both the availability and affordability of liability insurance. Premiums for such insurance policies have recently grown as much as five hundred percent and the availability of such insurance in Washington markets has greatly diminished.

The availability of quality day care is essential to achieving such goals as increased work force productivity, family self-sufficiency, and protection for children at risk due to poverty and abuse. The unavailability of adequate

liability insurance threatens to decrease the availability of day care services.

This chapter is intended to remedy the problem of unavailable liability insurance for day care services by requiring all insurers authorized to write commercial or professional liability insurance to be members of a joint underwriting association created to provide liability insurance for day care services. [1986 c 141 § 1.]

**48.88.020 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Association" means the joint underwriting association established pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

(2) "Day care insurance" means insurance coverage against the legal liability of the insured and against loss, damage, or expense incident to a claim arising out of the death or injury of any person as the result of negligence or malpractice in rendering professional service by any licensee.

(3) "Licensee" means any person or facility licensed to provide day care services pursuant to chapter 74.15 RCW. [1986 c 141 § 2.]

**48.88.030 Plan for joint underwriting association.** The commissioner shall approve by July 1, 1986, a reasonable plan for the establishment of a nonprofit, joint underwriting association for day care insurance, subject to the conditions and limitations contained in this chapter. [1986 c 141 § 3.]

**48.88.040 Association—Membership.** The association shall be comprised of all insurers possessing a certificate of authority to write and engage in writing property and casualty insurance within this state on a direct basis, including the liability portion of multiperil policies, but not of ocean marine insurance. Every such insurer shall be a member of the association and shall remain a member as a condition of its authority to continue to transact business in this state. [1986 c 141 § 4.]

**48.88.050 Policies—Liability limits—Rating plan.** Any licensee may apply to the association to purchase day care insurance, and the association shall offer a policy with liability limits of at least one hundred thousand dollars per occurrence. The commissioner shall require the use of a rating plan for day care insurance that permits rates to be modified for individual licensees according to the type, size and past loss experience of the licensee including any other difference among licensees that can be demonstrated to have a probable effect upon losses. [1986 c 141 § 5.]

**48.88.060 Report to legislature.** By December 1, 1987, the commissioner shall file or cause to be filed a report to the legislature detailing the operations, finances, claims, and marketing experience of the association. [1986 c 141 § 6.]

**48.88.070 Rules.** The commissioner may adopt all rules necessary to ensure the efficient, equitable operation of

the association, including but not limited to, rules requiring or limiting certain policy provisions. [1986 c 141 § 7.]

## Chapter 48.90

### DAY CARE CENTERS—SELF-INSURANCE

#### Sections

48.90.010	Findings and intent.
48.90.020	Definitions.
48.90.030	Authority to self-insure.
48.90.040	Chapter exclusive.
48.90.050	Elements of plan.
48.90.060	Approval of plan.
48.90.070	Contributing trust fund.
48.90.080	Initial implementation of plan—Conditions.
48.90.090	Standard of care in fund management—Fiduciary.
48.90.100	Annual report.
48.90.110	Powers of association.
48.90.120	Contracts—Terms.
48.90.130	Significant modifications in plan, statement on.
48.90.140	Dissolution of plan and association.
48.90.150	Recovery limits.
48.90.160	Suspension of plan—Reconsideration.
48.90.170	Costs of investigation or review of plan.

**48.90.010 Findings and intent.** (1) Day care providers are facing a major crisis in that adequate and affordable business liability insurance is no longer available within this state for persons who care for children. Many day care centers have been forced to purchase inadequate coverage at prohibitive premium rates from unregulated foreign surplus line carriers over which the state has minimal control.

(2) There is a danger that a substantial number of day care centers who cannot afford the escalating premiums will be unable or unwilling to remain in business without adequate coverage. As a result the number of available facilities will be drastically reduced forcing some parents to leave the work force to care for their children. A corresponding demand upon the state's resources will result in the form of public assistance to unemployed parents and day care providers.

(3) There is a further danger that a substantial number of day care centers now licensed pursuant to state law, who currently provide specific safeguards for the health and safety of children but are unable to procure insurance, may choose to continue to operate without state approval, avoiding regulation and payment of legitimate taxes, and forcing some parents to place their children in facilities of unknown quality and questionable levels of safety.

(4) Most day care centers are small business enterprises with limited resources. The state's policies encourage the growth and development of small businesses.

(5) This chapter is intended to remedy the problem of nonexistent or unaffordable liability coverage for day care centers, and to encourage compliance with state laws protecting children while meeting the state's sound economic policies of encouraging small business development, sustaining an active work force, and discouraging policies that result in an increased drain on the state's resources through public assistance and other forms of public funding. This chapter will empower day care centers to create self-insurance pools, to purchase insurance coverage, and to contract for risk management and administrative services through an



association with demonstrated responsible fiscal management.

(6) The intent of this legislation is to allow such associations maximum flexibility to create and administer plans to provide coverage and risk management services to licensed day care centers. [1986 c 142 § 1.]

**48.90.020 Definitions.** The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Day care center" means an agency that regularly provides care for one or more children for periods of less than twenty-four hours as defined in RCW 74.15.020(3)(d).

(2) "Association" means a corporation organized under Title 24 RCW, representative of one or more categories of day care centers not formed for the sole purpose of establishing and operating a self-insurance program that:

(a) Maintains a roster of current names and addresses of member day care centers and of former member day care centers or their representatives, and of all employees of member or former member day care centers;

(b) Has a membership of a size and stability to ensure that it will be able to provide consistent and responsible fiscal management; and

(c) Maintains a regular newsletter or other periodic communication to member day care centers.

(3) "Subscriber" means a day care center that:

(a) Subscribes to a plan created pursuant to this chapter;

(b) Complies with all state licensing requirements;

(c) Is a member in good standing of an association;

(d) Has consistently maintained its license free from revocation for cause, except where the revocation was not later rescinded or vacated by appellate or administrative decision; and

(e) Is prepared to demonstrate the willingness and ability to bear its share of the financial responsibility of its participation in the plan for each applicable contractual period. [1986 c 142 § 2.]

**48.90.030 Authority to self-insure.** Associations meeting the criteria of RCW 48.90.020 are empowered to create and operate self-insurance plans to provide general liability coverage to member day care centers who choose to subscribe to the plans. [1986 c 142 § 3.]

**48.90.040 Chapter exclusive.** Except as provided in this chapter, self-insurance plans formed and implemented pursuant to this chapter shall be governed by this chapter and shall be exempt from all other provisions of the insurance laws of this state. [1986 c 142 § 4.]

**48.90.050 Elements of plan.** Any association desiring to establish a plan pursuant to this chapter shall prepare and submit to the commissioner a proposed plan of organization and operation, including the following elements:

(1) A statement that the association meets the requirements of this chapter.

(2) A financial plan specifying:

(a) The coverage to be offered by the self-insurance pool, setting forth a deductible level and maximum level of claims that the pool will self-insure;

(b) The amount of cash reserves to be maintained for the payment of claims;

(c) The amount of insurance, if any, to be purchased to cover claims in excess of the amount of claims to be satisfied directly from the association's own cash reserves;

(d) The amount of stop-loss coverage to be purchased in the event the joint self-insurance pool's resources are exhausted in a given fiscal period;

(e) A mechanism for determining and assessing the contingent liability of subscribers in the event the assets in the contributing trust fund are at any time insufficient to cover liabilities; and

(f) Certification that all subscribers in the pool are apprised of the limitations of coverage to be provided.

(3) A plan of management setting forth:

(a) The means of fulfilling the requirements in RCW 48.90.050(2);

(b) The names and addresses of board members and their terms of office, and a copy of the corporate bylaws defining the method of election of board members;

(c) The frequency of studies or other evaluation to establish the periodic contribution rates for each of the subscribers;

(d) The responsibilities of subscribers, including procedures for entry into and withdrawal from the pool, the allocation of contingent liabilities and a procedure for immediate assessments if the contributing trust fund falls below the level set in RCW 48.90.050(2)(b);

(e) A plan for monitoring risks and disseminating information with respect to their reduction or elimination;

(f) A contract with a professional insurance management corporation, for the management and operation of any joint self-insurance pool established by the association; and

(g) The corporate address of the association. [1986 c 142 § 5.]

**48.90.060 Approval of plan.** If the plan submitted complies with RCW 48.90.050 and if the terms of the plan reflect sound financial management, the commissioner shall approve the plan submitted pursuant to RCW 48.90.050. [1986 c 142 § 6.]

**48.90.070 Contributing trust fund.** All funds contributed for the purpose of the self-insurance plan shall be deposited in a contributing trust fund, which shall at all times be maintained separately from the general funds of the association. The association shall not contribute to or draw upon the contributing trust fund at any time or for any reason other than administration of the trust fund and operation of the plan. All administration and operating costs related to the trust fund shall be drawn from it. [1986 c 142 § 7.]

**48.90.080 Initial implementation of plan—Conditions.** The initial implementation of the plan shall be conditioned upon establishment of the minimum deposits in the contributing trust fund at least thirty days prior to the first effective date of the program for its first year of operation. [1986 c 142 § 8.]

**48.90.090 Standard of care in fund management—Fiduciary.** In managing the assets of the contributing trust fund, the association shall exercise the reasonable judgment and care that ordinary persons of prudence, intelligence, and discretion exercise in the sound management of their affairs, not in regard to speculation but in regard to preservation of their funds with maximum return, given the information reasonably available. The association may delegate this duty to a responsible fiduciary. If the fiduciary has special skills or represents that it has special skills, then the fiduciary is under a duty to use those skills in the management of the fund's assets. [1986 c 142 § 9.]

**48.90.100 Annual report.** The association shall provide an annual report of the operations of the plan to all subscribers, to the secretary of social and health services, and to the commissioner. This report shall:

- (1) Review claims made, judgments entered, and claims rejected;
- (2) Certify that the current level of the contributing trust fund is sufficient to meet reasonable needs, or provide a plan for establishing such a level within a reasonable time; and
- (3) Make recommendations for specific measures of risk reduction. [1986 c 142 § 10.]

**48.90.110 Powers of association.** The association shall have the power, in its capacity as plan administrator, to contract for or delegate services as necessary for the efficient management and operation of the plan, including but not limited to:

- (1) Contracting for risk management and loss control services;
- (2) Designing a continuing program of risk reduction, calling for the participation of all subscribers;
- (3) Contracting for legal counsel for the defense of claims and other legal services;
- (4) Consulting with the commissioner, the secretary of social and health services, or other interested state agencies with respect to any matters affecting the provision of day care for the state's children, and related risk problems; and
- (5) Purchasing commercial insurance coverage in the form and amount as the subscribers may by contract agree, including reinsurance, excess coverage, and stop-loss insurance. [1986 c 142 § 11.]

**48.90.120 Contracts—Terms.** (1) All contracts between subscribers and the association shall be for one-year periods and shall terminate on the first day of the next fiscal year of the association following their signature. Subscribers withdrawing from participation in the plan during any contract period may do so only upon surrender of their licenses to care for children to the department of social and health services.

(2) Premiums should be annual, prorated quarterly in the event any subscriber withdraws, or any new subscriber contracts with the association to become part of the plan during the fiscal year. Subscribers should not have the power to delegate or assign the responsibility for their assessments.

(3) Contracts should provide for recovery by the association, of any assessments that are not promptly

contributed, for methods of collection, and for resolution of related disputes. [1986 c 142 § 12.]

**48.90.130 Significant modifications in plan, statement on.** Within six months of the beginning of any fiscal year in which significant modifications of the plan are envisioned, the association shall provide the commissioner with a statement of those modifications, setting forth the proposed changes, reasons for the changes, and reasonable alternatives, if any exist. The statement shall specifically include reference to coverage available in the commercial insurance market, together with suggested solutions within the joint self-insurance plan. [1986 c 142 § 13.]

**48.90.140 Dissolution of plan and association.** (1) If at any time the plan can no longer be operated on a sound financial basis, the association may elect to dissolve the plan, subject to explicit approval by the commissioner of a plan for dissolution. Once a plan operated by an association has been dissolved, that association may not again implement a plan pursuant to this chapter for five calendar years.

(2) At dissolution, the assets of the association represented by the contributing trust fund shall be deposited with the commissioner [for] a period of twenty-one years, to be made available for claims arising during that period based upon occurrences during the term of coverage. At the time of transfer of the funds, the association shall certify to the commissioner a list of all current subscribers, with their correct mailing addresses, and shall have notified all current subscribers of their obligation to keep the commissioner informed of any changes in their mailing addresses over the twenty-one year period, and that this obligation extends to their representatives, successors, assigns, and to the representatives of their estates. Upon dissolution, the association shall be required to provide to the commissioner a list of all plan subscribers during all of the years of operation of the plan.

At the end of the twenty-one year period, any funds remaining in the trust account shall be distributed to those subscribers who were current subscribers in the most recent year of operation of the plan, with each current subscriber receiving an equal share of the distribution, without regard for the length of time each day care center was a subscriber.

In the alternative, in the discretion of the association, the balance of the contributing trust fund may be used to purchase similar or more liberal coverage from a commercial insurer. Each subscriber shall, however, be given the option to deposit its share of the fund with the commissioner as provided in this section if it elects not to participate in the proposed commercial insurance. [1986 c 142 § 14.]

**48.90.150 Recovery limits.** No person with a claim covered by a plan established pursuant to this chapter shall be entitled to recover from the plan any amount in excess of the limits of coverage provided for in the plan. [1986 c 142 § 15.]

**48.90.160 Suspension of plan—Reconsideration.** The commissioner may disapprove, and require suspension of a plan for failure of the association to comply with any provision of this chapter, for gross mismanagement, or for

wilful disregard and neglect of its fiduciary duty. The association shall have the right to request reconsideration of the commissioner's decision within fifteen days of the receipt of the commissioner's written notification of the decision, or to request a hearing according to chapter 48.04 RCW. [1986 c 142 § 16.]

#### 48.90.170 Costs of investigation or review of plan.

All reasonable costs of any investigation or review by the commissioner of an association's plan of organization and operation, or any changes or modifications thereof, including the dissolution of a plan, shall be paid by the association before issuance of any approval required under this chapter. [1986 c 142 § 17.]

### Chapter 48.92

#### LIABILITY RISK RETENTION

##### Sections

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**48.92.010 Purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is to regulate the formation and operation of risk retention groups and purchasing groups in this state formed pursuant to the provisions of the federal Liability Risk Retention Act of 1986. [1993 c 462 § 91; 1987 c 306 § 1.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.92.020 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, the following terms have the meanings indicated unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

(1) "Commissioner" means the insurance commissioner of Washington state or the commissioner, director, or superintendent of insurance in any other state.

(2) "Completed operations liability" means liability arising out of the installation, maintenance, or repair of any product at a site which is not owned or controlled by:

(a) Any person who performs that work; or

(b) Any person who hires an independent contractor to perform that work; but shall include liability for activities which are completed or abandoned before the date of the occurrence giving rise to the liability.

(3) "Domicile," for purposes of determining the state in which a purchasing group is domiciled, means:

(a) For a corporation, the state in which the purchasing group is incorporated; and

(b) For an unincorporated entity, the state of its principal place of business.

(4) "Hazardous financial condition" means that, based on its present or reasonably anticipated financial condition, a risk retention group, although not yet financially impaired or insolvent, is unlikely to be able:

(a) To meet obligations to policyholders with respect to known claims and reasonably anticipated claims; or

(b) To pay other obligations in the normal course of business.

(5) "Insurance" means primary insurance, excess insurance, reinsurance, surplus lines insurance, and any other arrangement for shifting and distributing risk which is determined to be insurance under the laws of this state.

(6) "Liability" means legal liability for damages including costs of defense, legal costs and fees, and other claims expenses because of injuries to other persons, damage to their property, or other damage or loss to such other persons resulting from or arising out of:

(a) Any business, whether profit or nonprofit, trade, product, services, including professional services, premises, or operations; or

(b) Any activity of any state or local government, or any agency or political subdivision thereof.

"Liability" does not include personal risk liability and an employer's liability with respect to its employees other than legal liability under the federal Employers' Liability Act 45 U.S.C. 51 et seq.

(7) "Personal risk liability" means liability for damages because of injury to any person, damage to property, or other loss or damage resulting from any personal, familial, or household responsibilities or activities, rather than from responsibilities or activities referred to in subsection (6) of this section.

(8) "Plan of operation or a feasibility study" means an analysis which presents the expected activities and results of a risk retention group including, at a minimum:

(a) Information sufficient to verify that its members are engaged in businesses or activities similar or related with respect to the liability to which the members are exposed by virtue of any related, similar, or common business, trade, product, services, premises, or operations;

(b) For each state in which it intends to operate, the coverages, deductibles, coverage limits, rates, and rating classification systems for each line of insurance the group intends to offer;

(c) Historical and expected loss experience of the proposed members and national experience of similar exposures;

(d) Pro forma financial statements and projections;

(e) Appropriate opinions by a qualified, independent, casualty actuary, including a determination of minimum premium or participation levels required to commence operations and to prevent a hazardous financial condition;

(f) Identification of management, underwriting and claims procedures, marketing methods, managerial oversight methods, investment policies, and reinsurance agreements;

(g) Identification of each state in which the risk retention group has obtained, or sought to obtain, a charter and license, and a description of its status in each of those states; and

(h) Such other matters as may be prescribed by the commissioner for liability insurance companies authorized by the insurance laws of the state.

(9) "Product liability" means liability for damages because of any personal injury, death, emotional harm, consequential economic damage, or property damage including damages resulting from the loss of use of property arising out of the manufacture, design, importation, distribution, packaging, labeling, lease, or sale of a product, but does not include the liability of any person for those damages if the product involved was in the possession of such a person when the incident giving rise to the claim occurred.

(10) "Purchasing group" means any group which:

(a) Has as one of its purposes the purchase of liability insurance on a group basis;

(b) Purchases the insurance only for its group members and only to cover their similar or related liability exposure, as described in (c) of this subsection;

(c) Is composed of members whose businesses or activities are similar or related with respect to the liability to which members are exposed by virtue of any related, similar, or common business, trade, product, services, premises, or operations; and

(d) Is domiciled in any state.

(11) "Risk retention group" means any corporation or other limited liability association:

(a) Whose primary activity consists of assuming and spreading all, or any portion, of the liability exposure of its group members;

(b) Which is organized for the primary purpose of conducting the activity described under (a) of this subsection;

(c) Which:

(i) Is chartered and licensed as a liability insurance company and authorized to engage in the business of insurance under the laws of any state; or

(ii) Before January 1, 1985, was chartered or licensed and authorized to engage in the business of insurance under the laws of Bermuda or the Cayman Islands and, before such date, had certified to the insurance commissioner of at least one state that it satisfied the capitalization requirements of such state, except that any such group shall be considered to be a risk retention group only if it has been engaged in business continuously since that date and only for the purpose of continuing to provide insurance to cover product liability or completed operations liability as the terms were defined in the federal Product Liability Risk Retention Act of 1981 before the date of the enactment of the federal Risk Retention Act of 1986;

(d) Which does not exclude any person from membership in the group solely to provide for members of such a group a competitive advantage over such a person;

(e) Which:

(i) Has as its owners only persons who comprise the membership of the risk retention group and who are provided insurance by the risk retention group; or

(ii) Has as its sole owner an organization that has:

(A) As its members only persons who comprise the membership of the risk retention group; and

(B) As its owners only persons who comprise the membership of the risk retention group and who are provided insurance by the group;

(f) Whose members are engaged in businesses or activities similar or related with respect to the liability of which such members are exposed by virtue of any related, similar, or common business trade, product, services, premises, or operations;

(g) Whose activities do not include the provision of insurance other than:

(i) Liability insurance for assuming and spreading all or any portion of the liability of its group members; and

(ii) Reinsurance with respect to the liability of any other risk retention group or any members of such other group which is engaged in businesses or activities so that the group or member meets the requirement described in (f) of this subsection from membership in the risk retention group which provides such reinsurance; and

(h) The name of which includes the phrase "risk retention group."

(12) "State" means any state of the United States or the District of Columbia. [1993 c 462 § 92; 1987 c 306 § 2.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.92.030 Requirements for chartering.** (1) A risk retention group seeking to be chartered in this state must be chartered and licensed as a liability insurance company authorized by the insurance laws of this state and, except as provided elsewhere in this chapter, must comply with all of the laws, rules, regulations, and requirements applicable to the insurers chartered and licensed in this state and with RCW 48.92.040 to the extent the requirements are not a limitation on laws, rules, regulations, or requirements of this state.

(2) A risk retention group chartered in this state shall file with the department and the National Association of Insurance Commissioners an annual statement in a form prescribed by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, and in electronic form if required by the commissioner, and completed in accordance with its instructions and the National Association of Insurance Commissioners accounting practices and procedures manual.

(3) Before it may offer insurance in any state, each domestic risk retention group shall also submit for approval to the insurance commissioner of this state a plan of operation or a feasibility study. The risk retention group shall submit an appropriate revision in the event of a subsequent material change in an item of the plan of operation or feasibility study, within ten days of the change. The group may not offer any additional kinds of liability insurance, in this state or in any other state, until a revision of the plan or study is approved by the commissioner.

(4) At the time of filing its application for charter, the risk retention group shall provide to the commissioner in summary form the following information: The identity of the initial members of the group; the identify of those individuals who organized the group or who will provide administrative services or otherwise influence or control the activities of the group; the amount and nature of the initial capitalization; the coverages to be afforded; and the states in which the group intends to operate. Upon receipt of this information, the commissioner shall forward the information to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. Providing notification to the National Association of Insur-

ance Commissioners is in addition to and is not sufficient to satisfy the requirements of RCW 48.92.040 or this chapter. [1993 c.462 § 93; 1987 c 306 § 3.]

Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462: See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.92.040 Required acts—Prohibited practices.**

Risk retention groups chartered and licensed in states other than this state and seeking to do business as a risk retention group in this state shall comply with the laws of this state as follows:

(1) Before offering insurance in this state, a risk retention group shall submit to the commissioner on a form prescribed by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners:

(a) A statement identifying the state or states in which the risk retention group is chartered and licensed as a liability insurance company, date of chartering, its principal place of business, and any other information including information on its membership, as the commissioner of this state may require to verify that the risk retention group is qualified under RCW 48.92.020(11);

(b) A copy of its plan of operations or a feasibility study and revisions of the plan or study submitted to its state of domicile: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That the provision relating to the submission of a plan of operation or a feasibility study shall not apply with respect to any line or classification of liability insurance which: (i) Was defined in the federal Product Liability Risk Retention Act of 1981 before October 27, 1986; and (ii) was offered before that date by any risk retention group which had been chartered and operating for not less than three years before that date;

(c) The risk retention group shall submit a copy of any revision to its plan of operation or feasibility study required under RCW 48.92.030(3) at the same time that the revision is submitted to the commissioner of its chartering state; and

(d) A statement of registration which designates the commissioner as its agent for the purpose of receiving service of legal documents or process.

(2) Any risk retention group doing business in this state shall submit to the commissioner:

(a) A copy of the group's financial statement submitted to its state of domicile, which shall be certified by an independent public accountant and contain a statement of opinion on loss and loss adjustment expense reserves made by a member of the American academy of actuaries or a qualified loss reserve specialist under criteria established by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners;

(b) A copy of each examination of the risk retention group as certified by the commissioner or public official conducting the examination;

(c) Upon request by the commissioner, a copy of any information or document pertaining to an outside audit performed with respect to the risk retention group; and

(d) Any information as may be required to verify its continuing qualification as a risk retention group under RCW 48.92.020(11).

(3)(a) A risk retention group is liable for the payment of premium taxes and taxes on premiums of direct business for risks resident or located within this state, and shall report on or before March 1st of each year to the commissioner the direct premiums written for risks resident or located within

this state. The risk retention group is subject to taxation, and applicable fines and penalties related thereto, on the same basis as a foreign admitted insurer.

(b) To the extent agents or brokers are utilized under RCW 48.92.120 or otherwise, they shall report to the commissioner the premiums for direct business for risks resident or located within this state that the licensees have placed with or on behalf of a risk retention group not chartered in this state.

(c) To the extent agents or brokers are used under RCW 48.92.120 or otherwise, an agent or broker shall keep a complete and separate record of all policies procured from each risk retention group. The record is open to examination by the commissioner, as provided in chapter 48.03 RCW. These records must include, for each policy and each kind of insurance provided thereunder, the following:

(i) The limit of liability;

(ii) The time period covered;

(iii) The effective date;

(iv) The name of the risk retention group that issued the policy;

(v) The gross premium charged; and

(vi) The amount of return premiums, if any.

(4) Any risk retention group, its agents and representatives, shall be subject to any and all unfair claims settlement practices statutes and regulations specifically denominated by the commissioner as unfair claims settlement practices regulations.

(5) Any risk retention group, its agents and representatives, shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 48.30 RCW pertaining to deceptive, false, or fraudulent acts or practices. However, if the commissioner seeks an injunction regarding such conduct, the injunction must be obtained from a court of competent jurisdiction.

(6) Any risk retention group must submit to an examination by the commissioner to determine its financial condition if the commissioner of the jurisdiction in which the group is chartered has not initiated an examination or does not initiate an examination within sixty days after a request by the commissioner of this state. The examination shall be coordinated to avoid unjustified repetition and conducted in an expeditious manner and in accordance with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners' examiner handbook.

(7) Every application form for insurance from a risk retention group and every policy issued by a risk retention group shall contain in ten-point type on the front page and the declaration page, the following notice:

**NOTICE**

This policy is issued by your risk retention group. Your risk retention group may not be subject to all of the insurance laws and regulations of your state. State insurance insolvency guaranty funds are not available for your risk retention group.

(8) The following acts by a risk retention group are hereby prohibited:

(a) The solicitation or sale of insurance by a risk retention group to any person who is not eligible for membership in that group; and

(b) The solicitation or sale of insurance by, or operation of, a risk retention group that is in a hazardous financial condition or is financially impaired.

(9) No risk retention group shall be allowed to do business in this state if an insurance company is directly or indirectly a member or owner of the risk retention group, other than in the case of a risk retention group all of whose members are insurance companies.

(10) The terms of an insurance policy issued by a risk retention group may not provide, or be construed to provide, coverage prohibited generally by statute of this state or declared unlawful by the highest court of this state.

(11) A risk retention group not chartered in this state and doing business in this state shall comply with a lawful order issued in a voluntary dissolution proceeding or in a delinquency proceeding commenced by a state insurance commissioner if there has been a finding of financial impairment after an examination under subsection (6) of this section. [1993 c 462 § 94; 1987 c 306 § 4.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.92.050 Insolvency guaranty fund, participation prohibited—Joint underwriting associations, participation required.** (1) No risk retention group shall be permitted to join or contribute financially to any insurance insolvency guaranty fund, or similar mechanism, in this state, nor shall any risk retention group, or its insureds or claimants against its insureds, receive any benefit from any such fund for claims arising under the insurance policies issued by a risk retention group.

(2) A risk retention group shall participate in this state's joint underwriting associations and mandatory liability pools or plans required by the commissioners.

(3) When a purchasing group obtains insurance covering its members' risks from an insurer not authorized in this state or a risk retention group, no such risks, wherever resident or located, are covered by an insurance guaranty fund or similar mechanism in this state.

(4) When a purchasing group obtains insurance covering its members' risks from an authorized insurer, only risks resident or located in this state are covered by the state guaranty fund established in chapter 48.32 RCW. [1993 c 462 § 95; 1987 c 306 § 5.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.92.060 Countersigning not required.** A policy of insurance issued to a risk retention group or any member of that group shall not be required to be countersigned. [1987 c 306 § 6.]

**48.92.070 Purchasing groups—Exempt from certain laws.** A purchasing group and its insurer or insurers are subject to all applicable laws of this state, except that a purchasing group and its insurer or insurers are exempt, in regard to liability insurance for the purchasing group, from any law that:

- (1) Prohibits the establishment of a purchasing group;
- (2) Makes it unlawful for an insurer to provide or offer to provide insurance on a basis providing, to a purchasing

group or its members, advantages based on their loss and expense experience not afforded to other persons with respect to rates, policy forms, coverages, or other matters;

(3) Prohibits a purchasing group or its members from purchasing insurance on a group basis described in subsection (2) of this section;

(4) Prohibits a purchasing group from obtaining insurance on a group basis because the group has not been in existence for a minimum period of time or because any member has not belonged to the group for a minimum period of time;

(5) Requires that a purchasing group must have a minimum number of members, common ownership or affiliation, or certain legal form;

(6) Requires that a certain percentage of a purchasing group must obtain insurance on a group basis;

(7) Otherwise discriminates against a purchasing group or any of its members. [1993 c 462 § 96; 1987 c 306 § 7.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.92.080 Purchasing groups—Notice and registration.** (1) A purchasing group which intends to do business in this state shall furnish, before doing business, notice to the commissioner, on forms prescribed by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners which shall:

(a) Identify the state in which the group is domiciled;

(b) Identify all other states in which the group intends to do business;

(c) Specify the lines and classifications of liability insurance which the purchasing group intends to purchase;

(d) Identify the insurance company or companies from which the group intends to purchase its insurance and the domicile of that company or companies;

(e) Specify the method by which, and the person or persons, if any, through whom insurance will be offered to its members whose risks are resident or located in this state;

(f) Identify the principal place of business of the group; and

(g) Provide any other information as may be required by the commissioner to verify that the purchasing group is qualified under RCW 48.92.020(10).

(2) A purchasing group shall, within ten days, notify the commissioner of any changes in any of the items set forth in subsection (1) of this section.

(3) The purchasing group shall register with and designate the commissioner as its agent solely for the purpose of receiving service of legal documents or process, except that this requirement shall not apply in the case of a purchasing group that only purchases insurance that was authorized under the federal Product Liability Risk Retention Act of 1981 and:

(a) Which in any state of the United States:

(i) Was domiciled before April 1, 1986; and

(ii) Is domiciled on and after October 27, 1986;

(b) Which:

(i) Before October 27, 1986, purchased insurance from an insurance carrier licensed in any state;

(ii) Since October 27, 1986, purchased its insurance from an insurance carrier licensed in any state; or

(c) Which was a purchasing group under the requirements of the federal Product Liability Risk Retention Act of 1981 before October 27, 1986.

(4) A purchasing group that is required to give notice under subsection (1) of this section shall also furnish such information as may be required by the commissioner to:

(a) Verify that the entity qualifies as a purchasing group;

(b) Determine where the purchasing group is located; and

(c) Determine appropriate tax treatment. [1993 c 462 § 97; 1987 c 306 § 8.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.92.090 Purchasing groups—Dealing with foreign insurers—Deductible or self-insured retention—Aggregate limits.** (1) A purchasing group may not purchase insurance from a risk retention group that is not chartered in a state or from an insurer not admitted in the state in which the purchasing group is located, unless the purchase is effected through a licensed agent or broker acting pursuant to the surplus lines laws and regulations of that state.

(2) A purchasing group that obtains liability insurance from an insurer not admitted in this state or a risk retention group shall inform each of the members of the group that have a risk resident or located in this state that the risk is not protected by an insurance insolvency guaranty fund in this state, and that the risk retention group or insurer may not be subject to all insurance laws and rules of this state.

(3) No purchasing group may purchase insurance providing for a deductible or self-insured retention applicable to the group as a whole; however, coverage may provide for a deductible or self-insured retention applicable to individual members.

(4) Purchases of insurance by purchasing groups are subject to the same standards regarding aggregate limits that are applicable to all purchases of group insurance. [1993 c 462 § 98; 1987 c 306 § 9.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.92.095 Premium taxes—Imposition—Obligations—Member's liability.** Premium taxes and taxes on premiums paid for coverage of risks resident or located in this state by a purchasing group or any members of the purchasing groups must be:

(1) Imposed at the same rate and subject to the same interest, fines, and penalties as those applicable to premium taxes and taxes on premiums paid for similar coverage from authorized insurers, as defined under chapter 48.05 RCW, or unauthorized insurers, as defined and provided for under chapter 48.15 RCW, by other insurers; and

(2) The obligation of the insurer; and if not paid by the insurer, then the obligation of the purchasing group; and if not paid by the purchasing group, then the obligation of the agent or broker for the purchasing group; and if not paid by the agent or broker for the purchasing group, then the obligation of each of the purchasing group's members. The liability of each member of the purchasing group is several,

not joint, and is limited to the tax due in relation to the premiums paid by that member. [1993 c 462 § 99.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.92.100 Authority of commissioner.** The commissioner is authorized to make use of any of the powers established under Title 48 RCW to enforce the laws of this state so long as those powers are not specifically preempted by the federal Product Liability Risk Retention Act of 1981, as amended by the federal Risk Retention Amendments of 1986. This includes, but is not limited to, the commissioner's administrative authority to investigate, issue subpoenas, conduct depositions and hearings, issue orders, impose penalties, and seek injunctive relief. With regard to any investigation, administrative proceedings, or litigation, the commissioner can rely on the procedural law and regulations of the state. The injunctive authority of the commissioner in regard to risk retention groups is restricted by the requirement that any injunction be issued by a court of competent jurisdiction. [1993 c 462 § 100; 1987 c 306 § 10.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.92.110 Penalties.** A risk retention group which violates any provision of this chapter shall be subject to fines and penalties applicable to licensed insurers generally, including revocation of its license and/or the right to do business in this state. [1987 c 306 § 11.]

**48.92.120 Agents, brokers, solicitors—License required.** (1) No person may act or aid in any manner in soliciting, negotiating, or procuring liability insurance in this state from a risk retention group unless the person is licensed as an insurance agent or broker for casualty insurance in accordance with chapter 48.17 RCW and pays the fees designated for the license under RCW 48.14.010.

(2)(a) No person may act or aid in any manner in soliciting, negotiating, or procuring liability insurance in this state for a purchasing group from an authorized insurer or a risk retention group chartered in a state unless the person is licensed as an insurance agent or broker for casualty insurance in accordance with chapter 48.17 RCW and pays the fees designated for the license under RCW 48.14.010.

(b) No person may act or aid in any manner in soliciting, negotiating, or procuring liability insurance coverage in this state for a member of a purchasing group under a purchasing group's policy unless the person is licensed as an insurance agent or broker for casualty insurance in accordance with chapter 48.17 RCW and pays the fees designated for the license under RCW 48.14.010.

(c) No person may act or aid in any manner in soliciting, negotiating, or procuring liability insurance from an insurer not authorized to do business in this state on behalf of a purchasing group located in this state unless the person is licensed as a surplus lines broker in accordance with chapter 48.15 RCW and pays the fees designated for the license under RCW 48.14.010.

(3) For purposes of acting as an agent or broker for a risk retention group or purchasing group under subsections

(1) and (2) of this section, the requirement of residence in this state does not apply.

(4) Every person licensed under chapters 48.15 and 48.17 RCW, on business placed with risk retention groups or written through a purchasing group, shall inform each prospective insured of the provisions of the notice required under RCW 48.92.040(7) in the case of a risk retention group and RCW 48.92.090(3) in the case of a purchasing group. [1993 c 462 § 101; 1987 c 306 § 12.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.92.130 Federal injunctions.** An order issued by any district court of the United States enjoining a risk retention group from soliciting or selling insurance, or operating, in any state or in all states or in any territory or possession of the United States, upon a finding that the group is in a hazardous financial or financially impaired condition, shall be enforceable in the courts of the state. [1993 c 462 § 102; 1987 c 306 § 13.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

**48.92.140 Rules.** The commissioner may establish and from time to time amend the rules relating to risk retention or purchasing groups as may be necessary or desirable to carry out the provisions of this chapter. [1993 c 462 § 103; 1987 c 306 § 14.]

**Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462:** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

## Chapter 48.94

### REINSURANCE INTERMEDIARY ACT

#### Sections

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48.94.901	Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462.

**48.94.005 Definitions.** The definitions set forth in this section apply throughout this chapter:

(1) "Actuary" means a person who is a member in good standing of the American Academy of Actuaries.

(2) "Controlling person" means a person, firm, association, or corporation who directly or indirectly has the power to direct or cause to be directed, the management, control, or activities of the reinsurance intermediary.

(3) "Insurer" means insurer as defined in RCW 48.01.050.

(4) "Licensed producer" means an agent, broker, or reinsurance intermediary licensed under the applicable provisions of this title.

(5) "Reinsurance intermediary" means a reinsurance intermediary-broker or a reinsurance intermediary-manager as these terms are defined in subsections (6) and (7) of this section.

(6) "Reinsurance intermediary-broker" means a person, other than an officer or employee of the ceding insurer, firm, association, or corporation who solicits, negotiates, or places reinsurance cessions or retrocessions on behalf of a ceding insurer without the authority or power to bind reinsurance on behalf of the insurer.

(7) "Reinsurance intermediary-manager" means a person, firm, association, or corporation who has authority to bind or manages all or part of the assumed reinsurance business of a reinsurer, including the management of a separate division, department, or underwriting office, and acts as an agent for the reinsurer whether known as a reinsurance intermediary-manager, manager, or other similar term. Notwithstanding this subsection, the following persons are not considered a reinsurance intermediary-manager, with respect to such reinsurer, for the purposes of this chapter:

(a) An employee of the reinsurer;

(b) A United States manager of the United States branch of an alien reinsurer;

(c) An underwriting manager who, pursuant to contract, manages all the reinsurance operations of the reinsurer, is under common control with the reinsurer, subject to the Insurer Holding Company Act, chapter 48.31B RCW, and whose compensation is not based on the volume of premiums written;

(d) The manager of a group, association, pool, or organization of insurers that engages in joint underwriting or joint reinsurance and that are subject to examination by the insurance commissioner of the state in which the manager's principal business office is located.

(8) "Reinsurer" means a person, firm, association, or corporation licensed in this state under this title as an insurer with the authority to assume reinsurance.

(9) "To be in violation" means that the reinsurance intermediary, insurer, or reinsurer for whom the reinsurance intermediary was acting failed to substantially comply with this chapter.

(10) "Qualified United States financial institution" means an institution that:

(a) Is organized or, in the case of a United States office of a foreign banking organization, licensed, under the laws of the United States or any state thereof;

(b) Is regulated, supervised, and examined by United States federal or state authorities having regulatory authority over banks and trust companies; and

(c) Has been determined by either the commissioner, or the securities valuation office of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, to meet such standards of financial condition and standing as are considered necessary and



appropriate to regulate the quality of financial institutions whose letters of credit will be acceptable to the commissioner. [1993 c 462 § 23.]

**48.94.010 Acting as a reinsurance intermediary-broker or reinsurance intermediary-manager—Commissioner's powers—Licenses—Attorney exemption.**

(1) No person, firm, association, or corporation may act as a reinsurance intermediary-broker in this state if the person, firm, association, or corporation maintains an office either directly or as a member or employee of a firm or association, or an officer, director, or employee of a corporation:

(a) In this state, unless the person, firm, association, or corporation is a licensed reinsurance intermediary-broker in this state; or

(b) In another state, unless the person, firm, association, or corporation is a licensed reinsurance intermediary-broker in this state or another state having a regulatory scheme substantially similar to this chapter.

(2) No person, firm, association, or corporation may act as a reinsurance intermediary-manager:

(a) For a reinsurer domiciled in this state, unless the person, firm, association, or corporation is a licensed reinsurance intermediary-manager in this state;

(b) In this state, if the person, firm, association, or corporation maintains an office either directly or as a member or employee of a firm or association, or an officer, director, or employee of a corporation in this state, unless the person, firm, association, or corporation is a licensed reinsurance intermediary-manager in this state;

(c) In another state for a nondomestic reinsurer, unless the person, firm, association, or corporation is a licensed reinsurance intermediary-manager in this state or another state having a substantially similar regulatory scheme.

(3) The commissioner may require a reinsurance intermediary-manager subject to subsection (2) of this section to:

(a) File a bond in an amount and from an insurer acceptable to the commissioner for the protection of the reinsurer; and

(b) Maintain an errors and omissions policy in an amount acceptable to the commissioner.

(4)(a) The commissioner may issue a reinsurance intermediary license to a person, firm, association, or corporation who has complied with the requirements of this chapter. Any such license issued to a firm or association authorizes all the members of the firm or association and any designated employees to act as reinsurance intermediaries under the license, and all such persons may be named in the application and any supplements to it. Any such license issued to a corporation authorizes all of the officers, and any designated employees and directors of it, to act as reinsurance intermediaries on behalf of the corporation, and all such persons must be named in the application and any supplements to it.

(b) If the applicant for a reinsurance intermediary license is a nonresident, the applicant, as a condition precedent to receiving or holding a license, shall designate the commissioner as agent for service of process in the manner, and with the same legal effect, provided for by this title for designation of service of process upon unauthorized

insurers, and also shall furnish the commissioner with the name and address of a resident of this state upon whom notices or orders of the commissioner or process affecting the nonresident reinsurance intermediary may be served. The licensee shall promptly notify the commissioner in writing of every change in its designated agent for service of process, but the change does not become effective until acknowledged by the commissioner.

(5) The commissioner may refuse to issue a reinsurance intermediary license if, in his or her judgment, the applicant, anyone named on the application, or a member, principal, officer, or director of the applicant, is not trustworthy, or that a controlling person of the applicant is not trustworthy to act as a reinsurance intermediary, or that any of the foregoing has given cause for revocation or suspension of the license, or has failed to comply with a prerequisite for the issuance of such license. Upon written request, the commissioner will furnish a summary of the basis for refusal to issue a license, which document is privileged and not subject to chapter 42.17 RCW.

(6) Licensed attorneys at law of this state when acting in their professional capacity as such are exempt from this section. [1993 c 462 § 24.]

**48.94.015 Written authorization required between a reinsurance intermediary-broker and an insurer—Minimum provisions.**

Brokers transactions between a reinsurance intermediary-broker and the insurer it represents in such capacity may be entered into only under a written authorization, specifying the responsibilities of each party. The authorization must, at a minimum, provide that:

(1) The insurer may terminate the reinsurance intermediary-broker's authority at any time.

(2) The reinsurance intermediary-broker shall render accounts to the insurer accurately detailing all material transactions, including information necessary to support all commissions, charges, and other fees received by, or owing, to the reinsurance intermediary-broker, and remit all funds due to the insurer within thirty days of receipt.

(3) All funds collected for the insurer's account must be held by the reinsurance intermediary-broker in a fiduciary capacity in a bank that is a qualified United States financial institution as defined in this chapter.

(4) The reinsurance intermediary-broker will comply with RCW 48.94.020.

(5) The reinsurance intermediary-broker will comply with the written standards established by the insurer for the cession or retrocession of all risks.

(6) The reinsurance intermediary-broker will disclose to the insurer any relationship with any reinsurer to which business will be ceded or retroceded. [1993 c 462 § 25.]

**48.94.020 Accounts and records maintained by reinsurance intermediary-broker—Access by insurer.**

(1) For at least ten years after expiration of each contract of reinsurance transacted by the reinsurance intermediary-broker, the reinsurance intermediary-broker shall keep a complete record for each transaction showing:

(a) The type of contract, limits, underwriting restrictions, classes, or risks and territory;

(b) Period of coverage, including effective and expiration dates, cancellation provisions, and notice required of cancellation;

(c) Reporting and settlement requirements of balances;

(d) Rate used to compute the reinsurance premium;

(e) Names and addresses of assuming reinsurers;

(f) Rates of all reinsurance commissions, including the commissions on any retrocessions handled by the reinsurance intermediary-broker;

(g) Related correspondence and memoranda;

(h) Proof of placement;

(i) Details regarding retrocessions handled by the reinsurance intermediary-broker including the identity of retrocessionaires and percentage of each contract assumed or ceded;

(j) Financial records, including but not limited to, premium and loss accounts; and

(k) When the reinsurance intermediary-broker procures a reinsurance contract on behalf of a licensed ceding insurer:

(i) Directly from any assuming reinsurer, written evidence that the assuming reinsurer has agreed to assume the risk; or

(ii) If placed through a representative of the assuming reinsurer, other than an employee, written evidence that the reinsurer has delegated binding authority to the representative.

(2) The insurer has access and the right to copy and audit all accounts and records maintained by the reinsurance intermediary-broker related to its business in a form usable by the insurer. [1993 c 462 § 26.]

**48.94.025 Restrictions on insurer—Obtaining services—Employees—Financial condition of reinsurance intermediary.** (1) An insurer may not engage the services of a person, firm, association, or corporation to act as a reinsurance intermediary-broker on its behalf unless the person is licensed as required by RCW 48.94.010(1).

(2) An insurer may not employ an individual who is employed by a reinsurance intermediary-broker with which it transacts business, unless the reinsurance intermediary-broker is under common control with the insurer and subject to the Insurer Holding Company Act, chapter 48.31B RCW.

(3) The insurer shall annually obtain a copy of statements of the financial condition of each reinsurance intermediary-broker with which it transacts business. [1993 c 462 § 27.]

**48.94.030 Contract required between a reinsurance intermediary-manager and a reinsurer—Minimum provisions.** Transactions between a reinsurance intermediary-manager and the reinsurer it represents in such capacity may be entered into only under a written contract, specifying the responsibilities of each party, which shall be approved by the reinsurer's board of directors. At least thirty days before the reinsurer assumes or cedes business through the reinsurance intermediary-manager, a true copy of the approved contract must be filed with the commissioner for approval. The contract must, at a minimum, provide that:

(1) The reinsurer may terminate the contract for cause upon written notice to the reinsurance intermediary-manager.

The reinsurer may immediately suspend the authority of the reinsurance intermediary-manager to assume or cede business during the pendency of a dispute regarding the cause for termination.

(2) The reinsurance intermediary-manager shall render accounts to the reinsurer accurately detailing all material transactions, including information necessary to support all commissions, charges, and other fees received by, or owing to, the reinsurance intermediary-manager, and remit all funds due under the contract to the reinsurer on not less than a monthly basis.

(3) All funds collected for the reinsurer's account must be held by the reinsurance intermediary-manager in a fiduciary capacity in a bank that is a qualified United States financial institution. The reinsurance intermediary-manager may retain no more than three months' estimated claims payments and allocated loss adjustment expenses. The reinsurance intermediary-manager shall maintain a separate bank account for each reinsurer that it represents.

(4) For at least ten years after expiration of each contract of reinsurance transacted by the reinsurance intermediary-manager, the reinsurance intermediary-manager shall keep a complete record for each transaction showing:

(a) The type of contract, limits, underwriting restrictions, classes, or risks and territory;

(b) Period of coverage, including effective and expiration dates, cancellation provisions, and notice required of cancellation, and disposition of outstanding reserves on covered risks;

(c) Reporting and settlement requirements of balances;

(d) Rate used to compute the reinsurance premium;

(e) Names and addresses of reinsurers;

(f) Rates of all reinsurance commissions, including the commissions on any retrocessions handled by the reinsurance intermediary-manager;

(g) Related correspondence and memoranda;

(h) Proof of placement;

(i) Details regarding retrocessions handled by the reinsurance intermediary-manager, as permitted by RCW 48.94.040(4), including the identity of retrocessionaires and percentage of each contract assumed or ceded;

(j) Financial records, including but not limited to, premium and loss accounts; and

(k) When the reinsurance intermediary-manager places a reinsurance contract on behalf of a ceding insurer:

(i) Directly from an assuming reinsurer, written evidence that the assuming reinsurer has agreed to assume the risk; or

(ii) If placed through a representative of the assuming reinsurer, other than an employee, written evidence that the reinsurer has delegated binding authority to the representative.

(5) The reinsurer has access and the right to copy all accounts and records maintained by the reinsurance intermediary-manager related to its business in a form usable by the reinsurer.

(6) The reinsurance intermediary-manager may not assign the contract in whole or in part.

(7) The reinsurance intermediary-manager shall comply with the written underwriting and rating standards established by the insurer for the acceptance, rejection, or cession of all risks.

(8) The rates, terms, and purposes of commissions, charges, and other fees that the reinsurance intermediary-manager may levy against the reinsurer are clearly specified.

(9) If the contract permits the reinsurance intermediary-manager to settle claims on behalf of the reinsurer:

(a) All claims will be reported to the reinsurer in a timely manner;

(b) A copy of the claim file will be sent to the reinsurer at its request or as soon as it becomes known that the claim:

(i) Has the potential to exceed the lesser of an amount determined by the commissioner or the limit set by the reinsurer;

(ii) Involves a coverage dispute;

(iii) May exceed the reinsurance intermediary-manager's claims settlement authority;

(iv) Is open for more than six months; or

(v) Is closed by payment of the lesser of an amount set by the commissioner or an amount set by the reinsurer;

(c) All claim files are the joint property of the reinsurer and reinsurance intermediary-manager. However, upon an order of liquidation of the reinsurer, the files become the sole property of the reinsurer or its estate; the reinsurance intermediary-manager has reasonable access to and the right to copy the files on a timely basis;

(d) Settlement authority granted to the reinsurance intermediary-manager may be terminated for cause upon the reinsurer's written notice to the reinsurance intermediary-manager or upon the termination of the contract. The reinsurer may suspend the settlement authority during the pendency of a dispute regarding the cause of termination.

(10) If the contract provides for a sharing of interim profits by the reinsurance intermediary-manager, such interim profits will not be paid until one year after the end of each underwriting period for property business and five years after the end of each underwriting period for casualty business, or a later period set by the commissioner for specified lines of insurance, and not until the adequacy of reserves on remaining claims has been verified under RCW 48.94.040(3).

(11) The reinsurance intermediary-manager shall annually provide the reinsurer with a statement of its financial condition prepared by an independent certified accountant.

(12) The reinsurer shall periodically, at least semiannually, conduct an on-site review of the underwriting and claims processing operations of the reinsurance intermediary-manager.

(13) The reinsurance intermediary-manager shall disclose to the reinsurer any relationship it has with an insurer before ceding or assuming any business with the insurer under this contract.

(14) Within the scope of its actual or apparent authority the acts of the reinsurance intermediary-manager are deemed to be the acts of the reinsurer on whose behalf it is acting. [1993 c 462 § 28.]

**48.94.035 Restrictions on reinsurance intermediary-manager—Retrocessions—Syndicates—Licenses—Employees.** The reinsurance intermediary-manager may not:

(1) Cede retrocessions on behalf of the reinsurer, except that the reinsurance intermediary-manager may cede facultative retrocessions under obligatory automatic agreements if the contract with the reinsurer contains reinsurance underwriting guidelines for the retrocessions. The guidelines must include a list of reinsurers with which the automatic agreements are in effect, and for each such reinsurer, the coverages and amounts or percentages that may be reinsured, and commission schedules.

(2) Commit the reinsurer to participate in reinsurance syndicates.

(3) Appoint a reinsurance intermediary without assuring that the reinsurance intermediary is lawfully licensed to transact the type of reinsurance for which he or she is appointed.

(4) Without prior approval of the reinsurer, pay or commit the reinsurer to pay a claim, net of retrocessions, that exceeds the lesser of an amount specified by the reinsurer or one percent of the reinsurer's policyholder's surplus as of December 31st of the last complete calendar year.

(5) Collect a payment from a retrocessionaire or commit the reinsurer to a claim settlement with a retrocessionaire, without prior approval of the reinsurer. If prior approval is given, a report must be promptly forwarded to the reinsurer.

(6) Jointly employ an individual who is employed by the reinsurer unless the reinsurance intermediary-manager is under common control with the reinsurer subject to the Insurer Holding Company Act, chapter 48.31B RCW.

(7) Appoint a subreinsurance intermediary-manager. [1993 c 462 § 29.]

**48.94.040 Restrictions on reinsurer—Financial condition of reinsurance intermediary-manager—Loss reserves—Retrocessions—Termination of contract—Board of directors.** (1) A reinsurer may not engage the services of a person, firm, association, or corporation to act as a reinsurance intermediary-manager on its behalf unless the person is licensed as required by RCW 48.94.010(2).

(2) The reinsurer shall annually obtain a copy of statements of the financial condition of each reinsurance intermediary-manager that the reinsurer has had prepared by an independent certified accountant in a form acceptable to the commissioner.

(3) If a reinsurance intermediary-manager establishes loss reserves, the reinsurer shall annually obtain the opinion of an actuary attesting to the adequacy of loss reserves established for losses incurred and outstanding on business produced by the reinsurance intermediary-manager. This opinion is in addition to any other required loss reserve certification.

(4) Binding authority for all retrocessional contracts or participation in reinsurance syndicates must rest with an officer of the reinsurer who is not affiliated with the reinsurance intermediary-manager.

(5) Within thirty days of termination of a contract with a reinsurance intermediary-manager, the reinsurer shall provide written notification of the termination to the commissioner.

(6) A reinsurer may not appoint to its board of directors an officer, director, employee, controlling shareholder, or

subproducer of its reinsurance intermediary-manager. This subsection does not apply to relationships governed by the Insurer Holding Company Act, chapter 48.31B RCW, or, if applicable, the Broker-controlled Property and Casualty Insurer Act, chapter 48.97 RCW. [1993 c 462 § 30.]

**48.94.045 Examination by commissioner.** (1) A reinsurance intermediary is subject to examination by the commissioner. The commissioner has access to all books, bank accounts, and records of the reinsurance intermediary in a form usable to the commissioner.

(2) A reinsurance intermediary-manager may be examined as if it were the reinsurer. [1993 c 462 § 31.]

**48.94.050 Violations of chapter—Penalties—Judicial review.** (1) A reinsurance intermediary, insurer, or reinsurer found by the commissioner, after a hearing conducted in accordance with chapters 48.17 and 34.05 RCW, to be in violation of any provision of this chapter, shall:

(a) For each separate violation, pay a penalty in an amount not exceeding five thousand dollars;

(b) Be subject to revocation or suspension of its license; and

(c) If a violation was committed by the reinsurance intermediary, make restitution to the insurer, reinsurer, rehabilitator, or liquidator of the insurer or reinsurer for the net losses incurred by the insurer or reinsurer attributable to the violation.

(2) The decision, determination, or order of the commissioner under subsection (1) of this section is subject to judicial review under this title and chapter 34.05 RCW.

(3) Nothing contained in this section affects the right of the commissioner to impose any other penalties provided in this title.

(4) Nothing contained in this chapter is intended to or in any manner limits or restricts the rights of policyholders, claimants, creditors, or other third parties or confer any rights to those persons. [1993 c 462 § 32.]

**48.94.055 Rule making.** The commissioner may adopt reasonable rules for the implementation and administration of this chapter. [1993 c 462 § 33.]

**48.94.900 Short title.** This chapter may be known and cited as the Reinsurance Intermediary Act. [1993 c 462 § 22.]

**48.94.901 Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462.** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

## Chapter 48.96

### MOTOR VEHICLE SERVICE CONTRACTS

(Formerly: Motor vehicle mechanical breakdown insurance)

#### Sections

48.96.005	Purpose.
48.96.010	Definitions.
48.96.020	Reimbursement policy required for sale of service contract.
48.96.025	Reimbursement policy—Insurer's responsibility.
48.96.030	Reimbursement policy—Required provisions.
48.96.040	Service contract—Required statements.

48.96.045	Service contract—Notice to holder.
48.96.047	Service contract—Holder's right to return.
48.96.050	Service contracts—Excluded parties.
48.96.060	Noncompliance as unfair competition, trade practice—Remedies.
48.96.900	Application of chapter—Date.
48.96.901	Effective date—1990 c 239 §§ 2-10.

**48.96.005 Purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is to protect the public and contract providers from losses arising from the mismanagement of funds paid for motor vehicle service contracts, to better inform the public of their rights and obligations under the contracts, to permit purchasers of such contracts the opportunity to return the contract for a refund, and to require the liabilities owed under these contracts to be fully insured, rather than partially insured, or insured only in the event of provider default. [1990 c 239 § 2.]

**48.96.010 Definitions.** (1) "Motor vehicle service contract" or "service contract" means a contract or agreement given for consideration over and above the lease or purchase price of a motor vehicle that undertakes to perform or provide repair or replacement service, or indemnification for that service, for the operational or structural failure of a motor vehicle due to a defect in materials or skill of work or normal wear and tear, but does not include mechanical breakdown insurance.

(2) "Motor vehicle service contract provider" or "provider" means a person who issues, makes, provides, sells, or offers to sell a motor vehicle service contract.

(3) "Mechanical breakdown insurance" means a policy, contract, or agreement that undertakes to perform or provide repair or replacement service, or indemnification for that service, for the operational or structural failure of a motor vehicle due to a defect in materials or skill of work or normal wear and tear, and that is issued by an insurance company authorized to do business in this state.

(4) "Motor vehicle service contract reimbursement insurance policy" or "reimbursement insurance policy" means a policy of insurance providing coverage for all obligations and liabilities incurred by a motor vehicle service contract provider under the terms of motor vehicle service contracts issued by the provider.

(5) "Motor vehicle" means any vehicle subject to registration under chapter 46.16 RCW.

(6) "Service contract holder" means a person who purchases a motor vehicle service contract. [1987 c 99 § 1.]

**48.96.020 Reimbursement policy required for sale of service contract.** A motor vehicle service contract shall not be issued, sold, or offered for sale in this state unless the provider of the service contract is insured under a motor vehicle service contract reimbursement insurance policy issued by an insurer authorized to do business in this state. [1987 c 99 § 2.]

**48.96.025 Reimbursement policy—Insurer's responsibility.** (1) Every insurer issuing a reimbursement insurance policy shall include, as a part of the policy, the motor vehicle service contract(s) that the reimbursement insurance policy is intended to cover. Notwithstanding RCW

48.18.100, subsequent changes to the motor vehicle service contract(s) must be filed by the insurer with the commissioner no later than thirty days after the date of the change.

(2) Every insurer issuing a reimbursement insurance policy must require that premiums due for coverage under the policy be paid directly by the provider to the insurer or its agent. [1990 c 239 § 3.]

**48.96.030 Reimbursement policy—Required provisions.** A motor vehicle service contract reimbursement insurance policy shall not be issued, sold, or offered for sale in this state unless the reimbursement insurance policy conspicuously states that the issuer of the policy shall pay on behalf of the provider all sums which the provider is legally obligated to pay according to the provider's contractual obligations under the motor vehicle service contracts issued or sold by the provider. [1990 c 239 § 6; 1987 c 99 § 3.]

**48.96.040 Service contract—Required statements.** A motor vehicle service contract shall not be issued, sold, or offered for sale in this state unless the contract conspicuously states that the obligations of the provider to the service contract holder are guaranteed under the reimbursement insurance policy, and unless the contract conspicuously states the name and address of the issuer of the reimbursement insurance policy, the applicable policy number, and the means by which a service contract holder may file a claim under the policy. [1990 c 239 § 7; 1987 c 99 § 4.]

**48.96.045 Service contract—Notice to holder.** A motor vehicle service contract shall not be issued, sold, or offered for sale in this state unless the contract contains a conspicuous statement that has been initialed by the service contract holder and discloses:

(1) Any material conditions that the service contract holder must meet to maintain coverage under the contract including, but not limited to any maintenance schedule to which the service contract holder must adhere, any requirement placed on the service contract holder for documenting repair or maintenance work, and any procedure to which the service contract holder must adhere for filing claims;

(2) The work and parts covered by the contract;

(3) Any time or mileage limitations;

(4) That the implied warranty of merchantability on the motor vehicle is not waived if the contract has been purchased within ninety days of the purchase date of the motor vehicle from a provider who also sold the motor vehicle covered by the contract;

(5) Any exclusions of coverage; and

(6) The contract holder's right to return the contract for a refund, which right can be no more restrictive than provided for in RCW 48.96.047. [1990 c 239 § 4.]

**48.96.047 Service contract—Holder's right to return.** (1) At a minimum, every provider shall permit the service contract holder to return the contract within thirty days of its purchase if no claim has been made under the contract, and shall refund to the holder the full purchase price of the contract unless the service contract holder returns the contract ten or more days after its purchase, in

which case the provider may charge a cancellation fee not exceeding twenty-five dollars. A ten percent penalty shall be added to any refund that is not paid within thirty days of return of the contract to the provider. If a contract holder returns the contract within thirty days of its purchase or within such longer time period as permitted under the contract, the contract shall be void from the beginning and the parties shall be in the same position as if no contract had been issued.

(2) If a service contract holder returns the contract in accordance with this section, the insurer issuing the reimbursement insurance policy covering the contract shall refund to the provider the full premium paid by the provider for coverage of the contract. [1990 c 239 § 5.]

**48.96.050 Service contracts—Excluded parties.** RCW 48.96.020, 48.96.030, and 48.96.040 do not apply to motor vehicle service contracts issued by a motor vehicle manufacturer or import distributor covering vehicles manufactured or imported by the motor vehicle manufacturer or import distributor. [1990 c 239 § 8; 1987 c 99 § 5.]

**48.96.060 Noncompliance as unfair competition, trade practice—Remedies.** Failure to comply with the provisions of this chapter is an unfair method of competition and an unfair or deceptive act or practice in the conduct of a trade or commerce, as specifically contemplated by RCW 19.86.020, and is a violation of the Consumer Protection Act, chapter 19.86 RCW. Any service contract holder injured as a result of a violation of a provision of this chapter shall be entitled to maintain an action pursuant to chapter 19.86 RCW against the motor vehicle service contract provider and the insurer issuing the applicable motor vehicle service contract reimbursement insurance policy and shall be entitled to all of the rights and remedies afforded by that chapter. Any successful claimant under this section shall also be entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees. [1990 c 239 § 9; 1987 c 99 § 6.]

**48.96.900 Application of chapter—Date.** This chapter shall apply to all motor vehicle service contracts issued, sold, or offered for sale on or after January 1, 1988. [1987 c 99 § 7.]

**48.96.901 Effective date—1990 c 239 §§ 2-10.** Sections 2 through 10 of this act shall take effect January 1, 1991. [1990 c 239 § 11.]

## Chapter 48.97

### BROKER-CONTROLLED PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURER ACT

#### Sections

48.97.005	Definitions.
48.97.010	Application.
48.97.015	Business placed with a controlled insurer—Application of section—Exceptions—Written contract required—Audit committee—Report to commissioner.
48.97.020	Relationship between broker and controlled insurer—Broker's duty to disclose—Subbrokers.
48.97.025	Broker's failure to comply with chapter—Commissioner's power—Damages—Penalties.

48.97.900 Short title.

48.97.901 Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462.

**48.97.005 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Accredited state" means a state in which the insurance department or regulatory agency has qualified as meeting the minimum financial regulatory standards promulgated and established from time to time by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

(2) "Broker" means an insurance broker or brokers or any other person, firm, association, or corporation, when, for compensation, commission, or other thing of value, the person, firm, association, or corporation acts or aids in any manner in soliciting, negotiating, or procuring the making of an insurance contract on behalf of an insured other than the person, firm, association, or corporation.

(3) "Control" or "controlled by" has the meaning ascribed in RCW 48.31B.005(2).

(4) "Controlled insurer" means a licensed insurer that is controlled, directly or indirectly, by a broker.

(5) "Controlling producer" means a broker who, directly or indirectly, controls an insurer.

(6) "Licensed insurer" or "insurer" means a person, firm, association, or corporation licensed to transact property and casualty insurance business in this state. The following, among others, are not licensed insurers for purposes of this chapter:

(a) Risk retention groups as defined in the Superfund Amendments Reauthorization Act of 1986, P.L. 99-499, 100 Stat. 1613 (1986), the Risk Retention Act, 15 U.S.C. Sec. 3901 et seq. (1982 & Supp. 1986), and chapter 48.92 RCW;

(b) Residual market pools and joint underwriting associations; and

(c) Captive insurers. For the purposes of this chapter, captive insurers are insurance companies owned by another organization, whose exclusive purpose is to insure risks of the parent organization and affiliated companies or, in the case of groups and associations, insurance organizations owned by the insureds whose exclusive purpose is to insure risks to member organizations or group members, or both, and their affiliates. [1993 c 462 § 17.]

**48.97.010 Application.** This chapter applies to licensed insurers either domiciled in this state or domiciled in a state that is not an accredited state having in effect a substantially similar law. All provisions of the Insurer Holding Company Act, chapter 48.31B RCW, or its successor act, to the extent they are not superseded by this chapter, continue to apply to all parties within the holding company systems subject to this chapter. [1993 c 462 § 18.]

**48.97.015 Business placed with a controlled insurer—Application of section—Exceptions—Written contract required—Audit committee—Report to commissioner.** (1)(a) This section applies in a particular calendar year if in that calendar year the aggregate amount of gross written premium on business placed with a controlled insurer by a controlling broker is equal to or greater than five percent of the admitted assets of the controlled insurer, as reported in

the controlled insurer's quarterly statement filed as of September 30th of the prior year.

(b) Notwithstanding (a) of this subsection, this section does not apply if:

(i) The controlling producer:

(A) Places insurance only with the controlled insurer; or only with the controlled insurer and a member or members of the controlled insurer's holding company system, or the controlled insurer's parent, affiliate, or subsidiary and receives no compensation based upon the amount of premiums written in connection with the insurance; and

(B) Accepts insurance placements only from nonaffiliated subbrokers, and not directly from insureds; and

(ii) The controlled insurer, except for business written through a residual market facility such as the assigned risk plan, fair plans, or other such plans, accepts insurance business only from a controlling broker, a broker controlled by the controlled insurer, or a broker that is a subsidiary of the controlled insurer.

(2) A controlled insurer may not accept business from a controlling broker and a controlling broker may not place business with a controlled insurer unless there is a written contract between the controlling broker and the insurer specifying the responsibilities of each party, which contract has been approved by the board of directors of the insurer and contains the following minimum provisions:

(a) The controlled insurer may terminate the contract for cause, upon written notice to the controlling broker. The controlled insurer shall suspend the authority of the controlling broker to write business during the pendency of a dispute regarding the cause for the termination;

(b) The controlling broker shall render accounts to the controlling insurer detailing all material transactions, including information necessary to support all commissions, charges, and other fees received by, or owing to, the controlling broker;

(c) The controlling broker shall remit all funds due under the terms of the contract to the controlling insurer on at least a monthly basis. The due date must be fixed so that premiums or installments collected are remitted no later than ninety days after the effective date of a policy placed with the controlling insurer under this contract;

(d) The controlling broker shall hold all funds collected for the controlled insurer's account in a fiduciary capacity, in one or more appropriately identified bank accounts in banks that are members of the federal reserve system, in accordance with the applicable provisions of this title. However, funds of a controlling broker not required to be licensed in this state must be maintained in compliance with the requirements of the controlling broker's domiciliary jurisdiction;

(e) The controlling broker shall maintain separately identifiable records of business written for the controlled insurer;

(f) The contract shall not be assigned in whole or in part by the controlling broker;

(g) The controlled insurer shall provide the controlling broker with its underwriting standards, rules, and procedures, manuals setting forth the rates to be charged, and the conditions for the acceptance or rejection of risks. The controlling broker shall adhere to the standards, rules, procedures, rates, and conditions that are the same as those

applicable to comparable business placed with the controlled insurer by a broker other than the controlling broker;

(h) The rates of the controlling broker's commissions, charges, and other fees must be no greater than those applicable to comparable business placed with the controlled insurer by brokers other than controlling brokers. For purposes of (g) and (h) of this subsection, examples of comparable business include the same lines of insurance, same kinds of insurance, same kinds of risks, similar policy limits, and similar quality of business;

(i) If the contract provides that the controlling broker, on insurance business placed with the insurer, is to be compensated contingent upon the insurer's profits on that business, then the compensation shall not be determined and paid until at least five years after the premiums on liability insurance are earned and at least one year after the premiums are earned on any other insurance. In no event may the commissions be paid until the adequacy of the controlled insurer's reserves on remaining claims has been independently verified under subsection (3) of this section;

(j) The insurer may establish a different limit on the controlling broker's writings in relation to the controlled insurer's surplus and total writings for each line or subline of business. The controlled insurer shall notify the controlling broker when the applicable limit is approached and may not accept business from the controlling broker if the limit is reached. The controlling broker may not place business with the controlled insurer if it has been notified by the controlled insurer that the limit has been reached; and

(k) The controlling broker may negotiate but may not bind reinsurance on behalf of the controlled insurer on business the controlling broker places with the controlled insurer, except that the controlling broker may bind facultative reinsurance contracts under obligatory facultative agreements if the contract with the controlled insurer contains underwriting guidelines including, for both reinsurance assumed and ceded, a list of reinsurers with which the automatic agreements are in effect, the coverages and amounts of percentages that may be reinsured, and commission schedules.

(3) Every controlled insurer shall have an audit committee of the board of directors composed of independent directors. The audit committee shall annually meet with management, the insurer's independent certified public accountants, and an independent casualty actuary or other independent loss reserve specialist acceptable to the commissioner to review the adequacy of the insurer's loss reserves.

(4)(a) In addition to any other required loss reserve certification, the controlled insurer shall, annually, on April 1st of each year, file with the commissioner an opinion of an independent casualty actuary, or such other independent loss reserve specialist acceptable to the commissioner, reporting loss ratios for each line of business written and attesting to the adequacy of loss reserves established for losses incurred and outstanding as of year-end, including losses incurred but not reported, on business placed by the broker; and

(b) The controlled insurer shall annually report to the commissioner the amount of commissions paid to the producer, the percentage that amount represents of the net premiums written, and comparable amounts and percentages

paid to noncontrolling brokers for placements of the same kinds of insurance. [1993 c 462 § 19.]

**48.97.020 Relationship between broker and controlled insurer—Broker's duty to disclose—Subbrokers.** The broker, before the effective date of the policy, shall deliver written notice to the prospective insured disclosing the relationship between the broker and the controlled insurer, except that, if the business is placed through a subbroker who is not a controlling broker, the controlling broker shall retain in his or her records a signed commitment from the subbroker that the subbroker is aware of the relationship between the insurer and the broker and that the subbroker has notified or will notify the insured. [1993 c 462 § 20.]

**48.97.025 Broker's failure to comply with chapter—Commissioner's power—Damages—Penalties.** (1)(a) If the commissioner believes that the controlling broker has not materially complied with this chapter, or a rule adopted or order issued under this chapter, the commissioner may after notice and opportunity to be heard, order the controlling broker to cease placing business with the controlled insurer; and

(b) If it is found that because of material noncompliance that the controlled insurer or any policyholder thereof has suffered loss or damage, the commissioner may maintain a civil action or intervene in an action brought by or on behalf of the insurer or policyholder for recovery of compensatory damages for the benefit of the insurer or policyholder or other appropriate relief.

(2) If an order for liquidation or rehabilitation of the controlled insurer has been entered under chapter 48.31 RCW, and the receiver appointed under that order believes that the controlling broker or any other person has not materially complied with this chapter, or a rule adopted or order issued under this chapter, and the insurer suffered any loss or damage from the noncompliance, the receiver may maintain a civil action for recovery of damages or other appropriate sanctions for the benefit of the insurer.

(3) Nothing contained in this section alters or affects the right of the commissioner to impose other penalties provided for in this title.

(4) Nothing contained in this section alters or affects the rights of policyholders, claimants, creditors, or other third parties. [1993 c 462 § 21.]

**48.97.900 Short title.** This chapter may be known and cited as the Business Transacted with Broker-controlled Property and Casualty Insurer Act. [1993 c 462 § 16.]

**48.97.901 Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462.** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

## Chapter 48.98

## MANAGING GENERAL AGENTS ACT

## Sections

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**48.98.005 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Actuary" means a person who is a member in good standing of the American Academy of Actuaries.

(2) "Insurer" means a person having a certificate of authority in this state as an insurance company under RCW 48.01.050.

(3) "Managing general agent" means:

(a) A person who manages all or part of the insurance business of an insurer, including the management of a separate division, department, or underwriting office, and acts as a representative of the insurer whether known as a managing general agent, manager, or other similar term, and who, with or without the authority, either separately or together with affiliates, produces, directly or indirectly, and underwrites an amount of gross direct written premium equal to or more than five percent of the policyholder surplus as reported in the last annual statement of the insurer in any one quarter or year together with one or more of the following activities related to the business produced:

(i) Adjusts or pays claims, in excess of an amount to be determined by the commissioner; or

(ii) Negotiates reinsurance on behalf of the insurer.

(b) Notwithstanding (a) of this subsection, the following persons may not be managing general agents for purposes of this chapter:

(i) An employee of the insurer;

(ii) A United States manager of the United States branch of an alien insurer;

(iii) An underwriting manager who, under a contract, manages all of the insurance operations of the insurer, is under common control with the insurer, subject to the Insurer Holding Company Act, chapter 48.31B RCW, and whose compensation is not based on the volume of premiums written; or

(iv) The attorney-in-fact authorized by and acting for the subscribers of a reciprocal insurer or interinsurance exchange under powers of attorney.

(4) "Underwrite" means to accept or reject risks on behalf of the insurer. [1993 c 462 § 35.]

**48.98.010 Requirements for managing general agent—License—Bond—Errors and omissions policy.** (1) No person may act in the capacity of a managing general agent with respect to risks located in this state, for an insurer authorized by this state, unless that person is licensed in this state as an agent, under chapter 48.17 RCW, for the lines of insurance involved and is designated as a managing general agent and appointed as such by the insurer.

(2) No person may act in the capacity of a managing general agent representing an insurer domiciled in this state with respect to risks located outside this state unless that person is licensed as an agent in this state, under chapter 48.17 RCW, for the lines of insurance involved and is designated as a managing general agent and appointed as such by the insurer.

(3) The commissioner may require a bond for the protection of each insurer.

(4) The commissioner may require the managing general agent to maintain an errors and omissions policy. [1993 c 462 § 36.]

**48.98.015 Contract required between a managing general agent and an insurer—Minimum provisions.** No managing general agent may place business with an insurer unless there is in force a written contract between the managing general agent and the insurer that sets forth the responsibilities of each party and, where both parties share responsibility for a particular function, specifies the division of the responsibilities, and that contains the following minimum provisions:

(1) The insurer may terminate the contract for cause upon written notice to the managing general agent. The insurer may suspend the underwriting authority of the managing general agent during the pendency of a dispute regarding the cause for termination.

(2) The managing general agent shall render accounts to the insurer detailing all transactions and remit all funds due under the contract to the insurer on not less than a monthly basis.

(3) The managing general agent shall hold funds collected for the account of an insurer in a fiduciary capacity in a financial institution located in this state that is a member of the federal reserve system. This account must be used for all payments on behalf of the insurer. The managing general agent may retain no more than three months' estimated claims payments and allocated loss adjustment expenses.

(4) The managing general agent shall maintain separate records of business written for each insurer. The insurer has access to and the right to copy all accounts and records related to its business in a form usable by the insurer, and the commissioner has access to all books, bank accounts, and records of the managing general agent in a form usable to the commissioner. Those records shall be retained according to the requirements of this title and rules adopted under it.

(5) The managing general agent may not assign the contract in whole or part.

(6)(a) Appropriate underwriting guidelines must include at least the following: The maximum annual premium volume; the basis of the rates to be charged; the types of risks that may be written; maximum limits of liability;



applicable exclusions; territorial limitations; policy cancellation provisions; and the maximum policy period.

(b) The insurer has the right to cancel or not renew any policy of insurance, subject to the applicable laws and rules, including those in chapter 48.18 RCW.

(7) If the contract permits the managing general agent to settle claims on behalf of the insurer:

(a) All claims must be reported to the insurer in a timely manner.

(b) A copy of the claim file must be sent to the insurer at its request or as soon as it becomes known that the claim:

(i) Has the potential to exceed an amount determined by the commissioner, or exceeds the limit set by the insurer, whichever is less;

(ii) Involves a coverage dispute;

(iii) May exceed the managing general agent's claims settlement authority;

(iv) Is open for more than six months; or

(v) Is closed by payment in excess of an amount set by the commissioner or an amount set by the insurer, whichever is less.

(c) All claim files are the joint property of the insurer and the managing general agent. However, upon an order of liquidation of the insurer, those files become the sole property of the insurer or its liquidator or successor. The managing general agent has reasonable access to and the right to copy the files on a timely basis.

(d) Settlement authority granted to the managing general agent may be terminated for cause upon the insurer's written notice to the managing general agent or upon the termination of the contract. The insurer may suspend the managing general agent's settlement authority during the pendency of a dispute regarding the cause for termination.

(8) Where electronic claims files are in existence, the contract must address the timely transmission of the data.

(9) If the contract provides for a sharing of interim profits by the managing general agent, and the managing general agent has the authority to determine the amount of the interim profits by establishing loss reserves or controlling claim payments or in any other manner, interim profits shall not be paid to the managing general agent until one year after they are earned for property insurance business and five years after they are earned on casualty business and not until the profits have been verified under RCW 48.98.020.

(10) The managing general agent may not:

(a) Bind reinsurance or retrocessions on behalf of the insurer, except that the managing general agent may bind automatic reinsurance contracts under obligatory automatic agreements if the contract with the insurer contains reinsurance underwriting guidelines including, for both reinsurance assumed and ceded, a list of reinsurers with which the automatic agreements are in effect, the coverages and amounts or percentages that may be reinsured, and commission schedules;

(b) Commit the insurer to participate in insurance or reinsurance syndicates;

(c) Use an agent that is not appointed to represent the insurer in accordance with the requirements of chapter 48.17 RCW;

(d) Without prior approval of the insurer, pay or commit the insurer to pay a claim over a specified amount, net of reinsurance, that shall not exceed one percent of the insurer's

policyholder surplus as of December 31st of the last-completed calendar year;

(e) Collect a payment from a reinsurer or commit the insurer to a claim settlement with a reinsurer, without prior approval of the insurer. If prior approval is given, a report shall be promptly forwarded to the insurer;

(f) Permit an agent appointed by it to serve on the insurer's board of directors;

(g) Jointly employ an individual who is employed by the insurer; or

(h) Appoint a submanaging general agent. [1993 c 462 § 37.]

**48.98.020 Requirements for insurer—Audit, loss reserves, and on-site review of managing general agent—Notice to commissioner—Quarterly review of books and records—Board of director.** (1) The insurer shall have on file an independent audited financial statement, in a form acceptable to the commissioner, of each managing general agent with which it is doing or has done business.

(2) If a managing general agent establishes loss reserves, the insurer shall annually obtain the opinion of an actuary attesting to the adequacy of loss reserves established for losses incurred and outstanding on business produced by the managing general agent. This is in addition to any other required loss reserve certification.

(3) The insurer shall periodically, and no less frequently than semiannually, conduct an on-site review of the underwriting and claims processing operations of the managing general agent.

(4) Binding authority for all reinsurance contracts or participation in insurance or reinsurance syndicates must rest with an officer of the insurer, who may not be affiliated with the managing general agent.

(5) Within thirty days of entering into or terminating a contract with a managing general agent, the insurer shall provide written notification of that appointment or termination to the commissioner. Notices of appointment of a managing general agent must include a statement of duties that the managing general agent is expected to perform on behalf of the insurer, the lines of insurance for which the managing general agent is to be authorized to act, and any other information the commissioner may request. This subsection applies to managing general agents operating in this state.

(6) An insurer shall review its books and records each calendar quarter to determine if any agent has become a managing general agent. If the insurer determines that an agent has become a managing general agent under RCW 48.98.005, the insurer shall promptly notify the agent and the commissioner of that determination, and the insurer and agent shall fully comply with this chapter within thirty days.

(7) An insurer may not appoint to its board of directors an officer, director, employee, subagent, or controlling shareholder of its managing general agents. This subsection does not apply to relationships governed by the Insurer Holding Company Act, chapter 48.31B RCW, or, if applicable, the business transacted with Broker-controlled Property and Casualty Insurer Act, chapter 48.97 RCW. [1993 c 462 § 38.]

**48.98.025 Examinations—Acts of a managing general agent are acts of the insurer.** The acts of the managing general agent are considered to be the acts of the insurer on whose behalf it is acting. A managing general agent may be examined as if it were the insurer, as provided in chapter 48.03 RCW. [1993 c 462 § 39.]

**48.98.030 Violations of chapter—Penalties—Judicial review.** (1) Subject to a hearing in accordance with chapters 34.05 and 48.04 RCW, upon a finding by the commissioner that any person has violated any provision of this chapter, the commissioner may order:

(a) For each separate violation, a penalty in an amount of not more than one thousand dollars;

(b) Revocation, or suspension for up to one year, of the agent's license; and

(c) The managing general agent to reimburse the insurer, the rehabilitator, or liquidator of the insurer for losses incurred by the insurer caused by a violation of this chapter committed by the managing general agent.

(2) The decision, determination, or order of the commissioner under this section is subject to judicial review under chapters 34.05 and 48.04 RCW.

(3) Nothing contained in this section affects the right of the commissioner to impose any other penalties provided for in this title.

(4) Nothing contained in this chapter is intended to or in any manner limits or restricts the rights of policyholders, claimants, and auditors. [1993 c 462 § 40.]

**48.98.035 Rule making.** The commissioner may adopt rules for the implementation and administration of this chapter, that shall include but are not limited to licensure of managing general agents. [1993 c 462 § 41.]

**48.98.040 Continued use of a managing general agent—Compliance with chapter.** No insurer may continue to use the services of a managing general agent on and after January 1, 1994, unless that use complies with this chapter. [1993 c 462 § 42.]

**48.98.900 Short title.** This chapter may be known and cited as the Managing General Agents Act. [1993 c 462 § 34.]

**48.98.901 Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462.** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

## Chapter 48.99

### UNIFORM INSURERS LIQUIDATION ACT

#### Sections

48.99.010	Uniform insurers liquidation act.
48.99.020	Delinquency proceedings—Domestic insurers.
48.99.030	Delinquency proceedings—Foreign insurers.
48.99.040	Claims of nonresidents against domestic insurer.
48.99.050	Claims of residence against foreign insurer.
48.99.060	Priority of certain claims.
48.99.070	Attachment, garnishment, execution stayed.
48.99.080	Severability—Uniformity of interpretation.
48.99.900	Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462.

**48.99.010 Uniform insurers liquidation act.** This chapter may be known and cited as the Uniform Insurers Liquidation Act. For the purposes of this chapter:

(1) "Insurer" means any person, firm, corporation, association, or aggregation of persons doing an insurance business and subject to the insurance supervisory authority of, or to liquidation, rehabilitation, reorganization, or conservation by, the commissioner, or the equivalent insurance supervisory official of another state.

(2) "Delinquency proceeding" means any proceeding commenced against an insurer for the purpose of liquidating, rehabilitating, reorganizing, or conserving such insurer.

(3) "State" means any state of the United States, and also the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

(4) "Foreign country" means territory not in any state.

(5) "Domiciliary state" means the state in which an insurer is incorporated or organized, or, in the case of an insurer incorporated or organized in a foreign country, the state in which such insurer, having become authorized to do business in such state, has, at the commencement of delinquency proceedings, the largest amount of its assets held in trust and assets held on deposit for the benefit of its policyholders or policyholders and creditors in the United States; and any such insurer is deemed to be domiciled in such state.

(6) "Ancillary state" means any state other than a domiciliary state.

(7) "Reciprocal state" means any state other than this state in which in substance and effect the provisions of this chapter are in force, including the provisions requiring that the insurance commissioner or equivalent insurance supervisory official be the receiver of a delinquent insurer.

(8) "General assets" means all property, real, personal, or otherwise, not specifically mortgaged, pledged, deposited, or otherwise encumbered for the security or benefit of specified persons or a limited class or classes of persons, and as to such specifically encumbered property the term includes all such property or its proceeds in excess of the amount necessary to discharge the sum or sums secured thereby. Assets held in trust and assets held on deposit for the security or benefit of all policyholders, or all policyholders and creditors in the United States, shall be deemed general assets.

(9) "Preferred claim" means any claim with respect to which the law of a state or of the United States accords priority of payment from the general assets of the insurer.

(10) "Special deposit claim" means any claim secured by a deposit made pursuant to statute for the security or benefit of a limited class or classes of persons, but not including any general assets.

(11) "Secured claim" means any claim secured by mortgage, trust, deed, pledge, deposit as security, escrow, or otherwise, but not including special deposit claims or claims against general assets. The term also includes claims which more than four months prior to the commencement of delinquency proceedings in the state of the insurer's domicile have become liens upon specific assets by reason of judicial process.

(12) "Receiver" means receiver, liquidator, rehabilitator, or conservator as the context may require. [1993 c 462 § 78; 1961 c 194 § 12; 1947 c 79 § .31.11; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.31.11. Formerly RCW 48.31.110.]

**48.99.020 Delinquency proceedings—Domestic insurers.** (1) Whenever under the laws of this state a receiver is to be appointed in delinquency proceedings for an insurer domiciled in this state, the court shall appoint the commissioner as such receiver. The court shall direct the commissioner forthwith to take possession of the assets of the insurer and to administer the same under the orders of the court.

(2) As domiciliary receiver the commissioner shall be vested by operation of law with the title to all of the property, contracts, and rights of action, and all of the books and records of the insurer wherever located, as of the date of entry of the order directing him to rehabilitate or liquidate a domestic insurer, or to liquidate the United States branch of an alien insurer domiciled in this state, and he shall have the right to recover the same and reduce the same to possession; except that ancillary receivers in reciprocal states shall have, as to assets located in their respective states, the rights and powers which are hereinafter prescribed for ancillary receivers appointed in this state as to assets located in this state.

(3) The filing or recording of the order directing possession to be taken, or a certified copy thereof, in the office where instruments affecting title to property are required to be filed or recorded shall impart the same notice as would be imparted by a deed, bill of sale, or other evidence of title duly filed or recorded.

(4) The commissioner as domiciliary receiver shall be responsible on his official bond for the proper administration of all assets coming into his possession or control. The court may at any time require an additional bond from him or his deputies if deemed desirable for the protection of the assets.

(5) Upon taking possession of the assets of an insurer the domiciliary receiver shall, subject to the direction of the court, immediately proceed to conduct the business of the insurer or to take such steps as are authorized by the laws of this state for the purpose of liquidating, rehabilitating, reorganizing, or conserving the affairs of the insurer.

(6) In connection with delinquency proceedings the commissioner may appoint one or more special deputy commissioners to act for him, and may employ such counsel, clerks, and assistants as he deems necessary. The compensation of the special deputies, counsel, clerks, or assistants and all expenses of taking possession of the insurer and of conducting the proceedings shall be fixed by the receiver, subject to the approval of the court, and shall be paid out of the funds or assets of the insurer. Within the limits of the duties imposed upon them special deputies shall possess all the powers given to, and, in the exercise of those powers, shall be subject to all of the duties imposed upon the receiver with respect to such proceedings. [1947 c 79 § .31.12; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.31.12. Formerly RCW 48.31.120.]

**48.99.030 Delinquency proceedings—Foreign insurers.** (1) Whenever under the laws of this state an ancillary receiver is to be appointed in delinquency proceedings for an insurer not domiciled in this state, the court shall appoint the commissioner as ancillary receiver. The commissioner shall file a petition requesting the appointment (a) if he finds that there are sufficient assets of such insurer

located in this state to justify the appointment of an ancillary receiver, or (b) if ten or more persons resident in this state having claims against such insurer file a petition with the commissioner requesting the appointment of such ancillary receiver.

(2) The domiciliary receiver for the purpose of liquidating an insurer domiciled in a reciprocal state, shall be vested by operation of law with the title to all of the property, contracts, and rights of action, and all of the books and records of the insurer located in this state, and he shall have the immediate right to recover balances due from local agents and to obtain possession of any books and records of the insurer found in this state. He shall also be entitled to recover the other assets of the insurer located in this state except that upon the appointment of an ancillary receiver in this state, the ancillary receiver shall during the ancillary receivership proceedings have the sole right to recover such other assets. The ancillary receiver shall, as soon as practicable, liquidate from their respective securities those special deposit claims and secured claims which are proved and allowed in the ancillary proceedings in this state, and shall pay the necessary expenses of the proceedings. All remaining assets he shall promptly transfer to the domiciliary receiver. Subject to the foregoing provisions the ancillary receiver and his deputies shall have the same powers and be subject to the same duties with respect to the administration of such assets, as a receiver of an insurer domiciled in this state.

(3) The domiciliary receiver of an insurer domiciled in a reciprocal state may sue in this state to recover any assets of such insurer to which he may be entitled under the laws of this state. [1947 c 79 § .31.13; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.31.13. Formerly RCW 48.31.130]

**48.99.040 Claims of nonresidents against domestic insurer.** (1) In a delinquency proceeding begun in this state against an insurer domiciled in this state, claimants residing in reciprocal states may file claims either with the ancillary receivers, if any, in their respective states, or with the domiciliary receiver. All such claims must be filed on or before the last date fixed for the filing of claims in the domiciliary delinquency proceedings.

(2) Controverted claims belonging to claimants residing in reciprocal states may either (a) be proved in this state as provided by law, or (b), if ancillary proceedings have been commenced in such reciprocal states, may be proved in those proceedings. In the event a claimant elects to prove his claim in ancillary proceedings, if notice of the claim and opportunity to appear and be heard is afforded the domiciliary receiver of this state as provided in \*RCW 48.31.150 with respect to ancillary proceedings in this state, the final allowance of such claim by the courts in the ancillary state shall be accepted in this state as conclusive as to its amount, and shall also be accepted as conclusive as to its priority, if any, against special deposits or other security located within the ancillary state. [1947 c 79 § .31.14; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.31.14. Formerly RCW 48.31.140.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 48.31.150 was recodified as RCW 48.99.050 pursuant to 1993 c 462 § 81.

**48.99.050 Claims of residents against foreign insurer.** (1) In a delinquency proceeding in a reciprocal state against an insurer domiciled in that state, claimants against such insurer, who reside within this state may file claims either with the ancillary receiver, if any, appointed in this state, or with the domiciliary receiver. All such claims must be filed on or before the last date fixed for the filing of claims in the domiciliary delinquency proceeding.

(2) Controverted claims belonging to claimants residing in this state may either (a) be proved in the domiciliary state as provided by the law of that state, or (b), if ancillary proceedings have been commenced in this state, be proved in those proceedings. In the event that any such claimant elects to prove his claim in this state, he shall file his claim with the ancillary receiver in the manner provided by the law of this state for the proving of claims against insurers domiciled in this state, and he shall give notice in writing to the receiver in the domiciliary state, either by registered mail or by personal service at least forty days prior to the date set for hearing. The notice shall contain a concise statement of the amount of the claim, the facts on which the claim is based, and the priorities asserted, if any. If the domiciliary receiver, within thirty days after the giving of such notice, shall give notice in writing to the ancillary receiver and to the claimant, either by registered mail or by personal service, of his intention to contest such claim, he shall be entitled to appear or to be represented in any proceeding in this state involving the adjudication of the claim. The final allowance of the claim by the courts of this state shall be accepted as conclusive as to its amount, and shall also be accepted as conclusive as to its priority, if any, against special deposits or other security located within this state. [1947 c 79 § .31.15; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.31.15. Formerly RCW 48.31.150.]

**48.99.060 Priority of certain claims.** (1) In a delinquency proceeding against an insurer domiciled in this state, claims owing to residents of ancillary states shall be preferred claims if like claims are preferred under the laws of this state. All such claims whether owing to residents or nonresidents shall be given equal priority of payment from general assets regardless of where such assets are located.

(2) In a delinquency proceeding against an insurer domiciled in a reciprocal state, claims owing to residents of this state shall be preferred if like claims are preferred by the laws of that state.

(3) The owners of special deposit claims against an insurer for which a receiver is appointed in this or any other state shall be given priority against their several special deposits in accordance with the provisions of the statutes governing the creation and maintenance of such deposits. If there is a deficiency in any such deposit so that the claims secured thereby are not fully discharged therefrom, the claimants may share in the general assets, but such sharing shall be deferred until general creditors, and also claimants against other special deposits who have received smaller percentages from their respective special deposits, have been paid percentages of their claims equal to the percentage paid from the special deposit.

(4) The owner of a secured claim against an insurer for which a receiver has been appointed in this or any other

state may surrender his security and file his claim as a general creditor, or the claim may be discharged by resort to the security, in which case the deficiency, if any, shall be treated as a claim against the general assets of the insurer on the same basis as claims of unsecured creditors. If the amount of the deficiency has been adjudicated in ancillary proceedings as provided in this chapter, or if it has been adjudicated by a court of competent jurisdiction in proceedings in which the domiciliary receiver has had notice and opportunity to be heard, such amount shall be conclusive; otherwise the amount shall be determined in the delinquency proceeding in the domiciliary state. [1993 c 462 § 79; 1947 c 79 § .31.16; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.31.16. Formerly RCW 48.31.160.]

**48.99.070 Attachment, garnishment, execution stayed.** During the pendency of delinquency proceedings in this or any reciprocal state no action or proceeding in the nature of an attachment, garnishment, or execution shall be commenced or maintained in the courts of this state against the delinquent insurer or its assets. Any lien obtained by any such action or proceeding within four months prior to the commencement of any such delinquency proceeding or at any time thereafter shall be void as against any rights arising in such delinquency proceeding. [1947 c 79 § .31.17; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.31.17. Formerly RCW 48.31.170.]

**48.99.080 Severability—Uniformity of interpretation.** (1) If any provision of this chapter or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the chapter which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this chapter are declared to be severable.

(2) This Uniform Insurers Liquidation Act shall be so interpreted and construed as to effectuate its general purpose to make uniform the law of those states that enact it. To the extent that its provisions, when applicable, conflict with provisions of chapter 48.31 RCW, the provisions of this chapter shall control. [1993 c 462 § 80; 1947 c 79 § .31.18; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 45.31.18. Formerly RCW 48.31.180.]

**48.99.900 Severability—Implementation—1993 c 462.** See RCW 48.31B.901 and 48.31B.902.

## Chapter 48.102

### VIATICAL SETTLEMENTS

#### Sections

- 48.102.005 Definitions.
- 48.102.010 License required for providers and brokers—Application—Requirements—Fee—Rules.
- 48.102.015 Commissioner may suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew license—Information requirements—Hearing—Fine.
- 48.102.020 Commissioner approval required for contract form, rate, fee, commission, or other compensation charged—Finding necessary for disapproval.
- 48.102.025 Licensee must file annual statement.
- 48.102.030 Examination of business and affairs of applicant or licensee—Production of information—Expenses—Confidentiality of information—Recordkeeping requirements.
- 48.102.035 Requirement to provide information to the viator.

- 48.102.040 Requirement for provider to obtain information—Medical information is confidential—Rescission rights—Time is of the essence.
- 48.102.045 Must be licensed—Transfer to unlicensed entity is void—Rights in policy restored to viator—Exceptions allowed by rule.
- 48.102.050 Rules as necessary to implement chapter.
- 48.102.055 Consumer protection act applies—Civil action—Damages—Costs—Attorneys' fees.
- 48.102.900 Short title—1995 c 161.
- 48.102.901 Application of chapter 21.20 RCW—1995 c 161.

**48.102.005 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Person" means the same as defined in RCW 48.01.070.

(2) "Viatical settlement broker" means an individual, partnership, corporation, or other entity who or which for another person, and for a fee, commission, or any other valuable consideration, does any of the following things:

(a) Offers or advertises the availability of viatical settlements;

(b) Introduces viators to viatical settlement providers;

(c) Offers or attempts to negotiate viatical settlements between a viator and one or more viatical settlement providers. However, "viatical settlement broker" does not mean an attorney, accountant, or financial planner retained to represent the viator, whose fee or other compensation is not paid by the viatical settlement provider.

(3) "Viatical settlement contract" means a written agreement entered into between a viatical settlement provider and a viator.

(4) "Viatical settlement provider" means any person that enters into an agreement with a viator under the terms of which the viatical settlement provider pays compensation or anything of value, in return for the assignment, transfer, sale, devise, or bequest of the death benefit or ownership of the insurance policy or certificate of insurance to the viatical settlement provider. "Viatical settlement provider" does not mean the following:

(a) Any bank, savings bank, savings and loan association, credit union, or other licensed lending institution that takes an assignment of a life insurance policy as collateral for a loan; or

(b) The issuer of a life insurance policy providing accelerated benefits, as those are defined in WAC 284-23-620(1).

(5) "Viator" means the owner of a life insurance policy, or the holder of a certificate of insurance, insuring the life of a person with a catastrophic or life-threatening illness or condition, who enters into an agreement under which the viatical settlement provider will pay compensation or anything of value, which compensation or value is less than the expected death benefit of the insurance policy or certificate of insurance, in return for the assignment, transfer, sale, devise, or bequest of the death benefit or ownership of the insurance policy or certificate of insurance to the viatical settlement provider. [1995 c 161 § 1.]

**48.102.010 License required for providers and brokers—Application—Requirements—Fee—Rules.** (1) On or after July 23, 1995, an individual, partnership,

corporation, or other entity may not act as a viatical settlement provider or enter into or solicit a viatical settlement contract in this state, or act as a viatical settlement broker, without first obtaining a license from the commissioner.

(2) Application for a license for a viatical settlement provider or viatical settlement broker shall be made on a form prescribed by the commissioner, and the application shall be accompanied by a fee as determined by the commissioner by rule.

(3) Licenses for viatical settlement providers or viatical settlement brokers may be renewed from year to year on the anniversary date or at another interval established by rule, upon payment of the renewal fee and submission of forms of information as determined by rule. Failure to pay the fee within the time prescribed shall result in automatic revocation of the license.

(4) The applicant shall provide the information the commissioner requires on forms prescribed by the commissioner.

(a) The applicant shall disclose the identity of all stockholders, partners, and corporate officers; its parent entities and affiliates, and their stockholders, partners, and officers; to the extent prescribed by the commissioner.

(b) The commissioner may refuse to issue or renew a license if he or she is not satisfied that any officer, partner, stockholder, or employee thereof, who may materially influence the conduct of the applicant or licensee, meets the standards required by the public interest.

(c) A license issued to a partnership, corporation, or other entity authorizes all its partners, officers, and employees to act as viatical settlement providers under the license, if they were identified in the application or application for renewal.

(d) Any person who willfully misrepresents any fact required to be disclosed in an application for a license to act as either a viatical settlement provider or a viatical settlement broker shall be liable to penalties as provided by applicable law.

(5) Upon the filing of an application and the payment of the fee required by rule, the commissioner shall issue or renew a license if the commissioner finds that the applicant:

(a) Has provided a detailed and adequate plan of operation;

(b) Is competent and trustworthy and intends to act in good faith in the business covered by the license for which the applicant has applied;

(c) Has a good business reputation and has had experience, training, or education so as to be qualified in the business covered by the license for which the applicant has applied; and

(d) If a corporation, is incorporated under the laws of this state, or is a foreign corporation authorized to transact business in this state.

(6) The commissioner shall not issue or renew any license unless the applicant has filed with the commissioner a written irrevocable consent that any action against the applicant may be commenced by the service of process upon the commissioner. [1995 c 161 § 2.]

**48.102.015 Commissioner may suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew license—Information requirements—**

**Hearing—Fine.** (1) The commissioner may suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew the license of any viatical settlement broker or viatical settlement provider if the commissioner finds that:

(a) There was any misrepresentation, intentional or otherwise, in the application for the license or for renewal of a license;

(b) The applicant for, or holder of any such license, is or has been subject to a final administrative action for being, or is otherwise shown to be, untrustworthy or incompetent to act as either a viatical settlement broker or a viatical settlement provider;

(c) The applicant for, or holder of any such license, demonstrates a pattern of unreasonable payments to viators;

(d) The applicant for, or holder of any such license, has been convicted of a felony or of any criminal misdemeanor of which criminal fraud is an element; or

(e) The applicant for, or holder of any such license, has violated any provision of this title.

(2) The commissioner may from time to time require the holder of any license issued under this chapter to supply current information on the identity or capacity of stockholders, partners, officers, and employees, including but not limited to the following: Fingerprints, personal history, business experience, business records, and any other information which the commissioner may require.

(3) Before the commissioner suspends or revokes any license issued under this chapter, or refuses to issue any such license, the commissioner shall conduct a hearing, if the applicant or licensee requests this in writing. The hearing shall be in accordance with chapters 34.05 and 48.04 RCW.

(4) After a hearing or with the consent of any party licensed under this chapter and in addition to or in lieu of the suspension, revocation, or refusal to renew any license under this chapter, the commissioner may levy a fine upon the viatical settlement provider in an amount not more than ten thousand dollars, for each violation of this chapter. The order levying the fine shall specify the period within which the fine shall be fully paid, and that period shall not be less than fifteen nor more than thirty days from the date of the order. Upon failure to pay the fine when due, the commissioner may revoke the license if not already revoked, and the fine may be recovered in a civil action brought in behalf of the commissioner by the attorney general. Any fine so collected shall be deposited into the general fund. [1995 c 161 § 3.]

**48.102.020 Commissioner approval required for contract form, rate, fee, commission, or other compensation charged—Finding necessary for disapproval.** After a date established by rule, no viatical settlement provider or viatical settlement broker may use any viatical settlement contract or brokerage contract in this state unless the contract form has been filed with and approved by the commissioner. Any such contract filing is approved if it has not been disapproved within sixty days after it is filed with the commissioner. The rate, fee, commission, or other compensation charged must also be filed with the commissioner at the same time the contract form is filed, and any changes must be filed and approved before use. The commissioner shall disapprove any such viatical settlement contract or

brokerage contract, or revoke previous approval, or rates, if the commissioner makes either of the following alternative findings:

(1) The benefits offered to the viator are unreasonable in relation to the rate, fee, or other compensation that is charged; or

(2) Any other provisions or terms of the contract are unreasonable, contrary to the public interest, misleading, or unfair to the viator. [1995 c 161 § 4.]

**48.102.025 Licensee must file annual statement.** Each holder of any license issued under this chapter shall file with the commissioner, on or before March 1 of each year, an annual statement containing such information as the commissioner may by rule require. [1995 c 161 § 5.]

**48.102.030 Examination of business and affairs of applicant or licensee—Production of information—Expenses—Confidentiality of information—Recordkeeping requirements.** (1) The commissioner may examine the business and affairs of any applicant for or holder of any license issued under this chapter. The commissioner may require any applicant for or holder of any such license to produce any records, books, files, and any other writings or information reasonably necessary to determine whether or not the applicant for or holder of any such license is acting, or has acted, in violation of any laws, or otherwise contrary to the interests of the public, or has acted in a manner demonstrating incompetence or untrustworthiness to hold any such license. The expenses incurred in conducting any examination shall be paid by the applicant for or holder of any such license.

(2) The names and individual identification data of all viators are private and confidential information and shall not be disclosed by the commissioner, except under court order.

(3) Records of all transactions of viatical settlement contracts and brokerage contracts, and an advertising file containing the text of all advertising used and the dates and media in which it was used, shall be maintained by each holder of any license issued under this chapter. [1995 c 161 § 6.]

**48.102.035 Requirement to provide information to the viator.** A viatical settlement provider shall disclose, in writing, the following information to the viator no later than the date when the viatical settlement contract is signed by all parties:

(1) Possible alternatives to viatical settlement contracts for persons with catastrophic or life-threatening conditions. These shall include, but not be limited to, any available accelerated benefits on the life insurance policy;

(2) The fact that some or all of the proceeds of the viatical settlement may be taxable, and that advice and assistance should be sought from an attorney or tax professional;

(3) The fact that the proceeds of the viatical settlement could be subject to the claims of creditors, and that advice and assistance should be sought from an attorney;

(4) The fact that receiving the proceeds of the viatical settlement might adversely affect the viator's eligibility for

medicaid, or other public benefits or entitlements, and that advice and assistance should be sought from an attorney;

(5) The right of the viator to rescind the contract on or before the later of (a) thirty days after the date when it is executed by all parties or (b) fifteen days after the receipt of the proceeds of the viatical settlement contract; and

(6) The date by which the proceeds will be available to the viator, and also the source of the proceeds. [1995 c 161 § 7.]

**48.102.040 Requirement for provider to obtain information—Medical information is confidential—Rescission rights—Time is of the essence.** (1) A viatical settlement provider entering into a viatical settlement contract with a viator shall first obtain the following:

(a) A written and signed statement from an attending medical doctor that in his or her professional opinion, the viator is of sound mind and under no undue influence;

(b) A document witnessed by a person not employed by or affiliated with the viatical settlement provider, in which the viator consents to the viatical settlement contract, acknowledges the catastrophic or life-threatening illness or condition, and represents that he or she:

(i) Has a complete understanding of the viatical settlement contract;

(ii) Has a full and complete understanding of the life insurance policy;

(iii) Releases his or her medical records for the limited and express purpose of making the viatical settlement agreement possible;

(iv) Has either obtained advice or assistance from an attorney or tax professional, or has had the opportunity to do so; and

(v) Has entered into the viatical settlement contract freely and voluntarily; and

(c) In those cases where the viator is not the insured person, a written consent to the viatical settlement agreement from the insured person or his or her legal representative.

(2) All medical information solicited or obtained by any holder of a license issued under this chapter is subject to all applicable laws governing confidentiality of medical information.

(3) All viatical settlement contracts entered into in this state shall contain a provision no less favorable than that in the event the viator exercises his or her right to rescind the viatical settlement contract, any proceeds previously paid shall be refunded no later than the earliest of (a) thirty days of the date of rescission or (b) fifteen days of payment of the proceeds.

(4) All viatical settlement contracts entered into in this state shall contain a rescission clause no less favorable than that the viator has the unconditional right to rescind the contract on or before the later of (a) thirty days of the date it is signed by all parties or (b) fifteen days of the receipt of the proceeds of the viatical settlement agreement; subject to refund of those proceeds as set forth in subsection (3) of this section.

(5) Time is of the essence in delivery of the proceeds of any viatical settlement contract by the date disclosed to the viator.

(6) No viatical settlement contract entered into in this state may contain any restrictions upon the use of the proceeds of the contract.

(7) Any viatical settlement contract entered into in this state shall establish the terms under which the viatical settlement provider shall pay compensation or anything of value, which compensation is less than the expected death benefit of the insurance policy or certificate of insurance, in return for the assignment, transfer, sale, devise, or bequest of the death benefit or ownership of the insurance policy or certificate to the viatical settlement provider. [1995 c 161 § 8.]

**48.102.045 Must be licensed—Transfer to unlicensed entity is void—Rights in policy restored to viator—Exceptions allowed by rule.** (1) A viatical settlement provider shall not directly or indirectly assign, transfer, sell, resell, or transfer by gift or bequest, or otherwise convey any insurance policy that is or has been the subject of a viatical settlement agreement, to any person, custodian, investor, investor group, or other entity that does not hold a Washington license as a viatical settlement provider, issued by the commissioner.

(2) Any attempted transfer to any person, custodian, investor, investor group, or other entity not holding such a license is void, and all rights in the insurance policy are restored to the viator as of the date of the purported transfer, except that the viator is not required to return the proceeds of the original viatical settlement agreement to the viatical settlement provider. The commissioner may allow exceptions to this subsection, by rule. [1995 c 161 § 9.]

**48.102.050 Rules as necessary to implement chapter.** The commissioner may adopt rules as necessary to implement this chapter. This includes, but is not limited to, the adoption of rules regarding minimum capital requirements for viatical settlement providers, training and examination requirements for viatical settlement brokers, requiring a prospective viator to contact his or her life insurer regarding possible accelerated benefits before entering into a viatical settlement agreement, licensing and examination requirements for applicants for a license as a viatical settlement broker, when benefits are or are not reasonable in relation to the rate fee, or other compensation, and bond requirements for either or both viatical settlement providers or viatical settlement brokers. [1995 c 161 § 10.]

**48.102.055 Consumer protection act applies—Civil action—Damages—Costs—Attorneys' fees.** (1) The legislature finds that the subject of viatical settlements is of vital importance to the public interest for the purpose of applying the consumer protection act, chapter 19.86 RCW. Violations of this chapter are not reasonable in relation to the development and preservation of business. A violation of this chapter is an unfair or deceptive act in trade or commerce. It is also an unfair method of competition for the purpose of applying the consumer protection act, chapter 19.86 RCW.

(2) Any person who is injured by a violation of this chapter may bring a civil action against a viatical settlement provider in superior court to recover his or her actual

damages. The court may increase the award of damages to an amount not more than three times the actual damages sustained, and in addition the court may award costs and attorneys' fees to the injured person. [1995 c 161 § 11.]

**48.102.900 Short title—1995 c 161.** This act may be known and cited as the viatical settlements act. [1995 c 161 § 12.]

**48.102.901 Application of chapter 21.20 RCW—1995 c 161.** The provisions of this chapter do not affect the application of chapter 21.20 RCW. [1995 c 161 § 13.]



# Title 49

## LABOR REGULATIONS

### Chapters

- 49.04 Apprenticeship.
- 49.08 Arbitration of disputes.
- 49.12 Industrial welfare.
- 49.17 Washington industrial safety and health act.
- 49.22 Safety—Crime prevention.
- 49.24 Health and safety—Underground workers.
- 49.26 Health and safety—Asbestos.
- 49.28 Hours of labor.
- 49.30 Agricultural labor.
- 49.32 Injunctions in labor disputes.
- 49.36 Labor unions.
- 49.38 Theatrical enterprises.
- 49.40 Seasonal labor.
- 49.44 Violations—Prohibited practices.
- 49.46 Minimum wage act.
- 49.48 Wages—Payment—Collection.
- 49.52 Wages—Deductions—Contributions—Rebates.
- 49.56 Wages—Priorities—Preferences.
- 49.60 Discrimination—Human rights commission.
- 49.64 Employee benefit plans.
- 49.66 Health care activities.
- 49.70 Worker and community right to know act.
- 49.74 Affirmative action.
- 49.78 Family leave.
- 49.82 Drug-free workplace programs.

**Reviser's note:** Throughout this title, "director of labor and industries" has been substituted for "commissioner of labor," such office having been abolished by the administrative code of 1921 (1921 c 7 §§ 3, 80, and 135).

*Apprentices to be paid prevailing wage on public works:* RCW 39.12.021.

*Collective bargaining with employees of city-owned utilities:* RCW 35.22.350.

*Department of labor and industries:* Chapter 43.22 RCW.

*Elevators, lifting devices and moving walks:* Chapter 70.87 RCW.

*Employee benefit plans when private utility acquired:* RCW 54.04.130.

*Employment agencies:* Chapter 19.31 RCW.

*Industrial products of prisoners:* RCW 72.01.150, chapter 72.60 RCW.

*Job protection for members of state militia:* RCW 38.40.050.

*Labor and employment of prisoners:* Chapter 72.64 RCW.

*Lien of employees for contributions to benefit plans:* Chapter 60.76 RCW.

*Marine employees—Public employment relations:* Chapter 47.64 RCW.

*Occupational and environmental research facility at University of Washington:* RCW 28B.20.450 through 28B.20.458.

*Promotional printing contracts of apple advertising, fruit, dairy products commissions—Conditions of employment:* RCW 15.24.086.

*Public employees' collective bargaining, arbitration of disputes:* RCW 41.56.100.

*Public employment:* Title 41 RCW.

*Sheriff's office, civil service:* Chapter 41.14 RCW.

*Unemployment compensation:* Title 50 RCW.

*Unfair practices—Consumer protection—Act does not impair labor organizations:* RCW 19.86.070.

*Urban renewal law:* Chapter 35.81 RCW.

*Workers' compensation:* Title 51 RCW.

*Youth development and conservation corps:* RCW 43.51.500.

### Chapter 49.04 APPRENTICESHIP

#### Sections

- 49.04.010 Apprenticeship council created—Composition—Terms—Compensation—Duties.
- 49.04.030 Supervisor of apprenticeship—Duties.
- 49.04.040 Local and state joint apprenticeship committees.
- 49.04.050 Standards for apprenticeship agreements.
- 49.04.060 Apprenticeship agreements.
- 49.04.070 Limitation.
- 49.04.080 On-the-job training agreements and projects—Supervisor to promote.
- 49.04.090 On-the-job training agreements and projects—Agreements with federal agencies.
- 49.04.100 Woman and racial minority representation in apprenticeship programs—Required—Ratio.
- 49.04.110 Woman and racial minority representation in apprenticeship programs—Noncompliance.
- 49.04.120 Woman and racial minority representation—Community colleges, vocational, or high schools to enlist woman and racial minority representation in apprenticeship programs.
- 49.04.130 Woman and racial minority representation—Employer and employee organizations, apprenticeship council and committees, etc., to enlist woman and racial minority representation in apprenticeship programs.
- 49.04.900 Severability—1941 c 231.
- 49.04.910 Chapter not affected by certain laws against discrimination in employment because of age.

*Apprenticeship agreements, inmates of state school for girls (Maple Lane school):* RCW 72.20.090.

*Child labor:* RCW 26.28.060, 26.28.070.

**49.04.010 Apprenticeship council created—Composition—Terms—Compensation—Duties.** The director of labor and industries shall appoint an apprenticeship council, composed of three representatives each from employer and employee organizations, respectively. The terms of office of the members of the apprenticeship council first appointed by the director of labor and industries shall be as follows: One representative each of employers and employees shall be appointed for one year, two years, and three years, respectively. Thereafter, each member shall be appointed for a term of three years. The governor shall appoint a public member to the apprenticeship council for a three-year term. The appointment of the public member is subject to confirmation by the senate. Each member shall hold office until his successor is appointed and has qualified and any vacancy shall be filled by appointment for the unexpired portion of the term. The state official who has been designated by the \*commission for vocational education as being in charge of trade and industrial education and the

state official who has immediate charge of the state public employment service shall ex officio be members of said council, without vote. Each member of the council, not otherwise compensated by public moneys, shall be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 and shall be compensated in accordance with RCW 43.03.240. The apprenticeship council with the consent of employee and employer groups shall: (1) Establish standards for apprenticeship agreements in conformity with the provisions of this chapter; (2) issue such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the intent and purposes of this chapter, including a procedure to resolve an impasse should a tie vote of the council occur; and (3) perform such other duties as are hereinafter imposed. Not less than once a year the apprenticeship council shall make a report to the director of labor and industries of its activities and findings which shall be available to the public. [1984 c 287 § 97; 1982 1st ex.s. c 39 § 2; 1979 ex.s. c 37 § 1; 1977 c 75 § 72; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34 § 143; 1967 c 6 § 1; 1961 c 114 § 1; 1941 c 231 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7614-3. Formerly RCW 49.04.010 and 49.04.020.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The commission on vocational education and its powers and duties, pursuant to the Sunset Act, chapter 43.131 RCW, were terminated June 30, 1986, and repealed June 30, 1987. See 1983 c 197 §§ 17 and 43.

**Legislative findings—Severability—Effective date—1984 c 287:** See notes following RCW 43.03.220.

**Effective date—Severability—1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34:** See notes following RCW 2.08.115.

#### **49.04.030 Supervisor of apprenticeship—Duties.**

Subject to the confirmation of the state apprenticeship council by a majority vote, the director of labor and industries shall appoint and deputize an assistant director to be known as the supervisor of apprenticeship. Under the supervision of the director of labor and industries and with the advice and guidance of the apprenticeship council, the supervisor shall: (1) Encourage and promote the making of apprenticeship agreements conforming to the standards established by or in accordance with this chapter, and in harmony with the policies of the United States department of labor; (2) act as secretary of the apprenticeship council and of state joint apprenticeship committees; (3) when so authorized by the apprenticeship council, register such apprenticeship agreements as are in the best interests of the apprentice and conform to the standards established by or in accordance with this chapter; (4) keep a record of apprenticeship agreements and upon performance thereof issue certificates of completion of apprenticeship; (5) terminate or cancel any apprenticeship agreements in accordance with the provisions of such agreements; and who (6) may act to bring about the settlement of differences arising out of the apprenticeship agreement where such differences cannot be adjusted locally or in accordance with the established trade procedure.

Related and supplemental instruction for apprentices, coordination of instruction with job experiences, and the selection and training of teachers and coordinators for such instruction shall be the responsibility of the \*commission for vocational education and its local recognized agency for vocational education. The director of labor and industries is authorized to appoint such other personnel as may be necessary to aid the apprenticeship council and the supervi-

sor of apprenticeship in the execution of their functions under this chapter. [1979 ex.s. c 37 § 2; 1961 c 114 § 2; 1941 c 231 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7614-4.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The commission for vocational education and its powers and duties, pursuant to the Sunset Act, chapter 43.131 RCW, were terminated June 30, 1986, and repealed June 30, 1987. See 1983 c 197 §§ 17 and 43. The state board for vocational education was created by 1990 c 188 § 1. Powers, duties, and functions of the state board for vocational education were transferred to the state board for community and technical colleges by 1991 c 238 § 3.

*Rehabilitation services for individuals with disabilities: Chapter 74.29 RCW.*

#### **49.04.040 Local and state joint apprenticeship committees.**

Local and state joint apprenticeship committees may be approved, in any trade or group of trades, in cities or trade areas, by the apprenticeship council, whenever the apprentice training needs of such trade or group of trades justifies such establishment. Such local or state joint apprenticeship committees shall be composed of an equal number of employer and employee representatives chosen from names submitted by the respective local or state employer and employee organizations in such trade or group of trades. In a trade or group of trades in which there is no bona fide employer or employee organization, the joint committee shall be composed of persons known to represent the interests of employer and of employees respectively, or a state joint apprenticeship committee may be approved as, or the council may act itself as the joint committee in such trade or group of trades. Subject to the review of the council and in accordance with the standards established by this chapter and by the council, such committees shall devise standards for apprenticeship agreements and give such aid as may be necessary in their operation in their respective trades and localities. [1941 c 231 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7614-5.]

#### **49.04.050 Standards for apprenticeship agreements.**

Standards of apprenticeship agreements are as follows:

(1) A statement of the trade or craft to be taught and the required hours for completion of apprenticeship which shall be not less than two thousand hours of reasonably continuous employment.

(2) A statement of the processes in the trade or craft divisions in which the apprentice is to be taught and the approximate amount of time to be spent at each process.

(3) A statement of the number of hours to be spent by the apprentice in work and the number of hours to be spent in related and supplemental instruction which instruction shall be not less than one hundred forty-four hours per year.

(4) A statement of the age of the apprentice which may not be less than sixteen years of age.

(5) A statement of the progressively increasing scale of wages to be paid the apprentice.

(6) Provision for a period of probation during which the apprenticeship council or the supervisor of apprenticeship may terminate an apprenticeship agreement at the request in writing of any party thereto. After the probationary period the apprenticeship council, or the supervisor of apprenticeship, under the procedure approved by the council, shall be empowered to terminate the apprenticeship agreement in accordance with the provisions of such agreement.

(7) Provision that the services of the supervisor and the apprenticeship council may be utilized for consultation regarding the settlement of differences arising out of the apprenticeship agreement where such differences cannot be adjusted locally or in accordance with the established trade procedure.

(8) Provision that if an employer is unable to fulfill his obligation under the apprenticeship agreement he may transfer such obligation to another employer.

(9) Such additional standards as may be prescribed in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. [1979 ex.s. c 37 § 3; 1961 c 114 § 3; 1941 c 231 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7614-6.]

**49.04.060 Apprenticeship agreements.** For the purposes of this chapter an apprenticeship agreement is:

(1) An individual written agreement between an employer and apprentice, or (2) a written agreement between an employer, or an association of employers, and an organization of employees describing conditions of employment for apprentices, or (3) a written statement describing conditions of employment for apprentices in a plant where there is no bona fide employee organization.

All such agreements shall conform to the basic standards and other provisions of this chapter. [1941 c 231 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7614-7.]

**49.04.070 Limitation.** The provisions of this chapter shall apply to a person, firm, corporation or craft only after such person, firm, corporation or craft has voluntarily elected to conform with its provisions. [1941 c 231 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7614-8.]

**49.04.080 On-the-job training agreements and projects—Supervisor to promote.** Under the supervision of the director of labor and industries and with the advice and guidance of the apprenticeship council, the supervisor of apprenticeship shall encourage and promote the making of such other types of on-the-job training agreements and projects, in addition to apprenticeship agreements, as he in his discretion shall find meritorious. [1963 c 172 § 1.]

**49.04.090 On-the-job training agreements and projects—Agreements with federal agencies.** The director of labor and industries shall have authority to enter into and perform, through the supervisor of apprenticeship, agreements with appropriate federal departments or agencies for the development, administration and servicing of on-the-job training projects. Further, the director of labor and industries, through the supervisor of apprenticeship, shall have power to receive and administer funds provided by the federal government for such purposes. [1963 c 172 § 2.]

**49.04.100 Woman and racial minority representation in apprenticeship programs—Required—Ratio.** Joint apprenticeship programs entered into under authority of chapter 49.04 RCW and which receive any state assistance in instructional or other costs, shall include entrance of women and racial minorities in such program, when available, in a ratio not less than the percentage of the minority race and female (minority and nonminority) labor force in

the program sponsor's labor market area, based on current census figures issued by the office of financial management with the ultimate goal of obtaining the proportionate ratio of representation in the total program membership. Where minimum standards have been set for entering upon any such apprenticeship program, this woman and racial minority representation shall be filled when women and racial minority applicants have met such minimum standards and irrespective of individual ranking among all applicants seeking to enter the program: PROVIDED, That nothing in RCW 49.04.100 through 49.04.130 will affect the total number of entrants into the apprenticeship program or modify the dates of entrance both as established by the joint apprenticeship committee. Racial minority for the purposes of RCW 49.04.130 shall include African Americans, Asian Pacific Americans, Hispanic Americans, American Indians, Filipinos, and all other racial minority groups. [1995 c 67 § 7; 1990 c 72 § 1; 1985 c 6 § 17; 1969 ex.s. c 183 § 2.]

**Purpose—Construction—1990 c 72; 1969 ex.s. c 183:** "It is the policy of the legislature and the purpose of this act to provide every citizen in this state a reasonable opportunity to enjoy employment and other associated rights, benefits, privileges, and to help women and racial minorities realize in a greater measure the goals upon which this nation and this state were founded. All the provisions of this act shall be liberally construed to achieve these ends, and administered and enforced with a view to carry out the above declaration of policy." [1990 c 72 § 5; 1969 ex.s. c 183 § 1.]

**Severability—1969 ex.s. c 183:** "If any provision of this 1969 act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1969 ex.s. c 183 § 8.]

**49.04.110 Woman and racial minority representation in apprenticeship programs—Noncompliance.** When it shall appear to the department of labor and industries that any apprenticeship program referred to in RCW 49.04.100 has failed to comply with the woman or racial minority representation requirement hereinabove in such section referred to by January 1, 1970, which fact shall be determined by reports the department may request or in such other manner as it shall see fit, then the same shall be deemed prima facie evidence of noncompliance with RCW 49.04.100 through 49.04.130 and thereafter no state funds or facilities shall be expended upon such program: PROVIDED, That prior to such withdrawal of funds evidence shall be received and state funds or facilities shall not be denied if there is a showing of a genuine effort to comply with the provisions of RCW 49.04.100 through 49.04.130 as to entrance of women and racial minorities into the program. The director shall notify the appropriate federal authorities if there is noncompliance with the woman and racial minority representation qualification under any apprenticeship program as provided for in RCW 49.04.100 through 49.04.130. [1990 c 72 § 2; 1969 ex.s. c 183 § 3.]

**49.04.120 Woman and racial minority representation—Community colleges, vocational, or high schools to enlist woman and racial minority representation in apprenticeship programs.** Every community college, vocational school, or high school carrying on a program of vocational education shall make every effort to enlist woman and racial minority representation in the apprenticeship programs within the state and are authorized to carry out

such purpose in such ways as they shall see fit. [1990 c 72 § 3; 1969 ex.s. c 183 § 4.]

**49.04.130 Woman and racial minority representation—Employer and employee organizations, apprenticeship council and committees, etc., to enlist woman and racial minority representation in apprenticeship programs.** Every employer and employee organization as well as the apprenticeship council and local and state apprenticeship committees and vocational schools shall make every effort to enlist woman and racial minority representation in the apprenticeship programs of the state and shall be aided therein by the department of labor and industries insofar as such department may be able to so do without undue interference with its other powers and duties. In addition, the legislature, in fulfillment of the public welfare, mandates those involved in apprenticeship training with the responsibility of making every effort to see that woman and racial minority representatives in such programs pursue the same to a successful conclusion. [1990 c 72 § 4; 1969 ex.s. c 183 § 5.]

**49.04.900 Severability—1941 c 231.** If any provision of this chapter, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances, is held invalid, the remainder of the chapter, and the application of such provision to other persons and circumstances, shall not be affected thereby. [1941 c 231 § 8; no RRS.]

**49.04.910 Chapter not affected by certain laws against discrimination in employment because of age.** The amendments made by chapter 100, Laws of 1961 shall not be construed as modifying chapter 231, Laws of 1941 as amended, or as applying to any standards established thereunder or employment pursuant to any bona fide agreements entered into thereunder. [1961 c 100 § 6.]

**Reviser's note:** (1) Chapter 100, Laws of 1961 amended RCW 49.60.180, 49.60.190, 49.60.200 and reenacted RCW 49.60.310 to include age as an element of discrimination, and such chapter added a new section codified as RCW 49.44.090 relating to unfair practices in employment because of age.

(2) Chapter 231, Laws of 1941 is the apprenticeship law codified in chapter 49.04 RCW.

## Chapter 49.08

### ARBITRATION OF DISPUTES

#### Sections

- 49.08.010 Duty of director—Mediation—Board of arbitration selected—Board's findings final.
- 49.08.020 Procedure for arbitration.
- 49.08.030 Service of process.
- 49.08.040 Compensation and travel expenses of arbitrators.
- 49.08.050 Failure to arbitrate—Statement of facts—Publicity.
- 49.08.060 Tender on exhaustion of available funds.

*Arbitration:* Chapter 7.04 RCW.

*Collective bargaining with employees of city-owned utilities:* RCW 35.22.350.

*Marine employees—Public employment relations:* Chapter 47.64 RCW.

*Supervisor of industrial relations:* RCW 43.22.260.

**49.08.010 Duty of director—Mediation—Board of arbitration selected—Board's findings final.** It shall be the duty of the chairman of the public employment relations commission upon application of any employer or employee having differences, as soon as practicable, to visit the location of such differences and to make a careful inquiry into the cause thereof and to advise the respective parties, what, if anything, ought to be done or submitted to by both to adjust said dispute and should said parties then still fail to agree to a settlement through said chairman, then said chairman shall endeavor to have said parties consent in writing to submit their differences to a board of arbitrations to be chosen from citizens of the state as follows, to wit: Said employer shall appoint one and said employees acting through a majority, one, and these two shall select a third, these three to constitute the board of arbitration and the findings of said board of arbitration to be final. [1975 1st ex.s. c 296 § 36; 1903 c 58 § 1; RRS § 7667.]

**Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 296:** See RCW 41.58.901.

*Public employment relations commission:* Chapter 41.58 RCW.

**49.08.020 Procedure for arbitration.** The proceedings of said board of arbitration shall be held before the chairman of the public employment relations commission who shall act as moderator or chairman, without the privilege of voting, and who shall keep a record of the proceedings, issue subpoenas and administer oaths to the members of said board, and any witness said board may deem necessary to summon. [1975 1st ex.s. c 296 § 37; 1903 c 58 § 2; RRS § 7668.]

**Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 296:** See RCW 41.58.901.

**49.08.030 Service of process.** Any notice or process issued by the board herein created, shall be served by any sheriff, coroner or constable to whom the same may be directed, or in whose hands the same may be placed for service. [1903 c 58 § 3; RRS § 7669.]

**49.08.040 Compensation and travel expenses of arbitrators.** Such arbitrators shall receive five dollars per day for each day actually engaged in such arbitration and travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 as now existing or hereafter amended to be paid upon certificates of the director of labor and industries out of the fund appropriated for the purpose or at the disposal of the department of labor and industries applicable to such expenditure. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34 § 144; 1903 c 58 § 4; RRS § 7670.]

**Effective date—Severability—1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34:** See notes following RCW 2.08.115.

**49.08.050 Failure to arbitrate—Statement of facts—Publicity.** Upon the failure of the director of labor and industries, in any case, to secure the creation of a board of arbitration, it shall become his duty to request a sworn statement from each party to the dispute of the facts upon which their dispute and their reasons for not submitting the same to arbitration are based. Any sworn statement made to the director of labor and industries under this provision shall be for public use and shall be given publicly in such

newspapers as desire to use it. [1903 c 58 § 5; RRS § 7671.]

**49.08.060 Tender on exhaustion of available funds.**

There is hereby appropriated out of the state treasury from funds not otherwise appropriated the sum of three thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to carry out the provisions of this chapter. In case the funds herein provided are exhausted and either party to a proposed arbitration shall tender the necessary expenses for conducting said arbitration, then it shall be the duty of the director of labor and industries to request the opposite party to arbitrate such differences in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. [1903 c 58 § 6; RRS § 7672.]

**Chapter 49.12**

**INDUSTRIAL WELFARE**

Sections

- 49.12.005 Definitions.
- 49.12.010 Declaration.
- 49.12.020 Conditions of employment—Wages.
- 49.12.033 Administration and enforcement of chapter by director of labor and industries.
- 49.12.041 Investigation of wages, hours and working conditions—Statements, inspections authorized.
- 49.12.050 Employer's record of employees.
- 49.12.091 Investigation information—Findings—Rules prescribing minimum wages, working conditions.
- 49.12.101 Hearing.
- 49.12.105 Variance order—Application—Issuance—Contents—Termination.
- 49.12.110 Exceptions to minimum scale—Special certificate or permit.
- 49.12.121 Wages and working conditions of minors—Special rules—Work permits.
- 49.12.123 Work permit for minor required.
- 49.12.124 Actors or performers—Work permits and variances for minors.
- 49.12.130 Witness protected—Penalty.
- 49.12.140 Complaint of noncompliance.
- 49.12.150 Civil action to recover underpayment.
- 49.12.170 Penalty.
- 49.12.175 Wage discrimination due to sex prohibited—Penalty—Civil recovery.
- 49.12.180 Annual report.
- 49.12.185 Exemptions from chapter.
- 49.12.187 Collective bargaining rights not affected.
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- 49.12.240 Employee inspection of personnel file.
- 49.12.250 Employee inspection of personnel file—Erroneous or disputed information.
- 49.12.260 Employee inspection of personnel file—Limitations.
- 49.12.270 Sick leave to care for child.
- 49.12.275 Sick leave to care for child—Poster required.
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- 49.12.285 Sick leave to care for child—Monetary penalties.
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- 49.12.295 Sick leave to care for child—Notification of employers.
- 49.12.300 House-to-house sales by minor—Registration of employer.
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- 49.12.320 Definitions.
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- 49.12.350 Parental leave—Legislative findings.
- 49.12.360 Parental leave—Discrimination prohibited.
- 49.12.370 Parental leave—Collective bargaining agreement or employee benefit plan—Application.
- 49.12.380 Child labor laws—Information program.

- 49.12.390 Child labor laws—Violations—Civil penalties—Restraining orders.
- 49.12.400 Child labor laws—Appeal.
- 49.12.410 Child labor laws—Violations—Criminal penalties.
- 49.12.420 Child labor laws—Exclusive remedies.
- 49.12.900 Severability—1973 2nd ex.s. c 16.
- 49.12.901 Severability—1991 c 303.
- 49.12.902 Effective date—1991 c 303 §§ 3 through 7.

**Reviser's note:** Throughout this chapter, the words "the committee" have been substituted for "the industrial welfare commission" or "the commission."

The industrial welfare commission was abolished and its powers and duties transferred to a new agency by the administrative code of 1921. In particular, 1921 c 7 § 135 abolished the commission while 1921 c 7 § 82 created an unnamed committee "which shall have the power and it shall be its duty:

(1) To exercise all the powers and perform all the duties now vested in, and required to be performed by, the industrial welfare commission."

1921 c 7 § 82 was codified by the 1941 Code Committee as RCW 43.22.280, wherein the Code Committee revised the wording of the session law to designate the unnamed committee as the "industrial welfare committee." The committee was apparently commonly known by that name, but such designation has no foundation in the statutes. RCW 43.22.280 was repealed by 1982 c 163 § 23. Powers, duties, and functions of the industrial welfare committee were transferred to the director of labor and industries. See RCW 43.22.282.

*Child labor:* RCW 26.28.060, 26.28.070.

*Food and beverage establishment workers' permits:* Chapter 69.06 RCW.

*Hours of labor:* Chapter 49.28 RCW.

**49.12.005 Definitions.** For the purposes of this chapter:

(1) The term "department" means the department of labor and industries.

(2) The term "director" means the director of the department of labor and industries, or the director's designated representative.

(3) The term "employer" means any person, firm, corporation, partnership, business trust, legal representative, or other business entity which engages in any business, industry, profession, or activity in this state and employs one or more employees and for the purposes of RCW 49.12.270 through 49.12.295 also includes the state, any state institution, any state agency, political subdivisions of the state, and any municipal corporation or quasi-municipal corporation.

(4) The term "employee" means an employee who is employed in the business of the employee's employer whether by way of manual labor or otherwise.

(5) The term "conditions of labor" shall mean and include the conditions of rest and meal periods for employees including provisions for personal privacy, practices, methods and means by or through which labor or services are performed by employees and includes bona fide physical qualifications in employment, but shall not include conditions of labor otherwise governed by statutes and rules and regulations relating to industrial safety and health administered by the department.

(6) For the purpose of chapter 16, Laws of 1973 2nd ex. sess. a minor is defined to be a person of either sex under the age of eighteen years. [1994 c 164 § 13; 1988 c 236 § 8; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 16 § 1.]

**Legislative findings—Effective date—Implementation—Severability—1988 c 236:** See notes following RCW 49.12.270.

**49.12.010 Declaration.** The welfare of the state of Washington demands that all employees be protected from

conditions of labor which have a pernicious effect on their health. The state of Washington, therefore, exercising herein its police and sovereign power declares that inadequate wages and unsanitary conditions of labor exert such pernicious effect. [1973 2nd ex.s. c 16 § 2; 1913 c 174 § 1; RRS § 7623.]

**49.12.020 Conditions of employment—Wages.** It shall be unlawful to employ any person in any industry or occupation within the state of Washington under conditions of labor detrimental to their health; and it shall be unlawful to employ workers in any industry within the state of Washington at wages which are not adequate for their maintenance. [1973 2nd ex.s. c 16 § 3; 1913 c 174 § 2; RRS § 7624.]

**49.12.033 Administration and enforcement of chapter by director of labor and industries.** See RCW 43.22.270(5).

**49.12.041 Investigation of wages, hours and working conditions—Statements, inspections authorized.** It shall be the responsibility of the director to investigate the wages, hours and conditions of employment of all employees, including minors, except as may otherwise be provided in chapter 16, Laws of 1973 2nd ex. sess. The director, or the director's authorized representative, shall have full authority to require statements from all employers, relative to wages, hours and working conditions and to inspect the books, records and physical facilities of all employers subject to chapter 16, Laws of 1973 2nd ex. sess. Such examinations shall take place within normal working hours, within reasonable limits and in a reasonable manner. [1994 c 164 § 14; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 16 § 5.]

**49.12.050 Employer's record of employees.** Every employer shall keep a record of the names of all employees employed by him, and shall on request permit the director to inspect such record. [1994 c 164 § 15; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 16 § 14; 1913 c 174 § 7; RRS § 7626.]

**49.12.091 Investigation information—Findings—Rules prescribing minimum wages, working conditions.** After an investigation has been conducted by the department of wages, hours and conditions of labor subject to chapter 16, Laws of 1973 2nd ex. sess., the director shall be furnished with all information relative to such investigation of wages, hours and working conditions, including current statistics on wage rates in all occupations subject to the provisions of chapter 16, Laws of 1973 2nd ex. sess. Within a reasonable time thereafter, if the director finds that in any occupation, trade or industry, subject to chapter 16, Laws of 1973 2nd ex. sess., the wages paid to employees are inadequate to supply the necessary cost of living, but not to exceed the state minimum wage as prescribed in RCW 49.46.020, as now or hereafter amended, or that the conditions of labor are detrimental to the health of employees, the director shall have authority to prescribe rules and regulations for the purpose of adopting minimum wages for occupations not otherwise governed by minimum wage requirements fixed by state or federal statute, or a rule or

regulation adopted under such statute, and, at the same time have the authority to prescribe rules and regulations fixing standards, conditions and hours of labor for the protection of the safety, health and welfare of employees for all or specified occupations subject to chapter 16, Laws of 1973 2nd ex. sess. Thereafter, the director shall conduct a public hearing in accordance with the procedures of the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW, for the purpose of the adoption of rules and regulations fixing minimum wages and standards, conditions and hours of labor subject to the provisions of chapter 16, Laws of 1973 2nd ex. sess. After such rules become effective, copies thereof shall be supplied to employers who may be affected by such rules and such employers shall post such rules, where possible, in such place or places, reasonably accessible to all employees of such employer. After the effective date of such rules, it shall be unlawful for any employer in any occupation subject to chapter 16, Laws of 1973 2nd ex. sess. to employ any person for less than the rate of wages specified in such rules or under conditions and hours of labor prohibited for any occupation specified in such rules: PROVIDED, That this section shall not apply to sheltered workshops. [1994 c 164 § 16; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 16 § 6.]

**49.12.101 Hearing.** Whenever wages, standards, conditions and hours of labor have been established by rule and regulation of the director, the director may upon application of either employers or employees conduct a public hearing for the purpose of the adoption, amendment or repeal of rules and regulations adopted under the authority of chapter 16, Laws of 1973 2nd ex. sess. [1994 c 164 § 17; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 16 § 7.]

**49.12.105 Variance order—Application—Issuance—Contents—Termination.** An employer may apply to the director for an order for a variance from any rule or regulation establishing a standard for wages, hours, or conditions of labor adopted by the director under this chapter. The director shall issue an order granting a variance if the director determines or decides that the applicant for the variance has shown good cause for the lack of compliance. Any order so issued shall prescribe the conditions the employer must maintain, and the practices, means, methods, operations, standards and processes which the employer must adopt and utilize to the extent they differ from the standard in question. At any time the director may terminate and revoke such order, provided the employer was notified by the director of the termination at least thirty days prior to said termination. [1994 c 164 § 18; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 16 § 8.]

**49.12.110 Exceptions to minimum scale—Special certificate or permit.** For any occupation in which a minimum wage has been established, the director may issue to an employer, a special certificate or permit for an employee who is physically or mentally handicapped to such a degree that he or she is unable to obtain employment in the competitive labor market, or to a trainee or learner not otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the apprenticeship council, a special certificate or permit authorizing the employment of such employee for a wage less than the legal minimum

wage; and the director shall fix the minimum wage for said person, such special certificate or permit to be issued only in such cases as the director may decide the same is applied for in good faith and that such certificate or permit shall be in force for such length of time as the director shall decide and determine is proper. [1994 c 164 § 19; 1977 ex.s. c 80 § 35; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 16 § 13; 1913 c 174 § 13; RRS § 7632.]

**Purpose—Intent—Severability—1977 ex.s. c 80:** See notes following RCW 4.16.190.

**49.12.121 Wages and working conditions of minors—Special rules—Work permits.** (1) The department may at any time inquire into wages, hours, and conditions of labor of minors employed in any trade, business, or occupation in the state of Washington and may adopt special rules for the protection of the safety, health, and welfare of minor employees. However, the rules may not limit the hours per day or per week, or other specified work period, that may be worked by minors who are emancipated by court order.

(2) The department shall issue work permits to employers for the employment of minors, after being assured the proposed employment of a minor meets the standards for the health, safety, and welfare of minors as set forth in the rules adopted by the department. No minor person shall be employed in any occupation, trade, or industry subject to chapter 16, Laws of 1973 2nd ex. sess., unless a work permit has been properly issued, with the consent of the parent, guardian, or other person having legal custody of the minor and with the approval of the school which such minor may then be attending. However, the consent of a parent, guardian, or other person, or the approval of the school which the minor may then be attending, is unnecessary if the minor is emancipated by court order.

(3) The minimum wage for minors shall be as prescribed in RCW 49.46.020. [1993 c 294 § 9; 1989 c 1 § 3 (Initiative Measure No. 518, approved November 8, 1988); 1973 2nd ex.s. c 16 § 15.]

**Effective date—1993 c 294:** See RCW 13.64.900.

**Effective date—1989 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 518):** See note following RCW 49.46.010.

**49.12.123 Work permit for minor required.** In implementing state policy to assure the attendance of children in the public schools it shall be required of any person, firm or corporation employing any minor under the age of eighteen years to obtain a work permit as set forth in RCW 49.12.121 and keep such permit on file during the employment of such minor, and upon termination of such employment of such minor to return such permit to the department of labor and industries. [1991 c 303 § 8; 1983 c 3 § 156; 1973 c 51 § 3.]

**Severability—1973 c 51:** See note following RCW 28A.225.010.

**49.12.124 Actors or performers—Work permits and variances for minors.** For all minors employed as actors or performers in film, video, audio, or theatrical productions, the department shall issue a permit under RCW 49.12.121 and a variance under RCW 49.12.105 upon finding that the terms of the employment sufficiently protect the minor's health, safety, and welfare. The findings shall be based on

information provided to the department including, but not limited to, the minor's working conditions and planned work schedule, adult supervision of the minor, and any planned educational programs. [1994 c 62 § 2.]

**49.12.130 Witness protected—Penalty.** Any employer who discharges, or in any other manner discriminates against any employee because such employee has testified or is about to testify, or because such employer believes that said employee may testify in any investigation or proceedings relative to the enforcement of RCW 49.12.010 through 49.12.180, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of from twenty-five dollars to one hundred dollars for each such misdemeanor. [1913 c 174 § 16; RRS § 7635.]

**49.12.140 Complaint of noncompliance.** Any worker or the parent or guardian of any minor to whom RCW 49.12.010 through 49.12.180 applies may complain to the director that the wages paid to the workers are less than the minimum rate and the director shall investigate the same and proceed under RCW 49.12.010 through 49.12.180 in behalf of the worker. [1994 c 164 § 20; 1913 c 174 § 17 1/2; RRS § 7637.]

**49.12.150 Civil action to recover underpayment.** If any employee shall receive less than the legal minimum wage, except as hereinbefore provided in RCW 49.12.110, said employee shall be entitled to recover in a civil action the full amount of the legal minimum wage as herein provided for, together with costs and attorney's fees to be fixed by the court, notwithstanding any agreement to work for such lesser wage. In such action, however, the employer shall be credited with any wages which have been paid upon account. [1913 c 174 § 18; RRS § 7638.]

**49.12.170 Penalty.** Except as otherwise provided in RCW 49.12.390 or 49.12.410, any employer employing any person for whom a minimum wage or standards, conditions, and hours of labor have been specified, at less than said minimum wage, or under standards, or conditions of labor or at hours of labor prohibited by the rules and regulations of the director; or violating any other of the provisions of chapter 16, Laws of 1973 2nd ex. sess., shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than one thousand dollars. [1994 c 164 § 21; 1991 c 303 § 6; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 16 § 16; 1913 c 174 § 17; RRS § 7636.]

**Witnesses protected—Penalty:** RCW 49.12.130.

**49.12.175 Wage discrimination due to sex prohibited—Penalty—Civil recovery.** Any employer in this state, employing both males and females, who shall discriminate in any way in the payment of wages as between sexes or who shall pay any female a less wage, be it time or piece work, or salary, than is being paid to males similarly employed, or in any employment formerly performed by males, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. If any female employee shall receive less compensation because of being discriminat-

ed against on account of her sex, and in violation of this section, she shall be entitled to recover in a civil action the full amount of compensation that she would have received had she not been discriminated against. In such action, however, the employer shall be credited with any compensation which has been paid to her upon account. A differential in wages between employees based in good faith on a factor or factors other than sex shall not constitute discrimination within the meaning of RCW 49.12.010 through 49.12.180. [1943 c 254 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 7636-1. Formerly RCW 49.12.210.]

**49.12.180 Annual report.** The director shall report annually to the governor on its investigations and proceedings. [1994 c 164 § 22; 1977 c 75 § 73; 1913 c 174 § 20; RRS § 7640.]

**49.12.185 Exemptions from chapter.** Chapter 16, Laws of 1973 2nd ex. sess. shall not apply to newspaper vendors or carriers and domestic or casual labor in or about private residences and agricultural labor as defined in RCW 50.04.150, as now or hereafter amended. [1973 2nd ex.s. c 16 § 17.]

**49.12.187 Collective bargaining rights not affected.** This chapter shall not be construed to interfere with, impede, or in any way diminish the right of employees to bargain collectively with their employers through representatives of their own choosing concerning wages or standards or conditions of employment. [1973 2nd ex.s. c 16 § 18.]

**49.12.200 Women may pursue any calling open to men.** That hereafter in this state every avenue of employment shall be open to women; and any business, vocation, profession and calling followed and pursued by men may be followed and pursued by women, and no person shall be disqualified from engaging in or pursuing any business, vocation, profession, calling or employment or excluded from any premises or place of work or employment on account of sex. [1963 c 229 § 1; 1890 p 519 § 1; RRS § 7620.]

*Qualifications of electors: State Constitution Art. 6 § 1 (Amendment 63).*  
*Sex equality—Rights and responsibility: State Constitution Art. 31 §§ 1, 2 (Amendment 61).*

**49.12.240 Employee inspection of personnel file.** Every employer shall, at least annually, upon the request of an employee, permit that employee to inspect any or all of his or her own personnel file(s). [1985 c 336 § 1.]

*Destruction or retention of information relating to state employee misconduct: RCW 41.06.450 through 41.06.460.*

**49.12.250 Employee inspection of personnel file—Erroneous or disputed information.** (1) Each employer shall make such file(s) available locally within a reasonable period of time after the employee requests the file(s).

(2) An employee annually may petition that the employer review all information in the employee's personnel file(s) that are regularly maintained by the employer as a part of his business records or are subject to reference for information given to persons outside of the company. The employer

shall determine if there is any irrelevant or erroneous information in the file(s), and shall remove all such information from the file(s). If an employee does not agree with the employer's determination, the employee may at his or her request have placed in the employee's personnel file a statement containing the employee's rebuttal or correction. Nothing in this subsection prevents the employer from removing information more frequently.

(3) A former employee shall retain the right of rebuttal or correction for a period not to exceed two years. [1985 c 336 § 2.]

**49.12.260 Employee inspection of personnel file—Limitations.** RCW 49.12.240 and 49.12.250 do not apply to the records of an employee relating to the investigation of a possible criminal offense. RCW 49.12.240 and 49.12.250 do not apply to information or records compiled in preparation for an impending lawsuit which would not be available to another party under the rules of pretrial discovery for causes pending in the superior courts. [1985 c 336 § 3.]

**49.12.270 Sick leave to care for child.** An employer shall allow an employee to use the employee's accrued sick leave to care for a child of the employee under the age of eighteen with a health condition that requires treatment or supervision. Use of leave other than accrued sick leave to care for a child under the circumstances described in this section shall be governed by the terms of the appropriate collective bargaining agreement or employer policy, as applicable. [1988 c 236 § 3.]

**Legislative findings—1988 c 236:** "The legislature recognizes the changing nature of the work force brought about by increasing numbers of working mothers, single parent households, and dual career families. The legislature finds that the needs of families must be balanced with the demands of the workplace to promote family stability and economic security. The legislature further finds that it is in the public interest for employers to accommodate employees by providing reasonable leaves from work for family reasons. In order to promote family stability, economic security, and the public interest, the legislature hereby establishes a minimum standard for family care. Nothing contained in this act shall prohibit any employer from establishing family care standards more generous than the minimum standards set forth in this act." [1988 c 236 § 1.]

**Effective date—1988 c 236:** "This act shall take effect on September 1, 1988." [1988 c 236 § 12.]

**Implementation—1988 c 236:** "Prior to September 1, 1988, the department of labor and industries may take such steps as are necessary to ensure that chapter 236, Laws of 1988 is implemented on September 1, 1988." [1988 c 236 § 10.]

**Severability—1988 c 236:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1988 c 236 § 11.]

**49.12.275 Sick leave to care for child—Poster required.** The department shall develop and furnish to each employer a poster which describes an employer's obligations and an employee's rights under RCW 49.12.270 through 49.12.295. The poster must include notice about any state law, rule, or regulation governing maternity disability leave and indicate that federal or local ordinances, laws, rules, or regulations may also apply. The poster must also include a telephone number and an address of the department to enable employees to obtain more information regarding RCW



49.12.270 through 49.12.295. Each employer must display this poster in a conspicuous place. Every employer shall also post its leave policies, if any, in a conspicuous place. Nothing in this section shall be construed to create a right to continued employment. [1988 c 236 § 2.]

**Legislative findings—Effective date—Implementation—Severability—1988 c 236:** See notes following RCW 49.12.270.

**49.12.280 Sick leave to care for child—Administration and enforcement.** The department shall administer and investigate violations of RCW 49.12.270 and 49.12.275. [1988 c 236 § 4.]

**Legislative findings—Effective date—Implementation—Severability—1988 c 236:** See notes following RCW 49.12.270.

**49.12.285 Sick leave to care for child—Monetary penalties.** The department may issue a notice of infraction if the department reasonably believes that an employer has failed to comply with RCW 49.12.270 or 49.12.275. The form of the notice of infraction shall be adopted by rule pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW. An employer who is found to have committed an infraction under RCW 49.12.270 or 49.12.275 may be assessed a monetary penalty not to exceed two hundred dollars for each violation. An employer who repeatedly violates RCW 49.12.270 or 49.12.275 may be assessed a monetary penalty not to exceed one thousand dollars for each violation. For purposes of this section, the failure to comply with RCW 49.12.275 as to an employee or the failure to comply with RCW 49.12.270 as to a period of leave sought by an employee shall each constitute separate violations. An employer has twenty days to appeal the notice of infraction. Any appeal of a violation determined to be an infraction shall be heard and determined by an administrative law judge. Monetary penalties collected under this section shall be deposited into the general fund. [1988 c 236 § 5.]

**Legislative findings—Effective date—Implementation—Severability—1988 c 236:** See notes following RCW 49.12.270.

**49.12.290 Sick leave to care for child—Collective bargaining agreement not reduced.** Nothing in RCW 49.12.270 through 49.12.295 shall be construed to reduce any provision in a collective bargaining agreement. [1988 c 236 § 6.]

**Legislative findings—Effective date—Implementation—Severability—1988 c 236:** See notes following RCW 49.12.270.

**49.12.295 Sick leave to care for child—Notification of employers.** The department shall notify all employers of the provisions of RCW 49.12.270 through 49.12.290. [1988 c 236 § 7.]

**Legislative findings—Effective date—Implementation—Severability—1988 c 236:** See notes following RCW 49.12.270.

**49.12.300 House-to-house sales by minor—Registration of employer.** (1) No person under sixteen years of age may be employed in house-to-house sales unless the department grants a variance permitting specific employment under criteria adopted by department rule.

(2) No person sixteen or seventeen years of age may be employed in house-to-house sales unless the employer:

(a) Obtains and maintains a validated registration certificate issued by the department. Application for registration shall be made on a form prescribed by the director, which shall include but not be limited to:

(i) The employer's name, permanent address, and telephone number;

(ii) The employer's social security number and industrial insurance number or, in lieu of these numbers, the employer's unified business identifier account number; and

(iii) A description of the work to be performed by persons aged sixteen or seventeen and the working conditions under which the work will be performed;

(b) Provides each employee sixteen or seventeen years of age, before beginning work, an identification card in a form prescribed by the director. The card shall include, but not be limited to, a picture of the employee, the employee's name, the name and address of the employer, a statement that the employer is registered with the department of labor and industries, and the registration number. The person employed in house-to-house sales shall show the identification card to each customer or potential customer of the person;

(c) Ensures supervision by a person aged twenty-one years or over during all working hours, with each supervisor responsible for no more than five persons; and

(d) If transporting an employee sixteen or seventeen years of age to another state, obtains the express written consent of the employee's parent or legal guardian.

(3) An employer may not employ a person sixteen or seventeen years of age in house-to-house sales after the hour of nine p.m.

(4) The department shall adopt by rule procedures for the renewal, denial, or revocation of registrations required by this section. [1989 c 216 § 1.]

**49.12.310 House-to-house sales by minor—Advertising by employer—Penalty.** (1) Any person advertising to employ a person in house-to-house sales with an advertisement specifically prescribing a minimum age requirement that is under the age of twenty-one shall:

(a) Register with the department as provided in RCW 49.12.300(2)(a); and

(b) Include the following information in any advertisement:

(i) The registration number required by subsection (1)(a) of this section;

(ii) The specific nature of the employment and the product or services to be sold; and

(iii) The average monthly compensation paid in the previous six months to new employees, taking into account any deductions made pursuant to the employment contract.

(2) Advertising to recruit or employ a person in house-to-house sales shall not be false, misleading, or deceptive.

(3) A violation of this section is an unfair act or practice in violation of the consumer protection act, chapter 19.86 RCW. The remedies and sanctions provided under chapter 19.86 RCW shall not preclude application of other available remedies and sanctions.

(4) No publisher, radio broadcast licensee, advertising agency, or agency or medium for the dissemination of an advertisement may be subject to penalties by reason of

dissemination of any false, misleading, or deceptive advertisement, or for an advertisement that fails to meet the requirements of subsection (1) of this section, unless he or she has refused on the request of the director to furnish the name and address of the person purchasing the advertising. [1989 c 216 § 2.]

**49.12.320 Definitions.** For the purposes of RCW 49.12.300 and 49.12.310:

(1) "Employ" includes to engage, suffer, or permit to work, but does not include voluntary or donated services performed for no compensation, or without expectation or contemplation of compensation as the adequate consideration for the services performed, for an educational, charitable, religious, state or local government body or agency, or nonprofit organization, or services performed by a newspaper vendor or a person in the employ of his or her parent or stepparent.

(2) "House-to-house sales" includes a sale or other transaction in consumer goods, the demonstration of products or equipment, the obtaining of orders for consumer goods, or the obtaining of contracts for services, in which the employee personally solicits the sale or transaction at a place other than the place of business of the employer. [1989 c 216 § 3.]

**49.12.330 Rules.** The department shall adopt rules to implement RCW 49.12.300 through 49.12.320. [1989 c 216 § 4.]

**49.12.350 Parental leave—Legislative findings.** The legislature finds that employers often distinguish between biological parents, and adoptive parents and stepparents in their employee leave policies. Many employers who grant leave to their employees to care for a newborn child either have no policy or establish a more restrictive policy regarding whether an adoptive parent or stepparent can take similar leave. The legislature further finds that many employers establish different leave policies for men and women regarding the care of a newborn or newly placed child. The legislature recognizes that the bonding that occurs between a parent and child is important to the nurturing of that child, regardless of whether the parent is the child's biological parent and regardless of the gender of the parent. For these reasons, the legislature declares that it is the public policy of this state to require that employers who grant leave to their employees to care for a newborn child make the same leave available upon the same terms for adoptive parents and stepparents, men and women. [1989 1st ex.s. c 11 § 22.]

**Severability—Effective date—1989 1st ex.s. c 11:** See RCW 49.78.900 and 49.78.901.

**49.12.360 Parental leave—Discrimination prohibited.** (1) An employer must grant an adoptive parent or a stepparent, at the time of birth or initial placement for adoption of a child under the age of six, the same leave under the same terms as the employer grants to biological parents. As a term of leave, an employer may restrict leave to those living with the child at the time of birth or initial placement.

(2) An employer must grant the same leave upon the same terms for men as it does for women.

(3) The department shall administer and investigate violations of this section. Notices of infraction, penalties, and appeals shall be administered in the same manner as violations under RCW 49.12.285.

(4) For purposes of this section, "employer" includes all private and public employers listed in RCW 49.12.005(3).

(5) For purposes of this section, "leave" means any leave from employment granted to care for a newborn or a newly adopted child at the time of placement for adoption.

(6) Nothing in this section requires an employer to:

(a) Grant leave equivalent to maternity disability leave;

or

(b) Establish a leave policy to care for a newborn or newly placed child if no such leave policy is in place for any of its employees. [1989 1st ex.s. c 11 § 23.]

**Severability—Effective date—1989 1st ex.s. c 11:** See RCW 49.78.900 and 49.78.901.

**49.12.370 Parental leave—Collective bargaining agreement or employee benefit plan—Application.** In the case of employees covered by an unexpired collective bargaining agreement that expires on or after September 1, 1989, or by an employee benefit program or plan with a stated year ending on or after September 1, 1989, the effective date of RCW 49.12.360 shall be the later of: (1) The first day following expiration of the collective bargaining agreement; or (2) the first day of the next plan year. [1989 1st ex.s. c 11 § 24.]

**Severability—Effective date—1989 1st ex.s. c 11:** See RCW 49.78.900 and 49.78.901.

**49.12.380 Child labor laws—Information program.** Upon adoption of the rules under \*section 1 of this act, the department of labor and industries shall implement a comprehensive program to inform employers of the rules adopted. The program shall include mailings, public service announcements, seminars, and any other means deemed appropriate to inform all Washington employers of their rights and responsibilities regarding the employment of minors. [1991 c 303 § 2.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Section 1 of this act, which amended RCW 49.12.121, was vetoed by the governor.

**49.12.390 Child labor laws—Violations—Civil penalties—Restraining orders.** (1)(a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2) of this section, if the director, or the director's designee, finds that an employer has violated any of the requirements of RCW 49.12.121 or 49.12.123, or a rule or order adopted or variance granted under RCW 49.12.121 or 49.12.123, a citation stating the violations shall be issued to the employer. The citation shall be in writing, describing the nature of the violation including reference to the standards, rules, or orders alleged to have been violated. An initial citation for failure to comply with RCW 49.12.123 or rules requiring a minor work permit and maintenance of records shall state a specific and reasonable time for abatement of the violation to allow the employer to correct the violation without penalty. The director or the director's designee may establish a specific time for abatement of other

nonserious violations in lieu of a penalty for first time violations. The citation and a proposed penalty assessment shall be given to the highest management official available at the workplace or be mailed to the employer at the workplace. In addition, the department shall mail a copy of the citation and proposed penalty assessment to the central personnel office of the employer. Citations issued under this section shall be posted at or near the place where the violation occurred.

(b) Except when an employer corrects a violation as provided in (a) of this subsection, he or she shall be assessed a civil penalty of not more than one thousand dollars depending on the size of the business and the gravity of the violation. The employer shall pay the amount assessed within thirty days of receipt of the assessment or notify the director of his or her intent to appeal the citation or the assessment penalty as provided in RCW 49.12.400.

(2) If the director, or the director's designee, finds that an employer has committed a serious or repeated violation of the requirements of RCW 49.12.121 or 49.12.123, or any rule or order adopted or variance granted under RCW 49.12.121 or 49.12.123, the employer is subject to a civil penalty of not more than one thousand dollars for each day the violation continues. For the purposes of this subsection, a serious violation shall be deemed to exist if death or serious physical harm has resulted or is imminent from a condition that exists, or from one or more practices, means, methods, operations, or processes that have been adopted or are in use by the employer, unless the employer did not, and could not with the exercise of reasonable diligence, know of the presence of the violation.

(3) In addition to any other authority provided in this section, if, upon inspection or investigation, the director, or director's designee, believes that an employer has violated RCW 49.12.121 or 49.12.123, or a rule or order adopted or variance granted under RCW 49.12.121 or 49.12.123, and that the violation creates a danger from which there is a substantial probability that death or serious physical harm could result to a minor employee, the director, or director's designee, may issue an order immediately restraining the condition, practice, method, process, or means creating the danger in the workplace. An order issued under this subsection may require the employer to take steps necessary to avoid, correct, or remove the danger and to prohibit the employment or presence of a minor in locations or under conditions where the danger exists.

(4) An employer who violates any of the posting requirements of RCW 49.12.121 or rules adopted implementing RCW 49.12.121 shall be assessed a civil penalty of not more than one hundred dollars for each violation.

(5) A person who gives advance notice, without the authority of the director, of an inspection to be conducted under this chapter shall be assessed a civil penalty of not more than one thousand dollars.

(6) Penalties assessed under this section shall be paid to the director and deposited into the general fund. [1991 c 303 § 3.]

**49.12.400 Child labor laws—Appeal.** A person, firm, or corporation aggrieved by an action taken or decision made by the department under RCW 49.12.390 may appeal

the action or decision to the director by filing notice of the appeal with the director within thirty days of the department's action or decision. A notice of appeal filed under this section shall stay the effectiveness of a citation or notice of the assessment of a penalty pending review of the appeal by the director, but such appeal shall not stay the effectiveness of an order of immediate restraint issued under RCW 49.12.390. Upon receipt of an appeal, a hearing shall be held in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW. The director shall issue all final orders after the hearing. The final orders are subject to appeal in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW. Orders not appealed within the time period specified in chapter 34.05 RCW are final and binding. [1991 c 303 § 4.]

**49.12.410 Child labor laws—Violations—Criminal penalties.** An employer who knowingly or recklessly violates the requirements of RCW 49.12.121 or 49.12.123, or a rule or order adopted under RCW 49.12.121 or 49.12.123, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. An employer whose practices in violation of the requirements of RCW 49.12.121 or 49.12.123, or a rule or order adopted under RCW 49.12.121 or 49.12.123, result in the death or permanent disability of a minor employee is guilty of a class C felony. [1991 c 303 § 5.]

**49.12.420 Child labor laws—Exclusive remedies.** The penalties established in RCW 49.12.390 and 49.12.410 for violations of RCW 49.12.121 and 49.12.123 are exclusive remedies. [1991 c 303 § 7.]

**49.12.900 Severability—1973 2nd ex.s. c 16.** If any provision of this 1973 amendatory act, or its application to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1973 2nd ex.s. c 16 § 20.]

**49.12.901 Severability—1991 c 303.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1991 c 303 § 10.]

**49.12.902 Effective date—1991 c 303 §§ 3 through 7.** Sections 3 through 7 of this act shall take effect April 1, 1992. [1991 c 303 § 12.]

## Chapter 49.17

### WASHINGTON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT

Sections	Purpose.
49.17.010	Purpose.
49.17.020	Definitions.
49.17.030	Application of chapter—Fees and charges.
49.17.040	Rules and regulations—Authority—Procedure.
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49.17.050	Rules and regulations—Guidelines—Standards.
49.17.060	Employer—General safety standard—Compliance.

- 49.17.070 Right of entry—Inspections and investigations—Subpoenas—Contempt.
- 49.17.080 Variance from safety and health standards—Application—Contents—Procedure.
- 49.17.090 Variance from safety and health standards—Notice—Hearing—Order—Modification or revocation.
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- 49.17.200 Confidentiality—Trade secrets.
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- 49.17.260 Statistics—Investigations—Reports.
- 49.17.270 Administration of chapter.
- 49.17.280 Agricultural workers and handlers of agricultural pesticides—Coordination of regulation and enforcement with department of agriculture.
- 49.17.900 Short title.
- 49.17.910 Severability—1973 c 80.

**49.17.010 Purpose.** The legislature finds that personal injuries and illnesses arising out of conditions of employment impose a substantial burden upon employers and employees in terms of lost production, wage loss, medical expenses, and payment of benefits under the industrial insurance act. Therefore, in the public interest for the welfare of the people of the state of Washington and in order to assure, insofar as may reasonably be possible, safe and healthful working conditions for every man and woman working in the state of Washington, the legislature in the exercise of its police power, and in keeping with the mandates of Article II, section 35 of the state Constitution, declares its purpose by the provisions of this chapter to create, maintain, continue, and enhance the industrial safety and health program of the state, which program shall equal or exceed the standards prescribed by the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-596, 84 Stat. 1590). [1973 c 80 § 1.]

*Industrial insurance: Title 51 RCW.*

**49.17.020 Definitions.** For the purposes of this chapter:

(1) The term "director" means the director of the department of labor and industries, or his designated representative.

(2) The term "department" means the department of labor and industries.

(3) The term "employer" means any person, firm, corporation, partnership, business trust, legal representative,

or other business entity which engages in any business, industry, profession, or activity in this state and employs one or more employees or who contracts with one or more persons, the essence of which is the personal labor of such person or persons and includes the state, counties, cities, and all municipal corporations, public corporations, political subdivisions of the state, and charitable organizations: PROVIDED, That any person, partnership, or business entity not having employees, and who is covered by the industrial insurance act shall be considered both an employer and an employee.

(4) The term "employee" means an employee of an employer who is employed in the business of his employer whether by way of manual labor or otherwise and every person in this state who is engaged in the employment of or who is working under an independent contract the essence of which is his personal labor for an employer under this chapter whether by way of manual labor or otherwise.

(5) The term "person" means one or more individuals, partnerships, associations, corporations, business trusts, legal representatives, or any organized group of persons.

(6) The term "safety and health standard" means a standard which requires the adoption or use of one or more practices, means, methods, operations, or processes reasonably necessary or appropriate to provide safe or healthful employment and places of employment.

(7) The term "work place" means any plant, yard, premises, room, or other place where an employee or employees are employed for the performance of labor or service over which the employer has the right of access or control, and includes, but is not limited to, all work places covered by industrial insurance under Title 51 RCW, as now or hereafter amended.

(8) The term "working day" means a calendar day, except Saturdays, Sundays, and all legal holidays as set forth in RCW 1.16.050, as now or hereafter amended, and for the purposes of the computation of time within which an act is to be done under the provisions of this chapter, shall be computed by excluding the first working day and including the last working day. [1973 c 80 § 2.]

*Department of labor and industries: Chapter 43.22 RCW.*

**49.17.030 Application of chapter—Fees and charges.** This chapter shall apply with respect to employment performed in any work place within the state. The department of labor and industries shall provide by rule for a schedule of fees and charges to be paid by each employer subject to this chapter who is not subject to or obtaining coverage under the industrial insurance laws and who is not a self-insurer. The fees and charges collected shall be for the purpose of defraying such employer's pro rata share of the expenses of enforcing and administering this chapter. [1973 c 80 § 3.]

**49.17.040 Rules and regulations—Authority—Procedure.** The director shall make, adopt, modify, and repeal rules and regulations governing safety and health standards for conditions of employment as authorized by this chapter after a public hearing in conformance with the administrative procedure act and the provisions of this chapter. At least thirty days prior to such public hearing, the

director shall cause public notice of such hearing to be made in newspapers of general circulation in this state, of the date, time, and place of such public hearing, along with a general description of the subject matter of the proposed rules and information as to where copies of any rules and regulations proposed for adoption may be obtained and with a solicitation for recommendations in writing or suggestions for inclusion or changes in such rules to be submitted not later than five days prior to such public hearing. Any preexisting rules adopted by the department of labor and industries relating to health and safety standards in work places subject to the jurisdiction of the department shall remain effective insofar as such rules are not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter. [1973 c 80 § 4.]

**49.17.041 Agricultural safety standards—Limitation on adopting or establishing between January 1, 1995, through January 15, 1996—Requirements.** (1)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, no rules adopted under this chapter amending or establishing agricultural safety standards shall take effect during the period beginning January 1, 1995, and ending January 15, 1996. This subsection applies, but is not limited to applying, to a rule adopted before January 1, 1995, but with an effective date which is during the period beginning January 1, 1995, and ending January 15, 1996, and to provisions of rules adopted prior to January 1, 1995, which provisions are to become effective during the period beginning January 1, 1995, and ending January 15, 1996.

(b) Subsection (1)(a) of this section does not apply to: Provisions of rules that were in effect before January 1, 1995; emergency rules adopted under RCW 34.05.350; or revisions to chapter 296-306 WAC regarding rollover protective structures that were adopted in 1994 and effective March 1, 1995, and that are additionally revised to refer to the variance process available under this chapter.

(2) The rules for agricultural safety adopted under this chapter must:

(a) Establish, for agricultural employers, an agriculture safety standard that includes agriculture-specific rules and specific references to the general industry safety standard adopted under chapter 49.17 RCW; and

(b) Exempt agricultural employers from the general industry safety standard adopted under chapter 49.17 RCW for all rules not specifically referenced in the agriculture safety standard.

(3) The department shall publish in one volume all of the occupational safety rules that apply to agricultural employers and shall make this volume available to all agricultural employers before January 15, 1996. This volume must be available in both English and Spanish.

(4) The department shall provide training, education, and enhanced consultation services concerning its agricultural safety rules to agricultural employers before the rules' effective dates. The training, education, and consultation must continue throughout the winter of 1995-1996. Training and education programs must be provided throughout the state and must be coordinated with agricultural associations in order to meet their members' needs.

(5) The department shall provide, for informational purposes, a list of commercially available rollover protective

structures for tractors used in agricultural operations manufactured before October 25, 1976. The list must include the name and address of the manufacturer and the approximate price of the structure. Included with the list shall be a statement indicating that an employer may apply for a variance from the rules requiring rollover protective structures under this chapter and that variances may be granted in appropriate circumstances on a case-by-case basis. The statement shall also provide examples of circumstances under which a variance may be granted. The list and statement shall be generally available to the agricultural community before the department may take any action to enforce rules requiring rollover protective structures for tractors used in agricultural operations manufactured before October 25, 1976. [1995 c 371 § 2.]

**Finding—1995 c 371:** "The legislature finds that:

(1) The state's highly productive and efficient agricultural sector is composed predominately of family-owned and managed farms and an industrious and efficient work force;

(2) A reasonable level of safety regulations is needed to protect workers;

(3) The smaller but highly efficient farming operations would benefit from safety rules that are easily referenced and agriculture-specific to the extent possible; and

(4) There should be lead time between the adoption of agriculture safety rules and their effective date in order to allow the department of labor and industries to provide training, education, and enhanced consultation services to family-owned and managed farms." [1995 c 371 § 1.]

**Application—1995 c 371 § 2:** "Section 2(1) of this act is remedial in nature and applies to rules and provisions of rules regarding agricultural safety that would take effect after December 31, 1994." [1995 c 371 §.4.]

**49.17.050 Rules and regulations—Guidelines—Standards.** In the adoption of rules and regulations under the authority of this chapter, the director shall:

(1) Provide for the preparation, adoption, amendment, or repeal of rules and regulations of safety and health standards governing the conditions of employment of general and special application in all work places;

(2) Provide for the adoption of occupational health and safety standards which are at least as effective as those adopted or recognized by the United States secretary of labor under the authority of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-596; 84 Stat. 1590);

(3) Provide a method of encouraging employers and employees in their efforts to reduce the number of safety and health hazards at their work places and to stimulate employers and employees to institute new and to perfect existing programs for providing safe and healthful working conditions;

(4) Provide for the promulgation of health and safety standards and the control of conditions in all work places concerning gases, vapors, dust, or other airborne particles, toxic materials, or harmful physical agents which shall set a standard which most adequately assures, to the extent feasible, on the basis of the best available evidence, that no employee will suffer material impairment of health or functional capacity even if such employee has regular exposure to the hazard dealt with by such standard for the period of his working life; any such standards shall require where appropriate the use of protective devices or equipment and for monitoring or measuring any such gases, vapors, dust, or other airborne particles, toxic materials, or harmful physical agents;

(5) Provide for appropriate reporting procedures by employers with respect to such information relating to conditions of employment which will assist in achieving the objectives of this chapter;

(6) Provide for the frequency, method, and manner of the making of inspections of work places without advance notice; and,

(7) Provide for the publication and dissemination to employers, employees, and labor organizations and the posting where appropriate by employers of informational, education, or training materials calculated to aid and assist in achieving the objectives of this chapter;

(8) Provide for the establishment of new and the perfection and expansion of existing programs for occupational safety and health education for employers and employees, and, in addition institute methods and procedures for the establishment of a program for voluntary compliance solely through the use of advice and consultation with employers and employees with recommendations including recommendations of methods to abate violations relating to the requirements of this chapter and all applicable safety and health standards and rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to the authority of this chapter;

(9) Provide for the adoption of safety and health standards requiring the use of safeguards in trenches and excavations and around openings of hoistways, hatchways, elevators, stairways, and similar openings;

(10) Provide for the promulgation of health and safety standards requiring the use of safeguards for all vats, pans, trimmers, cut off, gang edger, and other saws, planers, presses, formers, cogs, gearing, belting, shafting, coupling, set screws, live rollers, conveyors, mangles in laundries, and machinery of similar description, which can be effectively guarded with due regard to the ordinary use of such machinery and appliances and the danger to employees therefrom, and with which the employees of any such work place may come in contact while in the performance of their duties and prescribe methods, practices, or processes to be followed by employers which will enhance the health and safety of employees in the performance of their duties when in proximity to machinery or appliances mentioned in this subsection. [1973 c 80 § 5.]

**49.17.060 Employer—General safety standard—Compliance.** Each employer:

(1) Shall furnish to each of his employees a place of employment free from recognized hazards that are causing or likely to cause serious injury or death to his employees: PROVIDED, That no citation or order assessing a penalty shall be issued to any employer solely under the authority of this subsection except where no applicable rule or regulation has been adopted by the department covering the unsafe or unhealthful condition of employment at the work place; and

(2) Shall comply with the rules, regulations, and orders promulgated under this chapter. [1973 c 80 § 6.]

**49.17.070 Right of entry—Inspections and investigations—Subpoenas—Contempt.** The director, or his authorized representative, in carrying out his duties under this chapter, upon the presentation of appropriate credentials

to the owner, manager, operator, or agent in charge, is authorized:

(1) To enter without delay and at all reasonable times the factory, plant, establishment, construction site, or other area, work place, or environment where work is performed by an employee of an employer; and

(2) To inspect, survey, and investigate during regular working hours and at other reasonable times, and within reasonable limits and in a reasonable manner, any such work place and all pertinent conditions, structures, machines, apparatus, devices, equipment, and materials therein, and to question privately any such employer, owner, operator, agent, or employee;

(3) In making inspections and making investigations under this chapter the director may require the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of evidence under oath. Witnesses shall be paid the same fees and mileage that are paid witnesses in the superior courts. In the case of contumacy, failure, or refusal of any person to obey such an order, any superior court within the jurisdiction of which such person is found, or resides, or transacts business, upon the application of the director, shall have jurisdiction to issue to such person an order requiring such person to appear to produce evidence if, as, and when so ordered, and to give testimony relating to the matter under investigation or in question, and any failure to obey such order of the court may be punished by said court as a contempt thereof. [1973 c 80 § 7.]

**49.17.080 Variance from safety and health standards—Application—Contents—Procedure.** (1) Any employer may apply to the director for a temporary order granting a variance from any safety and health standard promulgated by rule or regulation under the authority of this chapter. Such temporary order shall be granted only if the employer files an application which meets the requirements of subsection (2) of this section and establishes that the employer is unable to comply with a safety or health standard because of the unavailability of professional or technical personnel or of materials and equipment needed to come into compliance with the safety and health standard or because necessary construction or alteration of facilities cannot be completed by the effective date of such safety and health standard, that he is taking all available steps to safeguard his employees against the hazards covered by the safety and health standard, and he has an effective program for coming into compliance with such safety and health standard as quickly as practicable. Any temporary order issued under the authority of this subsection shall prescribe the practices, means, methods, operations, and processes which the employer must adopt and use while the order is in effect and state in detail his program for coming into compliance with the safety and health standard. Such a temporary order may be granted only after notice to employees and an opportunity for a hearing upon request of the employer or any affected employee. The name of any affected employee requesting a hearing under the provisions of this subsection shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed without the consent of such employee. The director may issue one interim order to be effective until a determination is made or a decision rendered if a hearing is

demanded. No temporary order may be in effect for longer than the period needed by the employer to achieve compliance with the standard, or one year, whichever is shorter, except that such an order may be renewed not more than twice, so long as the requirements of this subsection are met and if an application for renewal is filed at least ninety days prior to the expiration date of the order. No renewal of a temporary order may remain in effect for longer than one hundred eighty days.

(2) An application for a temporary order under this section shall contain:

(a) A specification of the safety and health standard or portion thereof from which the employer seeks a variance;

(b) A representation by the employer, supported by representations from qualified persons having first hand knowledge of the facts represented, that he is unable to comply with the safety and health standard or portion thereof and a detailed statement of the reasons therefor;

(c) A statement of the steps the employer has taken and will take, with specific dates, to protect employees against the hazard covered by the standard;

(d) A statement as to when the employer expects to be able to comply with the standard or portion thereof and what steps he has taken and will take, with dates specified, to come into compliance with the standard; and

(e) A certification that the employer, by the date of mailing or delivery of the application to the director, has informed his employees of the application by providing a copy thereof to his employees or their authorized representative by posting a copy of such application in a place or places reasonably accessible to all employees or by other appropriate means of notification and by mailing a copy to the authorized representative of such employees; the application shall set forth the manner in which the employees have been so informed. The application shall also advise employees and their employee representatives of their right to apply to the director to conduct a hearing upon the application for a variance. [1973 c 80 § 8.]

**49.17.090 Variance from safety and health standards—Notice—Hearing—Order—Modification or revocation.** Any employer may apply to the director for an order for a variance from any rule or regulation establishing a safety and health standard promulgated under this chapter. Affected employees shall be given notice of each such application and in the manner prescribed by RCW 49.17.080 shall be informed of their right to request a hearing on any such application. The director shall issue such order granting a variance, after opportunity for an inspection, if he determines or decides after a hearing has been held, if request for hearing has been made, that the applicant for the variance has demonstrated by a preponderance of the evidence that the conditions, practices, means, methods, operations, or processes used or proposed to be used by such applicant employer will provide employment and places of employment to his employees which are as safe and healthful as those which would prevail if he complied with the safety and health standard or standards from which the variance is sought. The order so issued shall prescribe the conditions the employer must maintain, and the practices, means, methods, operations, and processes which he must

adopt and utilize to the extent they differ from the standard in question. At any time after six months has elapsed from the date of the issuance of the order granting a variance upon application of an employer, employee, or the director on his own motion, after notice has been given in the manner prescribed for the issuance of such order may modify or revoke the order granting the variance from any standard promulgated under the authority of this chapter. [1973 c 80 § 9.]

**49.17.100 Inspection—Employer and employee representatives.** A representative of the employer and an employee representative authorized by the employees of such employer shall be given an opportunity to accompany the director, or his authorized representative, during the physical inspection of any work place for the purpose of aiding such inspection. Where there is no authorized employee representative, the director or his authorized representative shall consult with a reasonable number of employees concerning matters of health and safety in the work place. The director may adopt procedural rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this section: PROVIDED, That neither this section, nor any other provision of this chapter, shall be construed to interfere with, impede, or in any way diminish the right of employees to bargain collectively with their employers through representatives of their own choosing concerning wages or standards or conditions of employment which equal or exceed those established under the authority of this chapter. [1986 c 192 § 1; 1973 c 80 § 10.]

**49.17.110 Compliance by employee—Violations—Notice—Review.** Each employee shall comply with the provisions of this chapter and all rules, regulations, and orders issued pursuant to the authority of this chapter which are applicable to his own actions and conduct in the course of his employment. Any employee or representative of employees who in good faith believes that a violation of a safety or health standard, promulgated by rule under the authority of this chapter exists that threatens physical harm to employees, or that an imminent danger to such employees exists, may request an inspection of the work place by giving notice to the director or his authorized representative of such violation or danger. Any such notice shall be reduced to writing, shall set forth with reasonable particularity the grounds for the notice, and shall be signed by the employee or representative of employees. A copy of the notice shall be provided the employer or his agent no later than at the time of inspection, except that, upon the request of the person giving such notice, his name and the names of individual employees referred to therein shall not appear in such copy or on any record published, released, or made available pursuant to any provision of this chapter. If upon receipt of such notification the director determines that there are reasonable grounds to believe that such violation or danger exists, he shall make a special inspection as soon as practicable, to determine if such violation or danger exists. If the director determines there are no reasonable grounds to believe that a violation or danger exists, he shall notify the employer and the employee or representative of the employees in writing of such determination.

Prior to or during any inspection of a work place, any employee or representative of employees employed in such work place may notify the director or any representative of the director responsible for conducting the inspection, in writing, of any violation of this chapter which he has reason to believe exists in such work place. The director shall, by rule, establish procedures for informal review of any refusal by a representative of the director to issue a citation with respect to any such alleged violation, and shall furnish the employee or representative of employees requesting such review a written statement of the reasons for the director's final disposition of the case. [1973 c 80 § 11.]

**49.17.120 Violations—Citations.** If upon inspection or investigation the director or his authorized representative believes that an employer has violated a requirement of RCW 49.17.060, or any safety or health standard promulgated by rule adopted by the director, or the conditions of any order granting a variance pursuant to this chapter, he shall with reasonable promptness issue a citation to the employer. Each citation shall be in writing and shall describe with particularity the nature of the violation, including a reference to the provisions of the statute, standard, rule, regulation, or order alleged to have been violated. In addition, the citation shall fix a reasonable time for the abatement of the violation. The director may prescribe procedures for the issuance of a notice in lieu of a citation with respect to de minimis violations which have no direct or immediate relationship to safety or health. Each citation, or a copy or copies thereof, issued under the authority of this section and RCW 49.17.130 shall be prominently posted, at or near each place a violation referred to in the citation occurred or as may otherwise be prescribed in regulations issued by the director. The director shall provide by rule for procedures to be followed by an employee representative upon written application to receive copies of citations and notices issued to any employer having employees who are represented by such employee representative. Such rule may prescribe the form of such application, the time for renewal of applications, and the eligibility of the applicant to receive copies of citations and notices. No citation may be issued under this section or RCW 49.17.130 after the expiration of six months following a compliance inspection, investigation, or survey revealing any such violation. [1973 c 80 § 12.]

**49.17.130 Violations—Dangerous conditions—Citations and orders of immediate restraint—Restraints—Restraining orders.** (1) If upon inspection or investigation, the director, or his authorized representative, believes that an employer has violated a requirement of RCW 49.17.060, or any safety or health standard promulgated by rules of the department, or any conditions of an order granting a variance, which violation is such that a danger exists from which there is a substantial probability that death or serious physical harm could result to any employee, the director or his authorized representative shall issue a citation and may issue an order immediately restraining any such condition, practice, method, process, or means in the work place. Any order issued under this section may require such steps to be taken as may be necessary to avoid, correct, or remove such danger and prohibit the employment or pres-

ence of any individual in locations or under conditions where such danger exists, except individuals whose presence is necessary to avoid, correct, or remove such danger or to maintain the capacity of a continuous process operation in order that the resumption of normal operations may be had without a complete cessation of operations, or where a cessation of operations is necessary, to permit such to be accomplished in a safe and orderly manner. In addition, if any machine or equipment, or any part thereof, is in violation of a requirement of RCW 49.17.060 or any safety or health standard promulgated by rules of the department, and the operation of such machine or equipment gives rise to a substantial probability that death or serious physical harm could result to any employee, and an order of immediate restraint of the use of such machine or equipment has been issued under this subsection, the use of such machine or equipment is prohibited, and a notice to that effect shall be attached thereto by the director or his authorized representative.

(2) Whenever the director, or his authorized representative, concludes that a condition of employment described in subsection (1) of this section exists in any work place, he shall promptly inform the affected employees and employers of the danger.

(3) At any time that a citation or a citation and order restraining any condition of employment or practice described in subsection (1) of this section is issued by the director, or his authorized representative, he may in addition request the attorney general to make an application to the superior court of the county wherein such condition of employment or practice exists for a temporary restraining order or such other relief as appears to be appropriate under the circumstances. [1973 c 80 § 13.]

**49.17.140 Appeal to board—Citation or notification of assessment of penalty—Final order—Procedure—Redetermination—Hearing.** (1) If after an inspection or investigation the director or the director's authorized representative issues a citation under the authority of RCW 49.17.120 or 49.17.130, the department, within a reasonable time after the termination of such inspection or investigation, shall notify the employer by certified mail of the penalty to be assessed under the authority of RCW 49.17.180 and shall state that the employer has fifteen working days within which to notify the director that the employer wishes to appeal the citation or assessment of penalty. If, within fifteen working days from the communication of the notice issued by the director the employer fails to notify the director that the employer intends to appeal the citation or assessment penalty, and no notice is filed by any employee or representative of employees under subsection (3) of this section within such time, the citation and the assessment shall be deemed a final order of the department and not subject to review by any court or agency.

(2) If the director has reason to believe that an employer has failed to correct a violation for which a citation has been issued within the period permitted in the citation for its correction, which period shall not begin to run until the entry of a final order in the case of any appeal proceedings under this section initiated by the employer in good faith and not solely for delay or avoidance of penalties, the director shall



notify the employer by certified mail of such failure to correct the violation and of the penalty to be assessed under RCW 49.17.180 by reason of such failure, and shall state that the employer has fifteen working days from the communication of such notification and assessment of penalty to notify the director that the employer wishes to appeal the director's notification of the assessment of penalty. If, within fifteen working days from the receipt of notification issued by the director the employer fails to notify the director that the employer intends to appeal the notification of assessment of penalty, the notification and assessment of penalty shall be deemed a final order of the department and not subject to review by any court or agency.

(3) If any employer notifies the director that the employer intends to appeal the citation issued under either RCW 49.17.120 or 49.17.130 or notification of the assessment of a penalty issued under subsections (1) or (2) of this section, or if, within fifteen working days from the issuance of a citation under either RCW 49.17.120 or 49.17.130 any employee or representative of employees files a notice with the director alleging that the period of time fixed in the citation for the abatement of the violation is unreasonable, the director may reassume jurisdiction over the entire matter, or any portion thereof upon which notice of intention to appeal has been filed with the director pursuant to this subsection. If the director reassumes jurisdiction of all or any portion of the matter upon which notice of appeal has been filed with the director, any redetermination shall be completed and corrective notices of assessment of penalty, citations, or revised periods of abatement completed within a period of thirty working days. The thirty-working-day redetermination period may be extended up to fifteen additional working days upon agreement of all parties to the appeal. The redetermination shall then become final subject to direct appeal to the board of industrial insurance appeals within fifteen working days of such redetermination with service of notice of appeal upon the director. In the event that the director does not reassume jurisdiction as provided in this subsection, the director shall promptly notify the state board of industrial insurance appeals of all notifications of intention to appeal any such citations, any such notices of assessment of penalty and any employee or representative of employees notice of intention to appeal the period of time fixed for abatement of a violation and in addition certify a full copy of the record in such appeal matters to the board. The director shall adopt rules of procedure for the reassumption of jurisdiction under this subsection affording employers, employees, and employee representatives notice of the reassumption of jurisdiction by the director, and an opportunity to object or support the reassumption of jurisdiction, either in writing or orally at an informal conference to be held prior to the expiration of the redetermination period. A notice of appeal filed under this section shall stay the effectiveness of any citation or notice of the assessment of a penalty pending review by the board of industrial insurance appeals, but such appeal shall not stay the effectiveness of any order of immediate restraint issued by the director under the authority of RCW 49.17.130. The board of industrial insurance appeals shall afford an opportunity for a hearing in the case of each such appellant and the department shall be represented in such hearing by the attorney general and the board shall in addition provide affected employees or

authorized representatives of affected employees an opportunity to participate as parties to hearings under this subsection. The board shall thereafter make disposition of the issues in accordance with procedures relative to contested cases appealed to the state board of industrial insurance appeals.

Upon application by an employer showing that a good faith effort to comply with the abatement requirements of a citation has been made and that the abatement has not been completed because of factors beyond the employer's control, the director after affording an opportunity for a hearing shall issue an order affirming or modifying the abatement requirements in such citation. [1994 c 61 § 1; 1986 c 20 § 1; 1973 c 80 § 14.]

**49.17.150 Appeal to superior court—Review or enforcement of orders.** (1) Any person aggrieved by an order of the board of industrial insurance appeals issued under RCW 49.17.140(3) may obtain a review of such order in the superior court for the county in which the violation is alleged to have occurred, by filing in such court within thirty days following the communication of the board's order or denial of any petition or petitions for review, a written notice of appeal praying that the order be modified or set aside. Such appeal shall be perfected by filing with the clerk of the court and by serving a copy thereof by mail, or personally, on the director and on the board. The board shall thereupon transmit a copy of the notice of appeal to all parties who participated in proceedings before the board, and shall file in the court the complete record of the proceedings. Upon such filing the court shall have jurisdiction of the proceeding and of the question determined therein, and shall have power to grant such temporary relief or restraining order as it deems just and proper, and to make and enter upon the pleadings and the record of proceedings a decree affirming, modifying, or setting aside in all or in part, the decision of the board of industrial insurance appeals and enforcing the same to the extent that such order is affirmed or modified. The commencement of appellate proceedings under this subsection shall not, unless ordered by the court, operate as a stay of the order of the board of industrial insurance appeals. No objection that has not been urged before the board shall be considered by the court, unless the failure or neglect to urge such objection shall be excused because of extraordinary circumstances. The findings of the board or hearing examiner where the board has denied a petition or petitions for review with respect to questions of fact, if supported by substantial evidence on the record considered as a whole, shall be conclusive. If any party shall apply to the court for leave to adduce additional evidence and shall show to the satisfaction of the court that such additional evidence is material and that there were reasonable grounds for the failure to adduce such evidence in the hearing before the board, the court may order such additional evidence to be taken before the board and to be made a part of the record. The board may modify its findings as to the facts, or make new findings, by reason of additional evidence so taken and filed, and it shall file such modified or new findings, which findings with respect to questions of fact are supported by substantial evidence on the record considered as a whole, shall be conclusive, and its recommendations, if any, for the

modification or setting aside of its original order. Upon the filing of the record with it, the jurisdiction of the court shall be exclusive and the judgment and decree shall be final, except as the same shall be subject to review by the supreme court. Appeals filed under this subsection shall be heard expeditiously.

(2) The director may also obtain review or enforcement of any final order of the board by filing a petition for such relief in the superior court for the county in which the alleged violation occurred. The provisions of subsection (1) of this section shall govern such proceeding to the extent applicable. If a notice of appeal, as provided in subsection (1) of this section, is not filed within thirty days after service of the board's order, the board's findings of fact, decision, and order or the examiner's findings of fact, decision, and order when a petition or petitions for review have been denied shall be conclusive in connection with any petition for enforcement which is filed by the director after the expiration of such thirty day period. In any such case, as well as in the case of an unappealed citation or a notification of the assessment of a penalty by the director, which has become a final order under subsection (1) or (2) of RCW 49.17.140 upon application of the director, the clerk of the court, unless otherwise ordered by the court, shall forthwith enter a decree enforcing the citation and notice of assessment of penalty and shall transmit a copy of such decree to the director and the employer named in the director's petition. In any contempt proceeding brought to enforce a decree of the superior court entered pursuant to this subsection or subsection (1) of this section the superior court may assess the penalties provided in RCW 49.17.180, in addition to invoking any other available remedies. [1982 c 109 § 1; 1973 c 80 § 15.]

**49.17.160 Discrimination against employee filing complaint, instituting proceedings, or testifying prohibited—Procedure—Remedy.** (1) No person shall discharge or in any manner discriminate against any employee because such employee has filed any complaint or instituted or caused to be instituted any proceeding under or related to this chapter, or has testified or is about to testify in any such proceeding or because of the exercise by such employee on behalf of himself or others of any right afforded by this chapter.

(2) Any employee who believes that he has been discharged or otherwise discriminated against by any person in violation of this section may, within thirty days after such violation occurs, file a complaint with the director alleging such discrimination. Upon receipt of such complaint, the director shall cause such investigation to be made as he deems appropriate. If upon such investigation, the director determines that the provisions of this section have been violated, he shall bring an action in the superior court of the county wherein the violation is alleged to have occurred against the person or persons who is alleged to have violated the provisions of this section. If the director determines that the provisions of this section have not been violated, the employee may institute the action on his own behalf within thirty days of such determination. In any such action the superior court shall have jurisdiction, for cause shown, to restrain violations of subsection (1) of this section and order

all appropriate relief including rehiring or reinstatement of the employee to his former position with back pay.

(3) Within ninety days of the receipt of the complaint filed under this section, the director shall notify the complainant of his determination under subsection (2) of this section. [1973 c 80 § 16.]

**49.17.170 Injunctions—Temporary restraining orders.** (1) In addition to and after having invoked the powers of restraint vested in the director as provided in RCW 49.17.130 the superior courts of the state of Washington shall have jurisdiction upon petition of the director, through the attorney general, to enjoin any condition or practice in any work place from which there is a substantial probability that death or serious physical harm could result to any employee immediately or before the imminence of such danger can be eliminated through the enforcement procedures otherwise provided by this chapter. Any order issued under this section may require such steps to be taken as may be necessary to avoid, correct, or remove such danger and prohibit the employment or presence of any individual in locations or under conditions where such danger exists, except individuals whose presence is necessary to avoid, correct, or remove such danger or to maintain the capacity of a continuous process operation to resume normal operation without a complete cessation of operations, or where a cessation of operations is necessary, to permit such to be accomplished in a safe and orderly manner.

(2) Upon the filing of any such petition the superior courts of the state of Washington shall have jurisdiction to grant such injunctive relief or temporary restraining order pending the outcome of enforcement proceedings pursuant to this chapter, except that no temporary restraining order issued without notice shall be effective for a period longer than five working days.

(3) Whenever and as soon as any authorized representative of the director concludes that a condition or practice described in subsection (1) exists in any work place, he shall inform the affected employees and employers of the danger and may recommend to the director that relief be sought under this section.

(4) If the director arbitrarily or capriciously fails to invoke his restraining authority under RCW 49.17.130 or fails to seek relief under this section, any employee who may be injured by reason of such failure, or the representative of such employees, may bring an action against the director in the superior court for the county in which the danger is alleged to exist for a writ of mandamus to compel the director to seek such an order and for such further relief as may be appropriate or seek the director to exercise his restraining authority under RCW 49.17.130. [1973 c 80 § 17.]

**49.17.180 Violations—Civil penalties.** (1) Except as provided in RCW 43.05.090, any employer who willfully or repeatedly violates the requirements of RCW 49.17.060, of any safety or health standard promulgated under the authority of this chapter, of any existing rule or regulation governing the conditions of employment promulgated by the department, or of any order issued granting a variance under RCW 49.17.080 or 49.17.090 may be assessed a civil

penalty not to exceed seventy thousand dollars for each violation. A minimum penalty of five thousand dollars shall be assessed for a willful violation.

(2) Any employer who has received a citation for a serious violation of the requirements of RCW 49.17.060, of any safety or health standard promulgated under the authority of this chapter, of any existing rule or regulation governing the conditions of employment promulgated by the department, or of any order issued granting a variance under RCW 49.17.080 or 49.17.090 as determined in accordance with subsection (6) of this section, shall be assessed a civil penalty not to exceed seven thousand dollars for each such violation.

(3) Any employer who has received a citation for a violation of the requirements of RCW 49.17.060, of any safety or health standard promulgated under this chapter, of any existing rule or regulation governing the conditions of employment promulgated by the department, or of any order issued granting a variance under RCW 49.17.080 or 49.17.090, where such violation is specifically determined not to be of a serious nature as provided in subsection (6) of this section, may be assessed a civil penalty not to exceed seven thousand dollars for each such violation, unless such violation is determined to be de minimis.

(4) Any employer who fails to correct a violation for which a citation has been issued under RCW 49.17.120 or 49.17.130 within the period permitted for its correction, which period shall not begin to run until the date of the final order of the board of industrial insurance appeals in the case of any review proceedings under this chapter initiated by the employer in good faith and not solely for delay or avoidance of penalties, may be assessed a civil penalty of not more than seven thousand dollars for each day during which such failure or violation continues.

(5) Any employer who violates any of the posting requirements of this chapter, or any of the posting requirements of rules promulgated by the department pursuant to this chapter related to employee or employee representative's rights to notice, including but not limited to those employee rights to notice set forth in RCW 49.17.080, 49.17.090, 49.17.120, 49.17.130, 49.17.220(1) and 49.17.240(2), shall be assessed a penalty not to exceed seven thousand dollars for each such violation. Any employer who violates any of the posting requirements for the posting of informational, educational, or training materials under the authority of RCW 49.17.050(7), may be assessed a penalty not to exceed seven thousand dollars for each such violation.

(6) For the purposes of this section, a serious violation shall be deemed to exist in a work place if there is a substantial probability that death or serious physical harm could result from a condition which exists, or from one or more practices, means, methods, operations, or processes which have been adopted or are in use in such work place, unless the employer did not, and could not with the exercise of reasonable diligence, know of the presence of the violation.

(7) The director, or his authorized representatives, shall have authority to assess all civil penalties provided in this section, giving due consideration to the appropriateness of the penalty with respect to the number of affected employees of the employer being charged, the gravity of the violation,

the size of the employer's business, the good faith of the employer, and the history of previous violations.

(8) Civil penalties imposed under this chapter shall be paid to the director for deposit in the supplemental pension fund established by RCW 51.44.033. Civil penalties may be recovered in a civil action in the name of the department brought in the superior court of the county where the violation is alleged to have occurred, or the department may utilize the procedures for collection of civil penalties as set forth in RCW 51.48.120 through 51.48.150. [1995 c 403 § 629; 1991 c 108 § 1; 1986 c 20 § 2; 1973 c 80 § 18.]

**Findings—Short title—Intent—1995 c 403:** See note following RCW 34.05.328.

**Part headings not law—Severability—1995 c 403:** See RCW 43.05.903 and 43.05.904.

**49.17.190 Violations—Criminal penalties.** (1) Any person who gives advance notice of any inspection to be conducted under the authority of this chapter, without the consent of the director or his authorized representative, shall, upon conviction be guilty of a gross misdemeanor and be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars or by imprisonment for not more than six months, or by both.

(2) Whoever knowingly makes any false statement, representation, or certification in any application, record, report, plan, or other document filed or required to be maintained pursuant to this chapter shall, upon conviction be guilty of a gross misdemeanor and be punished by a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars, or by imprisonment for not more than six months or by both.

(3) Any employer who wilfully and knowingly violates the requirements of RCW 49.17.060, any safety or health standard promulgated under this chapter, any existing rule or regulation governing the safety or health conditions of employment and adopted by the director, or any order issued granting a variance under RCW 49.17.080 or 49.17.090 and that violation caused death to any employee shall, upon conviction be guilty of a gross misdemeanor and be punished by a fine of not more than one hundred thousand dollars or by imprisonment for not more than six months or by both; except, that if the conviction is for a violation committed after a first conviction of such person, punishment shall be a fine of not more than two hundred thousand dollars or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or by both.

(4) Any employer who has been issued an order immediately restraining a condition, practice, method, process, or means in the work place, pursuant to RCW 49.17.130 or 49.17.170, and who nevertheless continues such condition, practice, method, process, or means, or who continues to use a machine or equipment or part thereof to which a notice prohibiting such use has been attached, shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars or by imprisonment for not more than six months, or by both.

(5) Any employer who shall knowingly remove, displace, damage, or destroy, or cause to be removed, displaced, damaged, or destroyed any safety device or safeguard required to be present and maintained by any safety or health standard, rule, or order promulgated pursuant to this chapter, or pursuant to the authority vested in the director under RCW 43.22.050 shall, upon conviction, be

guilty of a misdemeanor and be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars or by imprisonment for not more than ninety days, or by both.

(6) Whenever the director has reasonable cause to believe that any provision of this section defining a crime has been violated by an employer, the director shall cause a record of such alleged violation to be prepared, a copy of which shall be referred to the prosecuting attorney of the county wherein such alleged violation occurred, and the prosecuting attorney of such county shall in writing advise the director of the disposition he shall make of the alleged violation. [1986 c 20 § 3; 1973 c 80 § 19.]

**49.17.200 Confidentiality—Trade secrets.** All information reported to or otherwise obtained by the director, or his authorized representative, in connection with any inspection or proceeding under the authority of this chapter, which contains or which might reveal a trade secret shall be considered confidential, except that such information may be disclosed to other officers or employees concerned with carrying out this chapter, or when relevant in any proceeding under this chapter. In any such proceeding the director, the board of industrial insurance appeals, or the court shall issue such orders as may be appropriate to protect the confidentiality of trade secrets. [1973 c 80 § 20.]

*Uniform trade secrets act: Chapter 19.108 RCW.*

**49.17.210 Research, experiments, and demonstrations for safety purposes—Confidentiality of information—Variances.** The director is authorized to conduct, either directly or by grant or contract, research, experiments, and demonstrations as may be of aid and assistance in the furtherance of the objects and purposes of this chapter. Employer identity, employee identity, and personal identifiers of voluntary participants in research, experiments, and demonstrations shall be deemed confidential and shall not be open to public inspection. Information obtained from such voluntary activities shall not be deemed to be medical information for the purpose of RCW 51.36.060 and shall be deemed confidential and shall not be open to public inspection. The director, in his or her discretion, is authorized to grant a variance from any rule or regulation or portion thereof, whenever he or she determines that such variance is necessary to permit an employer to participate in an experiment approved by the director, and the experiment is designed to demonstrate or validate new and improved techniques to safeguard the health or safety of employees. Any such variance shall require that all due regard be given to the health and safety of all employees participating in any experiment. [1991 c 89 § 1; 1973 c 80 § 21.]

**49.17.220 Records—Reports—Notice to employee exposed to harmful materials.** (1) Each employer shall make, keep, and preserve, and make available to the director such records regarding his activities relating to this chapter as the director may prescribe by regulation as necessary or appropriate for the enforcement of this chapter or for developing information regarding the causes and prevention of occupational accidents and illnesses. In order to carry out the provisions of this section such regulations may include provisions requiring employers to conduct periodic inspec-

tions. The director shall also issue regulations requiring that employers, through posting of notices or other appropriate means, keep their employees informed of their protections and obligations under this chapter, including the provisions of applicable safety and health standards.

(2) The director shall prescribe regulations requiring employers to maintain accurate records, and to make periodic reports of work-related deaths, and of injuries and illnesses other than minor injuries requiring only first aid treatment and which do not involve medical treatment, loss of consciousness, restriction of work or motion, or transfer to another job.

(3) The director shall issue regulations requiring employers to maintain accurate records of employee exposures to potentially toxic materials or harmful physical agents which are required to be monitored or measured. Such regulations shall provide employees or their representatives with an opportunity to observe such monitoring or measuring, and to have access to the records thereof. Such regulations shall also make appropriate provisions for each employee or former employee to have access to such records as will indicate his own exposure to toxic materials or harmful physical agents. Each employer shall promptly notify any employee who has been or is being exposed to toxic materials or harmful physical agents in concentrations or at levels which exceed those prescribed by any applicable safety and health standard promulgated under this chapter and shall inform any employee who is being thus exposed of the corrective action being taken. [1973 c 80 § 22.]

**49.17.230 Compliance with federal act—Agreements and acceptance of grants authorized.** The director is authorized to adopt by rule any provision reasonably necessary to enable this state to qualify a state plan under section 18 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-596, 84 Stat. 1590) to enable this state to assume the responsibility for the development and enforcement of occupational safety and health standards in all work places within this state subject to the legislative jurisdiction of the state of Washington. The director is authorized to enter into agreement with the United States and to accept on behalf of the state of Washington grants of funds to implement the development and enforcement of this chapter and the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. [1973 c 80 § 23.]

**49.17.240 Safety and health standards.** (1) The director in the promulgation of rules under the authority of this chapter shall establish safety and health standards for conditions of employment of general and/or specific applicability for all industries, businesses, occupations, crafts, trades, and employments subject to the provisions of this chapter, or those that are a national or accepted federal standard. In adopting safety and health standards for conditions of employment, the director shall solicit and give due regard to all recommendations by any employer, employee, or labor representative of employees.

(2) Any safety and health standard adopted by rule of the director shall, where appropriate, prescribe the use of labels or other forms of warning to insure that employees are apprised of all hazards to which they may be exposed,

relevant symptoms, and appropriate emergency treatment, and proper conditions and precautions of safe use or exposure. Where appropriate, such rules shall so prescribe suitable protective equipment and control or technological procedures to be used in connection with such hazards and shall provide for monitoring or measuring employee exposure at such locations and intervals, and in such manner as may be reasonably necessary for the protection of employees. In addition, where appropriate, any such rule shall prescribe the type and frequency of medical examinations or other tests which shall be made available, by the employer or at his cost, to employees exposed to such hazards in order to most effectively determine whether the health of such employees is adversely affected by such exposure. In the event that such medical examinations are in the nature of research, as determined by the director, such examinations may be furnished at the expense of the department. The results of such examinations or tests shall be furnished only to the director, other appropriate agencies of government, and at the request of the employee to his physician.

(3) Whenever the director adopts by rule any safety and health standard he may at the same time provide by rule the effective date of such standard which shall not be less than thirty days, excepting emergency rules, but may be made effective at such time in excess of thirty days from the date of adoption as specified in any rule adopting a safety and health standard. Any rule not made effective thirty days after adoption, having a delayed effectiveness in excess of thirty days, may only be made upon a finding made by the director that such delayed effectiveness of the rule is reasonably necessary to afford the affected employers a reasonable opportunity to make changes in methods, means, or practices to meet the requirements of the adopted rule. Temporary orders granting a variance may be utilized by the director in lieu of the delayed effectiveness in the adoption of any rule. [1973 c 80 § 24.]

**49.17.250 Voluntary compliance program—Consultation and advisory services.** (1) In carrying out the responsibilities for the development of a voluntary compliance program under the authority of RCW 49.17.050(8) and the rendering of advisory and consultative services to employers, the director may grant an employer's application for advice and consultation, and for the purpose of affording such consultation and advice visit the employer's work place. Such consultation and advice shall be limited to the matters specified in the request affecting the interpretation and applicability of safety and health standards to the conditions, structures, machines, equipment, apparatus, devices, materials, methods, means, and practices in the employer's work place. The director in granting any requests for consultative or advisory service may provide for an alternative means of affording consultation and advice other than on-site consultation.

(2) The director, or an authorized representative, will make recommendations regarding the elimination of any hazards disclosed within the scope of the on-site consultation. No visit to an employer's work place shall be regarded as an inspection or investigation under the authority of this chapter, and no notices or citations shall be issued, nor, shall any civil penalties be assessed upon such visit, nor shall any

authorized representative of the director designated to render advice and consult with employers under the voluntary compliance program have any enforcement authority: PROVIDED, That in the event an on-site visit discloses a serious violation of a health and safety standard as defined in RCW 49.17.180(6), and the hazard of such violation is either not abated by the cooperative action of the employer, or, is not subject to being satisfactorily abated by the cooperative action of the employer, the director shall either invoke the administrative restraining authority provided in RCW 49.17.130 or seek the issuance of injunctive process under the authority of RCW 49.17.170 or invoke both such remedies.

(3) Nothing in this section shall be construed as providing immunity to any employer who has made application for consultative services during the pendency of the granting of such application from inspections or investigations conducted under RCW 49.17.070 or any inspection conducted as a result of a complaint, nor immunity from inspections under RCW 49.17.070 or inspections resulting from a complaint subsequent to the conclusion of the consultative period. This section shall not be construed as requiring an inspection under RCW 49.17.070 of any work place which has been visited for consultative purposes. However, in the event of a subsequent inspection, the director, or an authorized representative, may in his or her discretion take into consideration any information obtained during the consultation visit of that work place in determining the nature of an alleged violation and the amount of penalties to be assessed, if any. Such rules and regulations to be promulgated pursuant to this section shall provide that in all instances of serious violations as defined in RCW 49.17.180(6) which are disclosed in any consultative period, shall be corrected within a specified period of time at the expiration of which an inspection will be conducted under the authority of RCW 49.17.070. All employers requesting consultative services shall be advised of the provisions of this section and the rules adopted by the director relating to the voluntary compliance program. Information obtained by the department as a result of employer-requested consultation and training services shall be deemed confidential and shall not be open to public inspection. Within thirty days of receipt, the employer shall make voluntary services reports available to employees or their collective bargaining representatives for review. Employers may satisfy the availability requirement by requesting a copy of the reports from the department. The director may provide by rule for the frequency, manner, and method of the rendering of consultative services to employers, and for the scheduling and priorities in granting applications consistent with the availability of personnel, and in such a manner as not to jeopardize the enforcement requirements of this chapter. [1991 c 89 § 2; 1973 c 80 § 25.]

**49.17.260 Statistics—Investigations—Reports.** In furtherance of the objects and purposes of this chapter, the director shall develop and maintain an effective program of collection, compilation, and analysis of industrial safety and health statistics. The director, or his authorized representative, shall investigate and analyze industrial catastrophes, serious injuries, and fatalities occurring in any work place

subject to this chapter, in an effort to ascertain whether such injury or fatality occurred as the result of a violation of this chapter, or any safety and health standard, rule, or order promulgated pursuant to this chapter, or if not, whether a safety and health standard or rule should be promulgated for application to such circumstances. The director shall adopt rules relating to the conducting and reporting of such investigations. Such investigative report shall be deemed confidential and only available upon order of the superior court after notice to the director and an opportunity for hearing: PROVIDED, That such investigative reports shall be made available without the necessity of obtaining a court order, to employees of governmental agencies in the performance of their official duties, to the injured workman or his legal representative or his labor organization representative, or to the legal representative or labor organization representative of a deceased workman who was the subject of an investigation, or to the employer of the injured or deceased workman or any other employer or person whose actions or business operation is the subject of the report of investigation, or any attorney representing a party in any pending legal action in which an investigative report constitutes relevant and material evidence in such legal action. [1973 c 80 § 26.]

**49.17.270 Administration of chapter.** The department shall be the sole and paramount administrative agency responsible for the administration of the provisions of this chapter, and any other agency of the state or any municipal corporation or political subdivision of the state having administrative authority over the inspection, survey, investigation, or any regulatory or enforcement authority of safety and health standards related to the health and safety of employees in any work place subject to this chapter, shall be required, notwithstanding any statute to the contrary, to exercise such authority as provided in this chapter and subject to interagency agreement or agreements with the department made under the authority of the interlocal cooperation act (chapter 39.34 RCW) relative to the procedures to be followed in the enforcement of this chapter: PROVIDED, That in relation to employers using or possessing sources of ionizing radiation the department of labor and industries and the department of social and health services shall agree upon mutual policies, rules, and regulations compatible with policies, rules, and regulations adopted pursuant to chapter 70.98 RCW insofar as such policies, rules, and regulations are not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter. [1973 c 80 § 27.]

**49.17.280 Agricultural workers and handlers of agricultural pesticides—Coordination of regulation and enforcement with department of agriculture.** (1) As used in this section, "federal worker protection standard" or "federal standard" means the worker protection standard for agricultural workers and handlers of agricultural pesticides adopted by the United States environmental protection agency in 40 C.F.R., part 170 as it exists on June 6, 1996.

(2)(a) No rule adopted under this chapter may impose requirements that make compliance with the federal worker protection standard impossible.

(b) The department shall adopt by rule safety and health standards that are at least as effective as the federal standard. Standards adopted by the department under this section shall be adopted in coordination with the department of agriculture.

(3) If a violation of the federal worker protection standard, or of state rules regulating activities governed by the federal standard, is investigated by the department and by the department of agriculture, the agencies shall conduct a joint investigation if feasible, and shall share relevant information. However, an investigation conducted by the department under Title 51 RCW solely with regard to industrial insurance shall not be considered to be an investigation by the department for this purpose. The agencies shall not issue duplicate citations to an individual or business for the same violation of the federal standard or state rules regulating activities governed by the federal standard. By December 1, 1996, the department and the department of agriculture shall jointly establish a formal agreement that: Identifies the roles of each of the two agencies in conducting investigations of activities governed by the federal standard; and provides for protection of workers and enforcement of standards that is at least as effective as provided to all workers under this chapter. The department's role under the agreement shall not extend beyond protection of safety and health in the workplace as provided under this chapter. [1996 c 260 § 2.]

**Finding—Intent—1996 c 260:** "The legislature finds that the state's highly productive and efficient agriculture sector is composed predominately of family owned and managed farms and an industrious and efficient work force. It is the intent of the legislature that the department of agriculture and the department of labor and industries coordinate adoption, implementation, and enforcement of a common set of worker protection standards related to pesticides in order to avoid inconsistency and conflict in the application of those rules. It is also the intent of the legislature that the department of agriculture and the department of labor and industries coordinate investigations with the department of health as well. Further, coordination of enforcement procedures under chapter 260, Laws of 1996 shall not reduce the effectiveness of the enforcement provisions of the Washington industrial safety and health act of 1973 or the Washington pesticide application act. Finally, when the department of agriculture or the department of labor and industries anticipates regulatory changes to standards regarding pesticide application and handling, they shall involve the affected parties in the rule-making process and solicit relevant information. The department of agriculture and the department of labor and industries shall identify differences in their respective jurisdictions and penalty structures and publish those differences." [1996 c 260 § 1.]

**Severability—1996 c 260:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1996 c 260 § 6.]

*Department of agriculture authority: RCW 17.21.440.*

**49.17.900 Short title.** This act shall be known and cited as the Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act of 1973. [1973 c 80 § 29.]

**49.17.910 Severability—1973 c 80.** If any provision of this act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1973 c 80 § 30.]

**Chapter 49.22**  
**SAFETY—CRIME PREVENTION**

## Sections

- 49.22.010 Definitions.  
49.22.020 Late night retail establishments—Duties.  
49.22.030 Enforcement.  
49.22.900 Effective date—Implementation—1989 c 357.

**49.22.010 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, the following terms have the meanings indicated unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Department" means the department of labor and industries.

(2) "Late night retail establishment" means any business or commercial establishment making sales to the public between the hours of eleven o'clock p.m. and six o'clock a.m., except restaurants, hotels, taverns, or any lodging facility.

(3) "Employer" means the operator, lessee, or franchisee of a late night retail establishment. [1989 c 357 § 1.]

**49.22.020 Late night retail establishments—Duties.** In addition to providing crime prevention training as provided in \*section 2 of this act, all employers operating late night retail establishments shall:

(1) Post a conspicuous sign in the window or door which states that there is a safe on the premises and it is not accessible to the employees on the premises and that the cash register contains only the minimal amount of cash needed to conduct business: PROVIDED, That an employer shall not be subject to penalties under RCW 49.22.030 for having moneys in the cash register in excess of the minimal amount needed to conduct business;

(2) So arrange all material posted in the window or door so as to provide a clear and unobstructed view of the cash register, provided the cash register is otherwise in a position visible from the street;

(3) Have a drop-safe, limited access safe, or comparable device on the premises; and

(4) Operate the outside lights for that portion of the parking area that is necessary to accommodate customers during all night hours the late night retail establishment is open, if the late night retail establishment has a parking area for its customers. [1989 c 357 § 3.]

\*Reviser's note: "Section 2 of this act" was vetoed by the governor.

**49.22.030 Enforcement.** The requirements of this chapter shall be implemented and enforced, including rules, citations, violations, penalties, appeals, and other administrative procedures by the director of the department of labor and industries pursuant to the Washington industrial safety and health act of 1973, chapter 49.17 RCW. [1989 c 357 § 4.]

**49.22.900 Effective date—Implementation—1989 c 357.** This act shall take effect January 1, 1990. The director of the department of labor and industries may immediately take such steps as are necessary to ensure that this act is implemented on its effective date. [1989 c 357 § 7.]

**Chapter 49.24**  
**HEALTH AND SAFETY—UNDERGROUND WORKERS**

## Sections

- 49.24.010 Pressure defined.  
49.24.020 Compressed air safety requirements.  
49.24.030 Medical and nursing attendants.  
49.24.040 Examination as to physical fitness.  
49.24.060 Penalty.  
49.24.070 Enforcement.  
49.24.080 Requirements for underground labor.  
49.24.100 Lighting appliances.  
49.24.110 Exhaust valves.  
49.24.120 Fire prevention.  
49.24.130 Air chambers—Hanging walks.  
49.24.140 Locks.  
49.24.150 Explosives and detonators.  
49.24.160 Air plant—Feed water.  
49.24.170 Electric power requirements.  
49.24.180 Inspection.  
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49.24.200 Speed of vehicles.  
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49.24.240 Inspection after blast.  
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49.24.270 Shields to be provided.  
49.24.280 Caissons to be braced.  
49.24.290 Cages—Hoisting apparatus.  
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49.24.320 Location of lights.  
49.24.330 Generators, transformers, etc., to be grounded.  
49.24.340 Electrical voltage.  
49.24.350 Lamps to be held in reserve.  
49.24.360 Insulators required.  
49.24.370 Director to make rules and regulations.  
49.24.380 Penalty.

*Coal mining code: Title 78 RCW.*

*Protection of employees: State Constitution Art. 2 § 35.*

*Supervisor of safety: RCW 43.22.040.*

**49.24.010 Pressure defined.** The term "pressure" means gauge air pressure in pounds per square inch. [1937 c 131 § 1; RRS § 7666-1.]

**49.24.020 Compressed air safety requirements.** Every employer of persons for work in compressed air shall:

(1) Connect at least two air pipes with the working chamber and keep such pipes in perfect working condition;

(2) Attach to the working chamber in accessible positions all instruments necessary to show its pressure and keep such instruments in charge of competent persons, with a period of duty for each such person not exceeding six hours in any twenty-four;

(3) Place in each shaft a safe ladder extending its entire length;

(4) Light properly and keep clear such passageway;

(5) Provide independent lighting systems for the working chamber and shaft leading to it, when electricity is used for lighting;

(6) Guard lights other than electric lights;

(7) Protect workmen by a shield erected in the working chamber when such chamber is less than ten feet long and

is suspended with more than nine feet space between its deck and the bottom of the excavation;

(8) Provide for and keep accessible to employees working in compressed air a dressing room heated, lighted and ventilated properly and supplied with benches, lockers, sanitary waterclosets, bathing facilities and hot and cold water;

(9) Establish and maintain a medical lock properly heated, lighted, ventilated and supplied with medicines and surgical implements, when the maximum air pressure exceeds seventeen pounds. [1937 c 131 § 2; RRS § 7666-2.]

**49.24.030 Medical and nursing attendants.** Every employer of persons for work in compressed air shall:

(1) Keep at the place of work at all necessary times a duly qualified medical officer to care for cases of illness and to administer strictly and enforce RCW 49.24.020 and 49.24.040;

(2) Keep at a medical lock required by RCW 49.24.020(9) a certified nurse selected by the medical officer required by subdivision (1) of this section and qualified to give temporary relief in cases of illness. [1937 c 131 § 3; RRS § 7666-3.]

**49.24.040 Examination as to physical fitness.** If an employee is a new employee, an absentee for ten or more successive days, an employee who has worked in compressed air continuously for three months or a beginner in compressed air who has worked but a single shaft [shift] as required by \*RCW 49.24.050, the officer required by RCW 49.24.030(1) shall examine him and declare him physically fit to work in compressed air before permitting him to enter or reenter the working chamber. Excessive users of intoxicants shall not be permitted to work in compressed air. [1937 c 131 § 4; RRS § 7666-4.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 49.24.050 was repealed by 1963 c 105 § 1.

**49.24.060 Penalty.** Violation of or noncompliance with any provision of \*this article by any employer, manager, superintendent, foreman or other person having direction or control of such work shall be a gross misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than two hundred and fifty dollars or by imprisonment for not more than one year or by both such fine and imprisonment. [1937 c 131 § 7; RRS § 7666-7.]

\*Reviser's note: "this article" appears in the session law (1937 c 131), an eight section act which was not subdivided by "article" organization. Such act is codified herein as RCW 49.24.010 through 49.24.070.

**49.24.070 Enforcement.** The director of labor and industries shall have the power and it shall be the director's duty to enforce the provisions of RCW 49.24.010 through 49.24.070. Any authorized inspector or agent of the department may issue and serve upon the employer or person in charge of such work, an order requiring compliance with a special provision or specific provisions of RCW 49.24.010 through 49.24.070 and directing the discontinuance of any employment of persons in compressed air in connection with such work until such specific provision or provisions have been complied with by such employer to the satisfaction of

the department. [1994 c 164 § 23; 1973 1st ex.s. c 52 § 7; 1937 c 131 § 8; RRS § 7666-8.]

Effective date—1973 1st ex.s. c 52: See note following RCW 43.22.010.

**49.24.080 Requirements for underground labor.**

Every person, firm or corporation constructing, building or operating a tunnel, quarry, caisson or subway, excepting in connection with mines, with or without compressed air, shall in the employment of any labor comply with the following safety provisions:

(1) A safety miner shall be selected by the crew on each shift who shall check the conditions necessary to make the working place safe; such as loose rock, faulty timbers, poor rails, lights, ladders, scaffolds, fan pipes and firing lines.

(2) Ventilating fans shall be installed from twenty-five to one hundred feet outside the portal.

(3) No employee shall be allowed to "bar down" without the assistance of another employee.

(4) No employee shall be permitted to return to the heading until at least thirty minutes after blasting.

(5) Whenever persons are employed in wet places, the employer shall furnish such persons with rubbers, boots, coats and hats. All boots if worn previously by an employee shall be sterilized before being furnished to another: PROVIDED, That RCW 49.24.080 through 49.24.380 shall not apply to the operation of a railroad except that new construction of tunnels, caissons or subways in connection therewith shall be subject to the provisions of RCW 49.24.080 through 49.24.380: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That in the event of repair work being done in a railroad tunnel, no person shall be compelled to perform labor until the air has been cleared of smoke, gas and fumes. [1973 1st ex.s. c 154 § 89; 1965 c 144 § 1; 1941 c 194 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7666-9.]

Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 154: See note following RCW 2.12.030.

**49.24.100 Lighting appliances.** (1) All lighting in compressed air chambers shall be by electricity only. Wherever practicable there shall be two independent lighting systems with independent sources of supply.

(2) The exterior of all lamp sockets shall be entirely nonmetallic.

(3) All portable incandescent lamps used shall be guarded by a wire cage large enough to enclose both lamp and socket.

(4) All incandescent lamps shall be so placed that they cannot come in contact with any combustible material.

(5) Only heavy insulated or armored wire shall be used for light or power. [1941 c 194 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7666-11.]

**49.24.110 Exhaust valves.** Exhaust valves shall be provided, having risers extending to the upper part of chamber, if necessary, and shall be operated at such times as may be required and especially after a blast, and persons shall not be required to resume work after a blast until the gas and smoke have cleared, for at least thirty minutes. [1973 1st ex.s. c 154 § 90; 1941 c 194 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7666-12.]



**Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 154:** See note following RCW 2.12.030.

**49.24.120 Fire prevention.** All reasonable precaution shall be taken against fire, and provisions shall be made so that water lines shall be available for use at all times. Fire hose connections with hose connected shall be installed in all power plants and work houses. There shall be fire hose connections within reasonable distance of all caissons. Fire hose shall be connected at either side of a tunnel bulkhead, with at least fifty feet of hose with nozzle connection. Water lines shall extend into each tunnel with hose connections every two hundred feet and shall be kept ready for use at all times. [1941 c 194 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7666-13.]

**49.24.130 Air chambers—Hanging walks.** (1) Whenever the air pressure in a tunnel heading exceeds twenty-one pounds per square inch above atmospheric pressure, two air chambers shall always be in use, except for such time as may be necessary when headings are being started from shafts; and whenever practicable the pressure in the outer chamber shall not exceed one-half the pressure in the heading;

(2) In all tunnels sixteen feet in diameter or over, hanging walks shall be provided from working face to nearest lock. An overhead clearance of six feet shall be maintained and suitable ramps provided under all safety screens. [1941 c 194 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7666-14.]

**49.24.140 Locks.** (1) Each bulkhead in tunnels of twelve feet or more in diameter or equivalent area, shall have at least two locks in perfect working condition, one of which shall be used as a man lock. An additional lock for use in case of emergency shall be held in reserve.

(2) The man lock shall be large enough so that those using it are not compelled to be in a cramped position, and shall not be less than five feet in height. Emergency locks shall be large enough to hold an entire heading shift.

(3) All locks used for decompression shall be lighted by electricity and shall contain a pressure gauge, a time piece, a glass "bull's eye" in each door or in each end, and shall also have facilities for heating.

(4) Valves shall be so arranged that the locks can be operated both from within and from without. [1941 c 194 § 7; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7666-15.]

**49.24.150 Explosives and detonators.** When locking explosives and detonators into the air chamber, they shall be kept at opposite ends of the lock. While explosives and detonators are being taken through, no men other than the lock tender and the carriers shall be permitted in the lock. [1941 c 194 § 8; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7666-16.]

**49.24.160 Air plant—Feed water.** (1) A good and sufficient air plant for the compression of air shall be provided to meet not only ordinary conditions, but emergencies, and to provide margin for repairs at all times. Provision must be made for storing in tanks at each boiler house enough feed water for twelve hours' supply unless connection can be made with two independent and separately sufficient sources of supply.

(2) The plant shall be capable of furnishing to each working chamber a sufficient air supply for all pressure to enable work to be done. [1941 c 194 § 9; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7666-17.]

**49.24.170 Electric power requirements.** When electric power is used for running compressors supplying air for compressed air tunnel work and such power is purchased from a local central station or power company—

(1) There shall be two or more sources of power from the power company's stations to the compressor plant. Such power feeders shall each have a capacity large enough to carry the entire compressor plant load and normal overload. The feeders shall preferably run from separate generating plants or substations and be carried to the compressor plant over separate routes and not through the same duct lines and manholes so that the breakdown of one feeder shall not cause an interruption on the other feeder.

(2) There shall be duplicate feeder bus-bars, and feeder connections to the bus-bars shall be such that either feeder can feed to each separate bus-bar set, individually, or simultaneously to both sets.

(3) There shall be at least two compressors so connected to the bus-bars that they can be operated from either set of busses. The compressors shall be fed from different bus-bar sets, in such a way that a breakdown of a feeder or bus-bar would interrupt the operation of only part of the compressor plant.

(4) Duplicate air feed pipes shall be provided from the compressor plant to a point beyond the lock. [1941 c 194 § 10; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7666-18.]

**49.24.180 Inspection.** While work is in progress, the employer shall employ a competent person who shall make a regular inspection at least once every working day of all engines, boilers, steam pipes, drills, air pipes, air gauges, air locks, dynamos, electric wiring, signaling apparatus, brakes, cages, buckets, hoists, cables, ropes, timbers, supports, and all other apparatus and appliances; and he shall immediately upon discovery of any defect, report same in writing to the employer, or his agent in charge. [1941 c 194 § 11; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7666-19.]

**49.24.190 Cars, cages, buckets—Employees riding or walking.** No employee shall ride on any loaded car, cage or bucket, nor walk up or down any incline or shaft while any car, cage or bucket is above him. [1941 c 194 § 12; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7666-20.]

**49.24.200 Speed of vehicles.** No vehicle shall be operated underground at a speed greater than five miles an hour, while construction work is going on. [1941 c 194 § 13; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7666-21.]

**49.24.210 Oil supply restricted.** Oil for illumination or power shall not be taken into the underground workings of any tunnel or kept therein in greater quantities than one day's supply. [1941 c 194 § 14; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7666-22.]

**49.24.220 Explosives, use of—Blasting.** (1) No greater quantity of explosives than that which is required for immediate use shall be taken into the working chamber.

(2) Explosives shall be conveyed in a suitable covered wooden box.

(3) Detonators shall be conveyed in a separate covered wooden box.

(4) Explosives and detonators shall be taken separately into the caissons.

(5) After blasting is completed, all explosives and detonators shall be returned at once to the magazine.

(6) No naked light shall be used in the vicinity of open chests or magazines containing explosives, nor near where a charge is being primed.

(7) No tools or other articles shall be carried with the explosives or with the detonators.

(8) All power lines and electric light wires shall be disconnected at a point outside the blasting switch before the loading of holes. No current by grounding of power or bonded rails shall be allowed beyond blasting switch after explosives are taken in preparatory to blasting, and under no circumstances shall grounded current be used for exploding blasts.

(9) Before drilling is commenced on any shift, all remaining holes shall be examined with a wooden stick for unexploded charges or cartridges, and if any are found, same shall be refired before work proceeds.

(10) No person shall be allowed to deepen holes that have previously contained explosives.

(11) All wires in broken rock shall be carefully traced and search made for unexploded cartridges.

(12) Whenever blasting is being done in a tunnel, at points liable to break through to where other men are at work, the foreman or person in charge shall, before any holes are loaded, give warning of danger to all persons that may be working where the blasts may break through, and he shall not allow any holes to be charged until warning is acknowledged and men are removed.

(13) Blasters when testing circuit through charged holes shall use sufficient leading wires to be at a safe distance and shall use only approved types of galvanometers. No tests of circuits in charged holes shall be made until men are removed to safe distance.

(14) No blasts shall be fired with fuse, except electrical-ly ignited fuse, in vertical or steep shafts.

(15) In shaft sinking where the electric current is used for firing, a separate switch not controlling any electric lights must be used for blasting and proper safeguard similar to those in tunnels must be followed in order to insure against premature firing. [1941 c 194 § 15; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7666-23.]

*Explosives: Chapter 70.74 RCW.*

**49.24.230 Firing switch—Warning by blaster.** When firing by electricity from power or lighting wires, a proper switch shall be furnished with lever down when "off".

The switch shall be fixed in a locked box to which no person shall have access except the blaster. There shall be provided flexible leads or connecting wires not less than five feet in length with one end attached to the incoming lines and the other end provided with plugs that can be connected

to an effective ground. After blasting, the switch lever shall be pulled out, the wires disconnected and the box locked before any person shall be allowed to return, and shall remain so locked until again ready to blast.

In the working chamber all electric light wires shall be provided with a disconnecting switch, which must be thrown to disconnect all current from the wires in the working chamber before electric light wires are removed or the charge exploded.

Before blasting the blaster shall cause a sufficient warning to be sounded and shall compel all persons to retreat to a safe shelter, before he sets off the blast, and shall permit no one to return until conditions are safe. [1941 c 194 § 16; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7666-24.]

**49.24.240 Inspection after blast.** (1) After a blast is fired, loosened pieces of rock shall be scaled from the sides of the excavation and after the blasting is completed, the entire working chamber shall be thoroughly scaled.

(2) The person in charge shall inspect the working chamber and have all loose rock or ground removed and the chamber made safe before proceeding with the work.

(3) Drilling must not be started until all remaining butts of old holes are examined for unexploded charges. [1941 c 194 § 17; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7666-25.]

**49.24.250 Code of signals.** Any code of signals used shall be printed and copies thereof, in such languages as may be necessary to be understood by all persons affected thereby, shall be kept posted in a conspicuous place near entrances to work places and in such other places as may be necessary to bring them to the attention of all persons affected thereby.

Effective and reliable signaling devices shall be maintained at all times to give instant communication between the bottom and top of the shaft. [1941 c 194 § 18; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7666-26.]

**49.24.260 Requirements as to caissons.** All shafting used in pneumatic caissons shall be provided with ladders, which are to be kept clear and in good condition at all times. The distance between the centers of the rungs of a ladder shall not exceed fourteen inches and shall not vary more than one inch in any one piece of shafting. The length of the ladder rungs shall not be less than nine inches. The rungs of the ladder shall in no case be less than three inches from the wall or other obstruction in the shafting or opening in which the ladder shall be used. Under no circumstances shall a ladder inclining backward from the vertical be installed. A suitable ladder shall be provided from the top of all locks to the surface.

All man shafts shall be lighted at a distance of every ten feet with a guarded incandescent lamp.

All outside caisson air locks shall be provided with a platform not less than forty-two inches wide, and provided with a guard rail forty-two inches high.

All caissons in which fifteen or more men are employed shall have two locks, one of which shall be used as a man lock. Man locks and man shafts shall be in charge of a man whose duty it shall be to operate said lock and shaft. All caissons more than ten feet in diameter shall be provided

with a separate man shaft, which shall be kept clear and in operating order at all times.

Locks shall be so located that the distance between the bottom door and water level shall be not less than three feet. [1941 c 194 § 19; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7666-27.]

**49.24.270 Shields to be provided.** Wherever, in the prosecution of caisson work in which compressed air is employed, the working chamber is less than twelve feet in length, and when such caissons are at any time suspended or hung while work is in progress, so that the bottom of the excavation is more than nine feet below the deck of the working chamber, a shield shall be erected therein for the protection of the workers. [1989 c 12 § 15; 1941 c 194 § 20; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7666-28.]

**49.24.280 Caissons to be braced.** All caissons shall be properly and adequately braced before loading with concrete or other weight. [1941 c 194 § 21; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7666-29.]

**49.24.290 Cages—Hoisting apparatus.** In all shafts where men are hoisted or lowered, an iron-bonneted cage shall be used for the conveyance of men, but this provision shall not apply to shafts in the process of sinking or during the dismantling of the shaft after work in the tunnel is substantially completed.

Cages shall be provided with bonnets consisting of two steel plates not less than three-sixteenths of an inch in thickness, sloping toward each side and so arranged that they may be readily pushed upward to afford egress to persons therein, and such bonnet shall cover the top of the cage in such manner as to protect persons in the cage from falling objects.

Cages shall be entirely enclosed on two sides with solid partition or wire mesh not less than No. 8 U.S. Standard gauge, no opening in which shall exceed two inches.

Cages shall be provided with hanging chains or other similar devices for hand holds.

Every cage shall be provided with an approved safety catch of sufficient strength to hold the cage with its maximum load at any point in the shaft.

All parts of the hoisting apparatus, cables, brakes, guides and fastenings shall be of the most substantial design and shall be arranged for convenient inspection. The efficiency of all safety devices shall be established by satisfactory tests before the cages are put into service and at least once every three months thereafter and a record thereof kept.

The test of the safety catch shall consist of releasing the cage suddenly in such manner that the safety catches shall have opportunity to grip the guides. [1941 c 194 § 22; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7666-30.]

**49.24.300 Buckets in vertical shafts.** In all vertical shafts in which hoisting is done by means of a bucket, suitable guides shall be provided when the depth exceeds ten times the diameter or width of the shaft, but in no case shall the maximum depth without guides exceed one hundred and fifty feet. In connection with the bucket, there shall be a crosshead traveling between these guides. The height of the crosshead shall be at least two-thirds of its width, but the

height in no case shall be less than thirty inches. [1941 c 194 § 23; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7666-31.]

**49.24.310 Telephone system for tunnels.** Where tunnels are driven from shafts more than two hundred and fifty feet deep, a telephone system shall be established and maintained, communicating with the surface at each such shaft, and with a station or stations readily and quickly accessible to the men at the working level. [1941 c 194 § 24; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7666-32.]

**49.24.320 Location of lights.** (1) While work is in progress, tunnels, stairways, ladderways and all places on the surface where work is being conducted, shall be properly lighted. In shafts more than one hundred feet deep, the shaft below that point shall be lighted.

(2) All places where hoisting, pumping or other machinery is erected and in the proximity of which persons are working or moving about, shall be so lighted when the machine is in operation that the moving parts of such machine can be clearly distinguished. [1941 c 194 § 25; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7666-33.]

**49.24.330 Generators, transformers, etc., to be grounded.** The frames and bed plates of generators, transformers, compensators, rheostats and motors installed underground shall be effectively grounded. All metallic coverings, armoring of cables, other than trailing cables, and the neutral wire of three-wire systems shall also be so grounded. [1941 c 194 § 26; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7666-34.]

**49.24.340 Electrical voltage.** In electrical systems installed, no higher voltage than low voltage shall be used underground, except for transmission or other application to transformers, motors, generators or other apparatus in which the whole of the medium or high voltage apparatus is stationary. [1941 c 194 § 27; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7666-35.]

**49.24.350 Lamps to be held in reserve.** Lamps or other proper lights shall be kept ready for use in all underground stations where a failure of electric light is likely to cause danger. [1941 c 194 § 28; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7666-36.]

**49.24.360 Insulators required.** (1) All underground cables and wires, unless provided with grounded metallic covering, shall be supported by efficient insulators. The conductors connecting lamps to the power supply shall in all cases be insulated.

(2) Cables and wires unprovided with metallic coverings shall not be fixed to walls or timbers by means of uninsulated fastenings. [1941 c 194 § 29; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7666-37.]

**49.24.370 Director to make rules and regulations.** The director of labor and industries shall establish such rules and regulations as he deems primarily necessary for the safety of the employees employed in tunnels, quarries, caissons and subways and shall be guided by the most modern published studies and researches made by persons or

institutions into the correction of the evils chargeable to improper safeguards and inspection of the tools, machinery, equipment and places of work obtaining in the industries covered by RCW 49.24.080 through 49.24.380. [1941 c 194 § 32; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7666-39.]

**49.24.380 Penalty.** Every person violating any of the provisions of RCW 49.24.080 through 49.24.380 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. [1941 c 194 § 31; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7666-38.]

## Chapter 49.26

### HEALTH AND SAFETY—ASBESTOS

#### Sections

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**49.26.010 Legislative declaration.** Air-borne asbestos dust and particles, such as those from sprayed asbestos slurry, asbestos-coated ventilating ducts, and certain other applications of asbestos are known to produce irreversible lung damage and bronchogenic carcinoma. One American of every four dying in urban areas of the United States has asbestos particles or dust in his lungs. The nature of this problem is such as to constitute a hazard to the public health and safety, and should be brought under appropriate regulation. [1973 c 30 § 1.]

**49.26.013 Inspection of construction projects required.** (1) Any owner or owner's agent who allows or authorizes any construction, renovation, remodeling, maintenance, repair, or demolition project which has a reasonable possibility, as defined by the department, of disturbing or releasing asbestos into the air, shall perform or cause to be performed, using practices approved by the department, a good faith inspection to determine whether the proposed project will disturb or release any material containing asbestos into the air.

Such inspections shall be conducted by persons meeting the accreditation requirements of the federal toxics substances control act, section 206(a) (1) and (3) (15 U.S.C. 2646(a) (1) and (3)).

An inspection under this section is not required if the owner or owner's agent is reasonably certain that asbestos will not be disturbed or assumes that asbestos will be disturbed by a project which involves construction, reno-

vation, remodeling, maintenance, repair, or demolition and takes the maximum precautions as specified by all applicable federal and state requirements.

(2) Except as provided in RCW 49.26.125, the owner or owner's agent shall prepare and maintain a written report describing each inspection, or a statement of assumption of the presence or reasonable certainty of the absence of asbestos, and shall provide a copy of the written report or statement to all contractors before they apply or bid on work. In addition, upon written or oral request, the owner or owner's agent shall make a copy of the written report available to: (1) The department of labor and industries; (2) contractors; and (3) the collective bargaining representatives or employee representatives, if any, of employees who may be exposed to any asbestos or material containing asbestos. A copy shall be posted as prescribed by the department in a place that is easily accessible to such employees. [1995 c 218 § 1; 1989 c 154 § 2. Prior: 1988 c 271 § 7.]

**Purpose—1989 c 154:** "The purpose of chapter 154, Laws of 1989 is to make corrections to chapter 271, Laws of 1988, and to ensure that the changes made in that chapter meet the constitutional requirements of Article II, section 19 of the state Constitution." [1989 c 154 § 1.]

**Severability—1989 c 154:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1989 c 154 § 14.]

**49.26.016 Inspection of construction projects—Penalties.** (1) Any owner or owner's agent who allows the start of any construction, renovation, remodeling, maintenance, repair, or demolition without first (a) conducting the inspection and preparing and maintaining the report of the inspection, or preparing and maintaining a statement of assumption of the presence or reasonable certainty of the absence of asbestos, as required under RCW 49.26.013; and (b) preparing and maintaining the additional written description of the project as required under RCW 49.26.120 shall be subject to a mandatory fine of not less than two hundred fifty dollars for each violation. Each day the violation continues shall be considered a separate violation. In addition, any construction, renovation, remodeling, maintenance, repair, or demolition which was started without meeting the requirements of RCW 49.26.013 and 49.26.120 shall be halted immediately and cannot be resumed before meeting such requirements.

(2) No contractor may commence any construction, renovation, remodeling, maintenance, repair or demolition project without receiving the copy of the written report or statement from the owner or the owner's agent. Any contractor who begins any project without the copy of the written report or statement shall be subject to a mandatory fine of not less than two hundred and fifty dollars per day. Each day the violation continues shall be considered a separate violation.

(3) The certificate of any asbestos contractor who knowingly violates any provision of this chapter or any rule adopted under this chapter shall be revoked for a period of not less than six months.

(4) The penalties imposed in this section are in addition to any penalties under RCW 49.26.140. [1995 c 218 § 2; 1989 c 154 § 3. Prior: 1988 c 271 § 8.]

**Purpose—Severability—1989 c 154:** See notes following RCW 49.26.013.

**49.26.020 Asbestos use standards.** Standards regulating the use of asbestos in construction or manufacturing shall be established by the director of the department of labor and industries, with the advice of the state health officer and the department of ecology. Standards to be adopted shall describe the types of asbestos that may be used in construction and manufacturing, the methods and procedures for their use, and such other requirements as may be needed to protect the public health and safety with respect to air-borne asbestos particles and asbestos dust. [1973 c 30 § 2.]

**49.26.030 Containers for asbestos products.** Products containing asbestos shall be stored in containers of types approved by the director of the department of labor and industries, with the advice of the state health officer and the department of ecology. Containers of asbestos shall be plainly marked "Asbestos—do not inhale" or other words to the same effect. [1973 c 30 § 3.]

**49.26.040 Regulations—Enforcement.** The asbestos use standards required under RCW 49.26.020 and the list of approved container types required under RCW 49.26.030 shall be adopted as regulations of the department of labor and industries. The department shall have the power to implement and enforce such regulations. [1973 c 30 § 4.]

**49.26.100 Asbestos projects—Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Asbestos abatement project" means an asbestos project involving three square feet or three linear feet, or more, of asbestos-containing material.

(2) "Asbestos project" means the construction, demolition, repair, maintenance, remodeling, or renovation of any public or private building or mechanical piping equipment or systems involving the demolition, removal, encapsulation, salvage, or disposal of material, or outdoor activity, releasing or likely to release asbestos fibers into the air.

(3) "Department" means the department of labor and industries.

(4) "Director" means the director of the department of labor and industries or the director's designee.

(5) "Person" means any individual, partnership, firm, association, corporation, sole proprietorship, or the state of Washington or its political subdivisions.

(6) "Certified asbestos supervisor" means an individual who is certified by the department to supervise an asbestos project. A certified asbestos supervisor is not required for projects involving less than three square feet or three linear feet of asbestos-containing material.

(7) "Certified asbestos worker" means an individual who is certified by the department to work on an asbestos project.

(8) "Certified asbestos contractor" means any partnership, firm, association, corporation or sole proprietorship registered under chapter 18.27 RCW that submits a bid or contracts to remove or encapsulate asbestos for another and is certified by the department to remove or encapsulate asbestos.

(9) "Owner" means the owner of any public or private building, structure, facility or mechanical system, or the

agent of such owner, but does not include individuals who work on asbestos projects on their own single-family residences no part of which is used for any commercial purpose. [1995 c 218 § 3; 1989 c 154 § 4. Prior: 1988 c 271 § 6; 1985 c 387 § 1.]

**Purpose—Severability—1989 c 154:** See notes following RCW 49.26.013.

**49.26.110 Asbestos projects—Worker's and supervisor's certificates.** (1) No employee or other individual is eligible to do work governed by this chapter unless issued a certificate by the department.

(2) To qualify for a certificate:

(a) Certified asbestos workers must have successfully completed a four-day training course. Certified asbestos supervisors must have completed a five-day training course. Training courses shall be provided or approved by the department; shall cover such topics as the health and safety aspects of the removal and encapsulation of asbestos, including but not limited to the federal and state standards regarding protective clothing, respirator use, disposal, air monitoring, cleaning, and decontamination; and shall meet such additional qualifications as may be established by the department by rule for the type of certification sought. The department may require the successful completion of annual refresher courses provided or approved by the department for continued certification as an asbestos worker or supervisor. However, the authority of the director to adopt rules implementing this section is limited to rules that are specifically required, and only to the extent specifically required, for the standards to be as stringent as the applicable federal laws governing work subject to this chapter; and

(b) All applicants for certification as asbestos workers or supervisors must pass an examination in the type of certification sought which shall be provided or approved by the department.

These requirements are intended to represent the minimum requirements for certification and shall not preclude contractors or employers from providing additional education or training.

(3) The department shall provide for the reciprocal certification of any individual trained to engage in asbestos projects in another state when the prior training is shown to be substantially similar to the training required by the department. Nothing shall prevent the department from requiring such individuals to take an examination or refresher course before certification.

(4) The department may deny, suspend, or revoke a certificate, as provided under RCW 49.26.140, for failure of the holder to comply with any requirement of this chapter or chapter 49.17 RCW, or any rule adopted under those chapters, or applicable health and safety standards and regulations. In addition to any penalty imposed under RCW 49.26.016, the department may suspend or revoke any certificate issued under this chapter for a period of not less than six months upon the following grounds:

(a) The certificate was obtained through error or fraud;

or

(b) The holder thereof is judged to be incompetent to carry out the work for which the certificate was issued.

Before any certificate may be denied, suspended, or revoked, the holder thereof shall be given written notice of

the department's intention to do so, mailed by registered mail, return receipt requested, to the holder's last known address. The notice shall enumerate the allegations against such holder, and shall give him or her the opportunity to request a hearing before the department. At such hearing, the department and the holder shall have opportunity to produce witnesses and give testimony.

(5) A denial, suspension, or revocation order may be appealed to the board of industrial insurance appeals within fifteen working days after the denial, suspension, or revocation order is entered. The notice of appeal may be filed with the department or the board of industrial insurance appeals. The board of industrial insurance appeals shall hold the hearing in accordance with procedures established in RCW 49.17.140. Any party aggrieved by an order of the board of industrial insurance appeals may obtain superior court review in the manner provided in RCW 49.17.150.

(6) Each person certified under this chapter shall display, upon the request of an authorized representative of the department, valid identification issued by the department. [1995 c 218 § 4; 1989 c 154 § 5. Prior: 1988 c 271 § 10; 1985 c 387 § 2.]

**Purpose—Severability—1989 c 154:** See notes following RCW 49.26.013.

**49.26.115 Asbestos abatement projects—Contractor's certificate required.** Before working on an asbestos abatement project, a contractor shall obtain an asbestos contractor's certificate from the department and shall have in its employ at least one certified asbestos supervisor who is responsible for supervising all asbestos abatement projects undertaken by the contractor and for assuring compliance with all state laws and regulations regarding asbestos. The contractor shall apply for certification renewal every year. The department shall ensure that the expiration of the contractor's registration and the expiration of his or her asbestos contractor's certificate coincide. [1995 c 218 § 5; 1989 c 154 § 6. Prior: 1988 c 271 § 11.]

**Purpose—Severability—1989 c 154:** See notes following RCW 49.26.013.

**49.26.120 Asbestos projects—Qualified asbestos workers and supervisor—Prenotification to department—Fire personnel.** (1) No person may assign any employee, contract with, or permit any individual or person to remove or encapsulate asbestos in any facility unless performed by a certified asbestos worker and under the direct, on-site supervision of a certified asbestos supervisor. In cases in which an employer conducts an asbestos abatement project in its own facility and by its own employees, supervision can be performed in the regular course of a certified asbestos supervisor's duties. Asbestos workers must have access to certified asbestos supervisors throughout the duration of the project.

(2) The department shall require persons undertaking asbestos projects to provide written notice to the department before the commencement of the project except as provided in RCW 49.26.125. The notice shall include a written description containing such information as the department requires by rule. The department may by rule allow a

person to report multiple projects at one site in one report. The department shall by rule establish the procedure and criteria by which a person will be considered to have attempted to meet the prenotification requirement.

(3) The department shall consult with the state fire protection policy board, and may establish any additional policies and procedures for municipal fire department and fire district personnel who clean up sites after fires which have rendered it likely that asbestos has been or will be disturbed or released into the air. [1995 c 218 § 6; 1989 c 154 § 7. Prior: 1988 c 271 § 12; 1985 c 387 § 4.]

**Purpose—Severability—1989 c 154:** See notes following RCW 49.26.013.

**49.26.125 Prenotification to department—Exemptions.** Prenotification to the department under RCW 49.26.120 shall not be required for:

(1)(a) Any asbestos project involving less than forty-eight square feet of surface area, or less than ten linear feet of pipe unless the surface area of the pipe is greater than forty-eight square feet. The person undertaking such a project shall keep the reports, or statements, and written descriptions required under RCW 49.26.013 and 49.26.120 which shall be available upon request of the department. Employees and employee representatives may request such reports under RCW 49.26.013(2).

(b) The director may waive the prenotification requirement upon written request of an owner for large-scale, ongoing projects. In granting such a waiver, the director shall require the owner to provide prenotification if significant changes in personnel, methodologies, equipment, work site, or work procedures occur or are likely to occur. The director shall further require annual resubmittal of such notification.

(c) The director, upon review of an owner's reports, work practices, or other data available as a result of inspections, audits, or other authorized activities, may reduce the size threshold for prenotification required by this section. Such a change shall be based on the director's determination that significant problems in personnel, methodologies, equipment, work site, or work procedures are creating the potential for violations of this chapter or asbestos requirements under chapter 49.17 RCW. The new prenotification requirements shall be given in writing to the owner and shall remain in effect until modified or withdrawn in writing by the director.

(2) Emergency projects.

(a) As used in this section, "emergency project" means a project that was not planned and results from a sudden, unexpected event, and does not include operations that are necessitated by nonroutine failure of equipment or systems.

(b) Emergency projects which disturb or release any material containing asbestos into the air shall be reported to the department within three working days after the commencement of the project in the manner otherwise required under this chapter. A notice shall be clearly posted adjacent to the work site describing the nature of the emergency project. The employees' collective bargaining representatives, or employee representatives, or designated representatives, if any, shall be notified of the emergency as soon as possible by the person undertaking the emergency project.

Incremental phasing in the conduct or design of asbestos projects or otherwise designing or conducting asbestos projects of a size less than forty-eight square feet, or other threshold for exemption as provided under this section, with the intent of avoiding prenotification requirements is a violation of this chapter. [1989 c 154 § 8. Prior: 1988 c 271 § 13.]

**Purpose—Severability—1989 c 154:** See notes following RCW 49.26.013.

**49.26.130 Asbestos projects—Rules—Fees—Asbestos account.** (1) The department shall administer this chapter.

(2) The director of the department shall adopt, in accordance with chapters 34.05 and 49.17 RCW, rules necessary to carry out this chapter.

(3) The department shall prescribe fees for the issuance and renewal of certificates, including recertification, and the administration of examinations, and for the review of training courses.

(4) The asbestos account is hereby established in the state treasury. All fees collected under this chapter shall be deposited in the account. Moneys in the account shall be spent after appropriation only for costs incurred by the department in the administration and enforcement of this chapter. Disbursements from the account shall be on authorization of the director of the department or the director's designee. [1989 c 154 § 9. Prior: 1988 c 271 § 15; 1987 c 219 § 1; 1985 c 387 § 3.]

**Purpose—Severability—1989 c 154:** See notes following RCW 49.26.013.

**49.26.140 Asbestos projects—Enforcement—Penalties.** (1) Unless specifically provided otherwise by statute, this chapter shall be implemented and enforced, including penalties, violations, citations, and other administrative procedures, pursuant to the Washington industrial safety and health act, chapter 49.17 RCW.

(2) A person or individual who previously has been assessed a civil penalty under this section, and who knowingly violates a provision of RCW 49.26.110 through 49.26.130 or a rule adopted pursuant to RCW 49.26.110 through 49.26.130 is guilty of a misdemeanor. [1987 c 219 § 2; 1985 c 387 § 5.]

**49.26.150 Discrimination against employee filing complaint prohibited.** Any employee who notifies the department of any activity the employee reasonably believes to be a violation of this chapter or any rule adopted under this chapter or who participates in any proceeding related thereto shall have the same rights and protections against discharge or discrimination as employees are afforded under chapter 49.17 RCW. [1989 c 154 § 10. Prior: 1988 c 271 § 16.]

**Purpose—Severability—1989 c 154:** See notes following RCW 49.26.013.

**49.26.900 Severability—1973 c 30.** If any provision of this 1973 act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the

application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1973 c 30 § 5.]

**49.26.901 Effective dates—1988 c 271 §§ 6-18.** Sections 15, as reenacted and amended in 1989, and 18, chapter 271, Laws of 1988, are 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 as of March 24, 1988. Sections 6 through 8, 10 through 13, and 16, chapter 271, Laws of 1988, as reenacted or amended and reenacted in 1989, shall take effect as of January 1, 1989. [1989 c 154 § 11. Prior: 1988 c 271 § 19.]

**Purpose—Severability—1989 c 154:** See notes following RCW 49.26.013.

## Chapter 49.28 HOURS OF LABOR

Sections	
49.28.010	Eight hour day, 1899 act.
49.28.020	Eight hour day, 1899 act—Public works contracts— Emergency overtime.
49.28.030	Eight hour day, 1899 act—Penalty.
49.28.040	Eight hour day, 1903 act—Policy enunciated.
49.28.050	Eight hour day, 1903 act—Contracts, cancellation of, for violations.
49.28.060	Eight hour day, 1903 act—Stipulation in contracts—Duty of officers.
49.28.065	Public works employees—Agreements to work ten hour day.
49.28.080	Hours of domestic employees.
49.28.082	Hours of domestic employees—Exception.
49.28.084	Hours of domestic employees—Penalty.
49.28.100	Hours of operators of power equipment in waterfront opera- tions.
49.28.110	Hours of operators of power equipment in waterfront opera- tions—Penalty.
49.28.120	Employer's duty to provide time to vote.
<i>Child labor: RCW 26.28.060, 26.28.070.</i>	
<i>Hours of labor for public institutions personnel: RCW 72.01.042, 72.01.043.</i>	
<i>Prevailing wages must be paid on public works: RCW 39.12.020.</i>	

**49.28.010 Eight hour day, 1899 act.** Hereafter eight hours in any calendar day shall constitute a day's work on any work done for the state or any county or municipality within the state, subject to conditions hereinafter provided. [1899 c 101 § 1; RRS § 7642.]

**49.28.020 Eight hour day, 1899 act—Public works contracts—Emergency overtime.** All work done by contract or subcontract on any building or improvements or works on roads, bridges, streets, alleys or buildings for the state or any county or municipality within the state, shall be done under the provisions of RCW 49.28.010 through 49.28.030: PROVIDED, That in cases of extraordinary emergency such as danger to life or property, the hours for work may be extended, but in such case the rate of pay for time employed in excess of eight hours of each calendar day, shall be one and one-half times the rate of pay allowed for the same amount of time during eight hours' service. And for this purpose RCW 49.28.010 through 49.28.030 is made a part of all contracts, subcontracts or agreements for work

done for the state or any county or municipality within the state. [1899 c 101 § 2; RRS § 7643.]

**49.28.030 Eight hour day, 1899 act—Penalty.** Any contractor, subcontractor, or agent of contractor or subcontractor, foreman or employer who shall violate the provisions of RCW 49.28.010 through 49.28.030, shall be deemed guilty of misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined in a sum not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than two hundred dollars, or with imprisonment in the county jail for a period of not less than ten days nor more than ninety days, or both such fine and imprisonment, at the discretion of the court. [1899 c 101 § 3; RRS § 7644.]

**49.28.040 Eight hour day, 1903 act—Policy enunciated.** That it is a part of the public policy of the state of Washington that all work "by contract or day labor done" for it, or any political subdivision created by its laws, shall be performed in work days of not more than eight hours each, except in cases of extraordinary emergency. No case of extraordinary emergency shall be construed to exist in any case where other labor can be found to take the place of labor which has already been employed for eight hours in any calendar day. [1903 c 44 § 1; RRS § 7645.]

**49.28.050 Eight hour day, 1903 act—Contracts, cancellation of, for violations.** All contracts for work for the state of Washington, or any political subdivision created by its laws, shall provide that they may be canceled by the officers or agents authorized to contract for or supervise the execution of such work, in case such work is not performed in accordance with the policy of the state relating to such work. [1903 c 44 § 2; RRS § 7646.]

**49.28.060 Eight hour day, 1903 act—Stipulation in contracts—Duty of officers.** It is made the duty of all officers or agents authorized to contract for work to be done in behalf of the state of Washington, or any political subdivision created under its laws, to stipulate in all contracts as provided for in RCW 49.28.040 through 49.28.060, and all such officers and agents, and all officers and agents entrusted with the supervision of work performed under such contracts, are authorized, and it is made their duty, to declare any contract canceled, the execution of which is not in accordance with the public policy of this state as herein declared. [1903 c 44 § 3; RRS § 7647.]

**49.28.065 Public works employees—Agreements to work ten hour day.** Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 49.28.010 through 49.28.060, a contractor or subcontractor in any public works contract subject to those provisions may enter into an agreement with his or her employees in which the employees work up to ten hours in a calendar day. No such agreement may provide that the employees work ten-hour days for more than four calendar days a week. Any such agreement is subject to approval by the employees. The overtime provisions of RCW 49.28.020 shall not apply to the hours, up to forty hours per week, worked pursuant to agreements entered into under this section. [1988 c 121 § 1.]

**49.28.080 Hours of domestic employees.** No male or female household or domestic employee shall be employed by any person for a longer period than sixty hours in any one week. Employed time shall include minutes or hours when the employee has to remain subject to the call of the employer and when the employee is not free to follow his or her inclinations. [1937 c 129 § 1; RRS § 7651-1. FORMER PARTS OF SECTION: (i) 1937 c 129 § 2; RRS § 7651-2, now codified as RCW 49.28.082. (ii) 1937 c 129 § 4; RRS § 7651-4, now codified as RCW 49.28.084.]

**Severability—1937 c 129:** "In the event any part of this act is held invalid such invalidity shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this act." [1937 c 129 § 3.] This applies to RCW 49.28.080 through 49.28.084.

**49.28.082 Hours of domestic employees—Exception.** In cases of emergency such employee may be employed for a longer period than sixty hours. [1937 c 129 § 2; RRS § 7651-2. Formerly RCW 49.28.080, part.]

**49.28.084 Hours of domestic employees—Penalty.** Any employer violating RCW 49.28.080 through 49.28.082 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. [1937 c 129 § 4; RRS § 7651-4. Formerly RCW 49.28.080, part.]

**49.28.100 Hours of operators of power equipment in waterfront operations.** It shall be unlawful for any employer to permit any of his employees to operate on docks, in warehouses and/or in or on other waterfront properties any power driven mechanical equipment for the purpose of loading cargo on, or unloading cargo from, ships, barges, or other watercraft, or of assisting in such loading or unloading operations, for a period in excess of twelve and one-half hours at any one time without giving such person an interval of eight hours' rest: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, The provisions of this section and RCW 49.28.110 shall not be applicable in cases of emergency, including fire, violent storms, leaking or sinking ships or services required by the armed forces of the United States. [1953 c 271 § 1.]

**49.28.110 Hours of operators of power equipment in waterfront operations—Penalty.** Any person violating the provisions of RCW 49.28.100 is guilty of a misdemeanor. [1953 c 271 § 2.]

**49.28.120 Employer's duty to provide time to vote.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, every employer shall arrange employees' working hours on the day of a primary or election, general or special, so that each employee will have a reasonable time up to two hours available for voting during the hours the polls are open as provided by RCW 29.13.080.

If an employee's work schedule does not give the employee two free hours during the time the polls are open, not including meal or rest breaks, the employer shall permit the employee to take a reasonable time up to two hours from the employee's work schedule for voting purposes. In such a case, the employer shall add this time to the time for which the employee is paid.

(2) The provisions of this section apply only if, during the period between the time an employee is informed of his or her work schedule for a primary or election day and the



date of the primary or election, there is insufficient time for an absentee ballot to be secured for that primary or election. [1987 c 296 § 1.]

### Chapter 49.30 AGRICULTURAL LABOR

#### Sections

49.30.005	Intent—Report.
49.30.010	Definitions.
49.30.020	Hours and pay, recordkeeping.
49.30.040	Violation of chapter—Civil infraction.
49.30.900	Severability—1989 c 380.
49.30.901	Conflict with federal requirements—1989 c 380.

**49.30.005 Intent—Report.** (1) It is the intent of the legislature that the department assist agricultural employers in mitigating the costs of the state's unemployment insurance program. The department shall work with members of the agricultural community to: Improve understanding of the program's operation; increase compliance with work-search requirements; provide prompt notification of potential claims against an employer's experience rating; inform employers of their rights; inform employers of the actions necessary to appeal a claim and to protect their rights; and reduce claimant and employer fraud. These efforts shall include:

- (a) Conducting employer workshops and community seminars;
- (b) Developing new educational materials; and
- (c) Developing forms that use lay language.

(2) The department shall report to the appropriate standing committees of the legislature by January 10, 1990, 1991, and 1992 and include a description of the activities of the department to carry out the intents of this section and provide quantitative data where possible on the effectiveness of the activities undertaken by the department to comply with the intents of this section during the previous calendar year. [1991 c 31 § 1; 1990 c 245 § 10; 1989 c 380 § 82.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—1990 c 245:** See note following RCW 50.04.030.

**49.30.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Agricultural employment" or "employment" means employment in agricultural labor as defined in RCW 50.04.150.

(2) "Department" means the department of labor and industries.

(3) "Employer" means any person, firm, corporation, partnership, business trust, legal representative, or other business entity that engages in any agricultural activity in this state and employs one or more employees.

(4) "Employee" means a person employed in agricultural employment, and includes a person who is working under an independent contract the essence of which is personal labor in agricultural employment whether by way of manual labor or otherwise. However, "employee" shall not include immediate family members of the officers of any corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, or other business entity, or officers of any closely held corporation engaged in agricultural production of crops or livestock.

(1996 Ed.)

(5) "Minor" means an employee who is under the age of eighteen years. [1989 c 380 § 83.]

**49.30.020 Hours and pay, recordkeeping.** (1) Each employer required to keep employment records under RCW 49.46.070, shall retain such records for three years.

(2) Each employer shall furnish to each employee at the time the employee's wages are paid an itemized statement showing the pay basis in hours or days worked, the rate or rates of pay, the gross pay, and all deductions from the pay for the respective pay period. [1989 c 380 § 84.]

**49.30.040 Violation of chapter—Civil infraction.** Any violation of the provisions of this chapter or rules adopted hereunder shall be a class I civil infraction. The director shall have the authority to issue and enforce civil infractions according to chapter 7.80 RCW. [1989 c 380 § 86.]

**49.30.900 Severability—1989 c 380.** See RCW 15.58.942.

**49.30.901 Conflict with federal requirements—1989 c 380.** See note following RCW 50.04.150.

### Chapter 49.32 INJUNCTIONS IN LABOR DISPUTES

#### Sections

49.32.011	Injunctions in labor disputes.
49.32.020	Policy enunciated.
49.32.030	Undertakings and promises unenforceable.
49.32.050	Jurisdiction of courts.
49.32.060	Concert of action immaterial.
49.32.070	Responsibility of associations.
49.32.072	Injunctions—Hearings and findings—Temporary orders—Security.
49.32.073	Injunctions—Complaints, conditions precedent.
49.32.074	Injunctions—Findings and order essential.
49.32.080	Appellate review.
49.32.090	Contempt—Speedy jury trial.
49.32.100	Contempt—Retirement of judge.
49.32.110	Definitions.
49.32.900	Severability—1933 ex.s. c 7.
49.32.910	General repealer.

*Labor unions—Injunctions in labor disputes—1919 act: Chapter 49.36 RCW.*

**49.32.011 Injunctions in labor disputes.** No court of the state of Washington or any judge or judges thereof shall have jurisdiction to issue any restraining order or temporary or permanent injunction in a case involving or growing out of a labor dispute, except in a strict conformity with the provisions of this chapter; nor shall any such restraining order or temporary or permanent injunction be issued contrary to the public policy declared in this chapter. [1933 ex.s. c 7 § 1; RRS § 7612-1. Cf. 1919 c 185 § 2. Formerly RCW 49.32.040.]

*Injunctions in labor disputes: RCW 49.36.015.*

**49.32.020 Policy enunciated.** In the interpretation of this chapter and in determining the jurisdiction and authority of the courts of the state of Washington, as such jurisdiction

and authority are herein defined and limited, the public policy of the state of Washington is hereby declared as follows:

WHEREAS, Under prevailing economic conditions, developed with the aid of governmental authority for owners of property to organize in the corporate and other forms of ownership association, the individual unorganized worker is commonly helpless to exercise actual liberty of contract and to protect his freedom of labor, and thereby to obtain acceptable terms and conditions of employment, wherefore, though he should be free to decline to associate with his fellows, it is necessary that he have full freedom of association, self-organization, and designation of representatives of his own choosing, to negotiate the terms and conditions of his employment, and that he shall be free from interference, restraint, or coercion of employers of labor, or their agents, in the designation of such representatives or in self-organization or in other concerted activities for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protections; therefore, the following definitions of, and limitations upon, the jurisdiction and authority of the courts of the state of Washington are hereby enacted. [1933 ex.s. c 7 § 2; RRS § 7612-2.]

**49.32.030 Undertakings and promises unenforceable.** Any undertaking or promise, such as is described in this section, or any other undertaking or promise in conflict with the public policy declared in RCW 49.32.020, is hereby declared to be contrary to the public policy of the state of Washington, and shall not be enforceable in any court of the state of Washington, and shall not afford any basis for the granting of legal or equitable relief by any such court, including specifically the following:

Every undertaking or promise hereafter made, whether written or oral, express or implied, constituting or contained in any contract or agreement of hiring or employment between any individual, firm, company, association, or corporation and any employee or prospective employee of the same, whereby—

(1) Either party to such contract or agreement undertakes or promises not to join, become, or remain a member of any labor organization or of any employer organization; or

(2) Either party to such contract or agreement undertakes or promises that he will withdraw from an employment relation in the event that he joins, becomes, or remains a member of any labor organization or of any employer organization. [1933 ex.s. c 7 § 3; RRS § 7612-3.]

**49.32.050 Jurisdiction of courts.** No court of the state of Washington shall have jurisdiction to issue any restraining order or temporary or permanent injunction in any case involving or growing out of any labor dispute or prohibit any person or persons participating or interested in such dispute (as these terms are herein defined) from doing, whether singly or in concert, any of the following acts:

(1) Ceasing or refusing to perform any work or to remain in any relation of employment;

(2) Becoming or remaining a member of any labor organization or of any employer organization, regardless of

any such undertaking or promise as is described in RCW 49.32.030;

(3) Paying or giving to, or withholding from, any person participating or interested in such labor dispute any strike or unemployment benefits or insurance or other moneys or things of value;

(4) By all lawful means aiding any person participating or interested in any labor dispute who is being proceeded against in, or is prosecuting, any action or suit in any court of the United States or of any state;

(5) Giving publicity to the existence of, or the facts involved in, any labor dispute, whether by advertising, speaking, patrolling, or by any other method not involving fraud or violence;

(6) Assembling peaceably to act or to organize to act in promotion of their interests in a labor dispute;

(7) Advising or notifying any person of an intention to do any of the acts heretofore specified;

(8) Agreeing with other persons to do or not to do any of the acts heretofore specified; and

(9) Advising, urging, or otherwise causing or inducing without fraud or violence the acts heretofore specified, regardless of any such undertaking or promise as is described in RCW 49.32.030. [1933 ex.s. c 7 § 4; RRS § 7612-4.]

**49.32.060 Concert of action immaterial.** No court of the state of Washington or any judge or judges thereof shall have jurisdiction to issue a restraining order or temporary or permanent injunction upon the ground that any of the persons participating or interested in a labor dispute constitute or are engaged in an unlawful combination or conspiracy because of the doing in concert of the acts enumerated in RCW 49.32.050. [1933 ex.s. c 7 § 5; RRS § 7612-5.]

**49.32.070 Responsibility of associations.** No officer or member of any association or organization, and no association or organization participating or interested in a labor dispute, shall be held responsible or liable in any court of the state of Washington for the unlawful acts of individual officers, members, or agents, except upon clear proof of actual participation in, or actual authorization of, such acts, or of ratification of such acts after actual knowledge thereof. [1933 ex.s. c 7 § 6; RRS § 7612-6.]

**49.32.072 Injunctions—Hearings and findings—Temporary orders—Security.** No court of the state of Washington or any judge or judges thereof shall have jurisdiction to issue a temporary or permanent injunction in any case involving or growing out of a labor dispute, as herein defined, except after hearing the testimony of witnesses in open court (with opportunity for cross-examination) in support of the allegations of a complaint made under oath, and testimony in opposition thereto, if offered, and except after findings of fact by the court, to the effect—

(1) That unlawful acts have been threatened and will be committed unless restrained or have been committed and will be continued unless restrained, but no injunction or temporary restraining order shall be issued on account of any threat or unlawful act excepting against the person or persons, association, or organization making the threat or

committing the unlawful act or actually authorizing or ratifying the same after actual knowledge thereof;

(2) That substantial and irreparable injury to complainant's property will follow;

(3) That as to each item of relief granted greater injury will be inflicted upon complainant by the denial of relief than will be inflicted upon defendants by the granting of relief;

(4) That complainant has no adequate remedy at law; and

(5) That the public officers charged with the duty to protect complainant's property are unable or unwilling to furnish adequate protection.

Such hearing shall be held after due and personal notice thereof has been given, in such manner as the court shall direct, to all persons against whom relief is sought, and also to the chief of those public officials of the county and city within which the unlawful acts have been threatened or committed charged with the duty to protect complainant's property: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That if a complainant shall also allege that, unless a temporary restraining order shall be issued without notice, a substantial and irreparable injury to complainant's property will be unavoidable, such a temporary restraining order may be issued upon testimony under oath, sufficient, if sustained, to justify the court in issuing a temporary injunction upon a hearing after notice. Such a temporary restraining order shall be effective for no longer than five days and shall become void at the expiration of said five days. No temporary restraining order or temporary injunction shall be issued except on condition that complainant shall first file an undertaking with adequate security in an amount to be fixed by the court sufficient to recompense those enjoined for any loss, expense, or damage caused by the improvident or erroneous issuance of such order or injunction, including all reasonable costs (together with a reasonable attorney's fee) and expense of defense against the order or against the granting of any injunctive relief sought in the same proceeding and subsequently denied by the court.

The undertaking herein mentioned shall be understood to signify an agreement entered into by the complainant and the surety upon which a decree may be rendered in the same suit or proceeding against said complainant and surety, upon a hearing to assess damages of which hearing complainant and surety shall have reasonable notice, the said complainant and surety submitting themselves to the jurisdiction of the court for that purpose. But nothing herein contained shall deprive any party having a claim or cause of action under or upon such undertaking from electing to pursue his ordinary remedy by suit at law or in equity. [1933 ex.s. c 7 § 7; RRS § 7612-7.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was declared unconstitutional in *Blanchard v. Golden Age Brewing Co.*, 188 Wash. 396, 63 P.2d 397 (1936).

**49.32.073 Injunctions—Complaints, conditions precedent.** No restraining order or injunctive relief shall be granted to any complainant who has failed to comply with any obligation imposed by law which is involved in the labor dispute in question, or who has failed to make every reasonable effort to settle such dispute either by negotiation or with the aid of any available governmental machinery of

mediation or voluntary arbitration. [1933 ex.s. c 7 § 8; RRS § 7612-8.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was declared unconstitutional in *Blanchard v. Golden Age Brewing Co.*, 188 Wash. 396, 63 P.2d 397 (1936).

**49.32.074 Injunctions—Findings and order essential.** No restraining order or temporary or permanent injunction shall be granted in a case involving or growing out of a labor dispute, except on the basis of findings of fact made and filed by the court in the record of the case prior to the issuance of such restraining order or injunction; and every restraining order or injunction granted in a case involving or growing out of a labor dispute, shall include only a prohibition of such specific act or acts as may be expressly complained of in the complaint or petition filed in such case and as shall be expressly included in said findings of fact made and filed by the court as provided herein. [1933 ex.s. c 7 § 9; RRS § 7612-9.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was declared unconstitutional in *Blanchard v. Golden Age Brewing Co.*, 188 Wash. 396, 63 P.2d 397 (1936).

**49.32.080 Appellate review.** Whenever any court of the state of Washington shall issue or deny any temporary injunction in a case involving or growing out of a labor dispute, the court shall, upon the request of any party to the proceedings, and on his filing the usual bond for costs, forthwith certify the entire record of the case, including a transcript of the evidence taken, to the supreme court or the court of appeals for its review. Upon the filing of such record in the supreme court or the court of appeals, the appeal shall be heard and the temporary injunctive order affirmed, modified, or set aside with the greatest possible expedition, giving the proceedings precedence over all other matters except older matters of the same character. [1971 c 81 § 116; 1933 ex.s. c 7 § 10; RRS § 7612-10.]

**Rules of court:** *Appeal procedure superseded by RAP 2.1, 2.2, 18.22.*

**49.32.090 Contempt—Speedy jury trial.** In all cases arising under this chapter in which a person shall be charged with contempt in a court of the state of Washington, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury of the county wherein the contempt shall have been committed: PROVIDED, That this right shall not apply to contempts committed in the presence of the court or so near thereto as to interfere directly with the administration of justice or to apply to the misbehavior, misconduct or disobedience of any officer of the court in respect to the writs, orders, or process of the court. [1933 ex.s. c 7 § 11; RRS § 7612-11.]

**49.32.100 Contempt—Retirement of judge.** The defendant in any proceeding for contempt of court may file with the court a demand for the retirement of the judge sitting in the proceeding, if the contempt arises from an attack upon the character or conduct of such judge and if the attack occurred elsewhere than in the presence of the court or so near thereto as to interfere directly with the administration of justice. Upon the filing of any such demand the judge shall thereupon proceed no further, but another judge shall be designated in the same manner as provided by law.

The demand shall be filed prior to the hearing of the contempt proceeding. [1933 ex.s. c 7 § 12; RRS § 7612-12.]

*Civil procedure—Prejudice of judge—Change of venue:* RCW 4.12.040.

**49.32.110 Definitions.** When used in this chapter, and for the purpose of this chapter—

(1) A case shall be held to involve or to grow out of a labor dispute when the case involves persons who are engaged in the same industry, trade, or occupation; or have direct or indirect interests therein; or who are employees of the same employer; or who are members of the same or an affiliated organization of employers or employees; whether such dispute is (a) between one or more employers or associations of employers and one or more employees or associations of employees; (b) between one or more employers or associations of employers and one or more employers or association of employers; or (c) between one or more employees or association of employees and one or more employees or association of employees; or when the case involves any conflicting or competing interests in a "labor dispute" (as hereinafter defined) of "persons participating or interested" therein (as hereinafter defined).

(2) A person or association shall be held to be a person participating or interested in a labor dispute if relief is sought against him or it, and if he or it is engaged in the same industry, trade, craft, or occupation in which dispute occurs, or has a direct or indirect interest therein or is a member, officer, or agent of any association composed in whole or in part of employers or employees engaged in such industry, trade, craft, or occupation.

(3) The term "labor dispute" includes any controversy concerning terms or conditions of employment, or concerning the association or representation of persons in negotiating, fixing, maintaining, changing, or seeking to arrange terms or conditions of employment, regardless of whether or not the disputants stand in the proximate relation of employer and employee. [1933 ex.s. c 7 § 13; RRS § 7612-13. Formerly RCW 49.32.010.]

**49.32.900 Severability—1933 ex.s. c 7.** If any provision of this chapter or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held unconstitutional, or otherwise invalid, the remaining provisions of the chapter and the application of such provisions to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby. [1933 ex.s. c 7 § 14; RRS § 7612-14.]

**49.32.910 General repealer.** All acts and parts of acts in conflict with the provisions of this chapter are hereby repealed. [1933 ex.s. c 7 § 15; RRS § 7612-15.]

## Chapter 49.36 LABOR UNIONS

### Sections

- 49.36.010 Unions legalized.
- 49.36.015 Injunctions in labor disputes.
- 49.36.020 Employment contracts—Remedy for violation.
- 49.36.030 Prosecutions prohibited.

*Collective bargaining with employees of city owned utilities:* RCW 35.22.350.

*Discrimination—Unfair practices:* RCW 49.60.180 through 49.60.215, 49.60.220.

*Prohibited practices:* Chapter 49.44 RCW.

*Supervisor of industrial relations:* RCW 43.22.260.

**49.36.010 Unions legalized.** It shall be lawful for working men and women to organize themselves into, or carry on labor unions for the purpose of lessening the hours of labor or increasing the wages or bettering the conditions of the members of such organizations; or carry out their legitimate purposes by any lawful means. [1919 c 185 § 1; RRS § 7611.]

**49.36.015 Injunctions in labor disputes.** No restraining order or injunction shall be granted by any court of this state, or any judge or judges thereof in any case between an employer and employee or between employer and employees or between employees or between persons employed and persons seeking employment involving or growing out of a dispute concerning terms or conditions of employment, unless necessary to prevent irreparable damage to property or to a personal right or to a property right of the party making the application, for which injury there is no adequate remedy at law, and such petition must be in writing describing such damage or injury feared by the applicant, and sworn to by the applicant or his agent or attorney. No such restraining order or injunction shall prohibit any such person or persons, whether singly or in concert, from terminating any relation of employment or from ceasing to perform any work or labor; or from paying or giving to, or withholding from any person engaged in such dispute, any strike benefits or other moneys or things of value; or from doing any act or thing which might lawfully be done in the absence of such dispute by any party thereto; nor shall any of the acts specified in this section be considered or held to be illegal or unlawful in any court of the state. [1919 c 185 § 2; RRS § 7612.]

*Labor disputes:* Chapter 49.32 RCW.

**49.36.020 Employment contracts—Remedy for violation.** The labor of a human being is not a commodity or article of commerce, and the right to enter into the relation of employer and employee or to change that relation except in violation of contract is a legal right. In all cases involving the violation of the contract of employment, either by the employee or employer where no irreparable damage is about to be done to the property, personal rights or property rights of either, no injunction shall be granted, but the parties shall be left to their remedy at law. [1919 c 185 § 3; RRS § 7613.]

*Injunctions in labor disputes:* RCW 49.32.011.

**49.36.030 Prosecutions prohibited.** No person shall be indicted, prosecuted, or tried in any court of this state for entering into or carrying on any lawful arrangement, agreement, or combination between themselves made with a view of lessening the number of hours of labor or increasing wages or bettering the conditions of working men and women, or for any lawful act done in pursuance thereof. [1919 c 185 § 4; RRS § 7614.]

## Chapter 49.38

## THEATRICAL ENTERPRISES

## Sections

49.38.010	Definitions.
49.38.020	Payment of wages—Cash deposit or bond required.
49.38.030	Action to require cash deposit or bond.
49.38.040	Payment of wages—Action against cash deposit or bond—Limitations.
49.38.050	Recovery of attorney's fees and costs.
49.38.060	Penalty.
49.38.070	Department to adopt rules.
49.38.900	Severability—1984 c 89.

**49.38.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) Department means the department of labor and industries.

(2) Theatrical enterprise means the production of any circus, vaudeville, carnival, revue, variety show, musical comedy, operetta, opera, drama, endurance contest, marathon, walkathon, or any other entertainment event where persons are a part of the enterprise's presentation. Theatrical enterprise does not include a program of a radio or television station operating pursuant to a license issued by the federal communications commission or any event produced by a nonprofit cultural or artistic organization that has been located in a community for at least two years. [1984 c 89 § 1.]

**49.38.020 Payment of wages—Cash deposit or bond required.** (1) Any person engaged in the business of promoting a theatrical enterprise in this state shall deposit with the department the cash or a bond issued by a surety company authorized to do business in this state in an amount determined sufficient by the department to pay the wages of every person involved in the production of the theatrical enterprise for the period for which a single payment of wages is made, but not to exceed one week.

(2) The deposit required under subsection (1) of this section shall be on file with the department seven calendar days before the commencement of the theatrical enterprise. [1984 c 89 § 2.]

**49.38.030 Action to require cash deposit or bond.** If a person engaged in the business of promoting a theatrical enterprise fails to deposit cash or the bond required under RCW 49.38.020, the department may bring an action in the superior court to compel such person to deposit the cash or bond or cease doing business until he or she has done so. [1984 c 89 § 3.]

**49.38.040 Payment of wages—Action against cash deposit or bond—Limitations.** Any person having a claim for wages against a person engaged in the business of promoting a theatrical enterprise may bring an action against the bond or cash deposit in the district or superior court of the county in which the theatrical enterprise is produced or any county in which the principal on the bond resides or conducts business. An action against the bond may be brought against the named surety without joining the

principal named in the bond. The liability of the surety shall not exceed the amount named in the bond. Any action brought under this chapter shall be commenced within one year after the completion of the work for which wages are alleged to be due and owing under this chapter. If a cash deposit has been made in lieu of a surety bond and if judgment is entered against the depositor and deposit, then the department shall upon receipt of a certified copy of a final judgment within one year of the date of entry of such judgment pay the judgment from the deposit. The priority of payment by the department shall be the order of receipt by the department, but the department shall have no liability for payment in excess of the amount of the deposit. [1984 c 89 § 4.]

**49.38.050 Recovery of attorney's fees and costs.** In an action brought pursuant to RCW 49.38.040, the prevailing party is entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and costs. [1984 c 89 § 5.]

**49.38.060 Penalty.** Any person who violates this chapter is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. [1984 c 89 § 6.]

**49.38.070 Department to adopt rules.** The department may adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW to carry out the provisions of this chapter. [1984 c 89 § 7.]

**49.38.900 Severability—1984 c 89.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1984 c 89 § 8.]

## Chapter 49.40

## SEASONAL LABOR

## Sections

49.40.010	Seasonal labor defined.
49.40.020	Contracts to be in writing—Advances.
49.40.030	Fraud in securing advances—Penalty.
49.40.040	Disputes determined by director of labor and industries.
49.40.050	Hearings.
49.40.060	Findings and award.
49.40.070	Appeal.
49.40.080	Findings and award as evidence.

**49.40.010 Seasonal labor defined.** For the purpose of this chapter the term "seasonal labor" shall include all work performed by any person employed for a period of time greater than one month and where the wages for such work are not to be paid at any fixed interval of time, but at the termination of such employment, and where such person is hired within this state for work to be performed outside the state and the wages earned during said employment are to be paid in this state at the termination of such employment: PROVIDED, That this chapter shall not apply to wages earned by seamen or other persons where the payment of their wages is regulated by federal statutes. [1919 c 191 § 1; RRS § 7603.]

**49.40.020 Contracts to be in writing—Advances.** Every contract for seasonal labor shall be in writing and signed by the employer and the employee, and may provide for advances of moneys to be earned under such contract or for the furnishing of supplies to the employee before the wages are earned, and for the payment of money or the furnishing of supplies during the season. [1919 c 191 § 2; RRS § 7604.]

**49.40.030 Fraud in securing advances—Penalty.** Every employee who with intent to defraud shall have secured advances of money or supplies under a contract for reasonable labor and who with intent to defraud shall wilfully fail to perform sufficient labor to compensate for such advances and supplies made under such contract shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor. [1919 c 191 § 3; RRS § 7605.]

**49.40.040 Disputes determined by director of labor and industries.** Upon the written petition of either the employer or the employee setting forth in ordinary and concise language the facts and questions in dispute, the director of labor and industries shall, in person or by his duly authorized deputy, and is hereby authorized to hear and determine all disputes concerning wages earned at seasonal labor, and allow or reject deductions made from such wages for moneys advanced or supplies furnished before the wages are earned for money paid or supplies furnished during the season or for money paid to third persons upon the written order of the employee. [1919 c 191 § 4; RRS § 7606.]

**49.40.050 Hearings.** Upon the filing of any such petition, the director of labor and industries shall notify the other party to the dispute of the time and place when and where such petition will be heard, and may set said petition for a hearing before a regularly appointed deputy at such place in the state as he shall determine is most convenient for the parties, and the director or his deputy shall have power and authority to issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, papers and records at such hearing, and to administer oaths. Obedience to such subpoenas shall be enforced by the courts of the county where such hearing is held. [1919 c 191 § 5; RRS § 7607.]

**49.40.060 Findings and award.** The director of labor and industries, or his deputy holding the hearing shall, after such hearing, determine the amount due from the employer to the employee, and shall make findings of fact and an award in accordance therewith, which findings and award shall be filed in the office of the director and a copy thereof served upon the employer and upon the employee by registered mail directed to their last known post office address. [1919 c 191 § 6; RRS § 7608.]

**49.40.070 Appeal.** Any person aggrieved by the finding or award of the director of labor and industries has the right of appeal in the manner provided in chapter 34.05 RCW. [1987 c 202 § 217; 1919 c 191 § 7; RRS § 7609.]

**Intent—1987 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.04.190.

**49.40.080 Findings and award as evidence.** In case no appeal is taken from the award of the director of labor and industries and suit shall be brought upon the contract for seasonal labor in any court of competent jurisdiction, the findings and award of the director made in any proceeding under this chapter at a hearing at which both parties to such suit shall have appeared may be introduced in evidence in such suit, for the information of the court in which the suit is pending, and may, in the discretion of the court, be submitted to the jury as a part of the evidence in the case; but such findings and award shall not be conclusive or binding upon the court or the jury in any such case. [1919 c 191 § 8; RRS § 7610.]

**Chapter 49.44**

**VIOLATIONS—PROHIBITED PRACTICES**

Sections

- 49.44.010 Blacklisting—Penalty.
- 49.44.020 Bribery of labor representative.
- 49.44.030 Labor representative receiving bribe.
- 49.44.040 Obtaining employment by false letter or certificate.
- 49.44.050 Fraud by employment agent.
- 49.44.060 Corrupt influencing of agent.
- 49.44.080 Endangering life by refusal to labor.
- 49.44.090 Unfair practices in employment because of age of employee or applicant—Exceptions.
- 49.44.100 Bringing in out of state persons to replace employees involved in labor dispute.
- 49.44.110 Bringing in out of state persons to replace employees involved in labor dispute—Penalty.
- 49.44.120 Requiring lie detector tests.
- 49.44.130 Requiring lie detector tests—Criminal penalty.
- 49.44.135 Requiring lie detector tests—Civil penalty and damages—Attorneys' fees.
- 49.44.140 Requiring assignment of employee's rights to inventions—Conditions.
- 49.44.150 Requiring assignment of employee's rights to inventions—Disclosure of inventions by employee.

*Blind or handicapped persons, discriminating against in public employment: RCW 70.84.080.*

*Discrimination—Unfair practices: RCW 49.60.180 through 49.60.200.*

**49.44.010 Blacklisting—Penalty.** Every person in this state who shall wilfully and maliciously, send or deliver, or make or cause to be made, for the purpose of being delivered or sent or part with the possession of any paper, letter or writing, with or without name signed thereto, or signed with a fictitious name, or with any letter, mark or other designation, or publish or cause to be published any statement for the purpose of preventing any other person from obtaining employment in this state or elsewhere, and every person who shall wilfully and maliciously "blacklist" or cause to be "blacklisted" any person or persons, by writing, printing or publishing, or causing the same to be done, the name, or mark, or designation representing the name of any person in any paper, pamphlet, circular or book, together with any statement concerning persons so named, or publish or cause to be published that any person is a member of any secret organization, for the purpose of preventing such person from securing employment, or who shall wilfully and maliciously make or issue any statement or paper that will tend to influence or prejudice the mind of any employer against the person of such person seeking employment, or any person who shall do any of the things men-

tioned in this section for the purpose of causing the discharge of any person employed by any railroad or other company, corporation, individual or individuals, shall, on conviction thereof, be adjudged guilty of misdemeanor and punished by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars, or by imprisonment in the county jail for not less than ninety days nor more than one year, or by both such fine and imprisonment. [1899 c 23 § 1; RRS § 7599.]

*Interference with or discharge from employment of member of organized militia:* RCW 38.40.040, 38.40.050.

*Libel and slander:* Chapter 9.58 RCW.

**49.44.020 Bribery of labor representative.** Every person who shall give, offer or promise, directly or indirectly, any compensation, gratuity or reward to any duly constituted representative of a labor organization, with intent to influence him in respect to any of his acts, decisions or other duties as such representative, or to induce him to prevent or cause a strike by the employees of any person or corporation, shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor. [1909 c 249 § 424; RRS § 2676.]

**49.44.030 Labor representative receiving bribe.** Every person who, being the duly constituted representative of a labor organization, shall ask or receive, directly or indirectly, any compensation, gratuity or reward, or any promise thereof, upon any agreement or understanding that any of his acts, decisions or other duties as such representative, or any act to prevent or cause a strike of the employees of any person or corporation shall be influenced thereby, shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor. [1909 c 249 § 425; RRS § 2677.]

**49.44.040 Obtaining employment by false letter or certificate.** Every person who shall obtain employment or appointment to any office or place of trust, by color or aid of any false or forged letter or certificate of recommendation, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. [1909 c 249 § 371; RRS § 2623.]

**49.44.050 Fraud by employment agent.** Every employment agent or broker who, with intent to influence the action of any person thereby, shall misstate or misrepresent verbally, or in any writing or advertisement, any material matter relating to the demand for labor, the conditions under which any labor or service is to be performed, the duration thereof or the wages to be paid therefor, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. [1909 c 249 § 372; RRS § 2624.]

*Discrimination—Unfair practices of employment agencies:* RCW 49.60.200.  
*False advertising:* RCW 9.04.010.

**49.44.060 Corrupt influencing of agent.** Every person who shall give, offer or promise, directly or indirectly, any compensation, gratuity or reward to any agent, employee or servant of any person or corporation, with intent to influence his action in relation to his principal's, employer's or master's business, shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor. [1909 c 249 § 426; RRS § 2678.]

**49.44.080 Endangering life by refusal to labor.** Every person who shall wilfully and maliciously, either alone or in combination with others, break a contract of service or employment, knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that the consequence of his so doing will be to endanger human life or to cause grievous bodily injury, or to expose valuable property to destruction or serious injury, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. [1909 c 249 § 281; RRS § 2533.]

*Injunctions in labor disputes:* Chapter 49.32 RCW.

*Labor unions—Injunctions in labor disputes:* RCW 49.36.015.

**49.44.090 Unfair practices in employment because of age of employee or applicant—Exceptions.** It shall be an unfair practice:

(1) For an employer or licensing agency, because an individual is forty years of age or older, to refuse to hire or employ or license or to bar or to terminate from employment such individual, or to discriminate against such individual in promotion, compensation or in terms, conditions or privileges of employment: PROVIDED, That employers or licensing agencies may establish reasonable minimum and/or maximum age limits with respect to candidates for positions of employment, which positions are of such a nature as to require extraordinary physical effort, endurance, condition or training, subject to the approval of the executive director of the Washington state human rights commission or the director of labor and industries through the division of industrial relations.

(2) For any employer, licensing agency or employment agency to print or circulate or cause to be printed or circulated any statement, advertisement, or publication, or to use any form of application for employment or to make any inquiry in connection with prospective employment, which expresses any limitation, specification or discrimination respecting individuals forty years of age or older: PROVIDED, That nothing herein shall forbid a requirement of disclosure of birth date upon any form of application for employment or by the production of a birth certificate or other sufficient evidence of the applicant's true age after an employee is hired.

Nothing contained in this section or in RCW 49.60.180 as to age shall be construed to prevent the termination of the employment of any person who is physically unable to perform his or her duties or to affect the retirement policy or system of any employer where such policy or system is not merely a subterfuge to evade the purposes of this section; nor shall anything in this section or in RCW 49.60.180 be deemed to preclude the varying of insurance coverages according to an employee's age; nor shall this section be construed as applying to any state, county, or city law enforcement agencies, or as superseding any law fixing or authorizing the establishment of reasonable minimum or maximum age limits with respect to candidates for certain positions in public employment which are of such a nature as to require extraordinary physical effort, or which for other reasons warrant consideration of age factors. [1993 c 510 § 24; 1985 c 185 § 30; 1983 c 293 § 2; 1961 c 100 § 5.]

*Severability—1993 c 510:* See note following RCW 49.60.010.

*Element of age not to affect apprenticeship agreements:* RCW 49.04.910.

*Unfair practices, discrimination because of age:* RCW 49.60.180 through 49.60.205.

**49.44.100 Bringing in out of state persons to replace employees involved in labor dispute.** It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation not directly involved in a labor strike or lockout to recruit and bring into this state from outside this state any person or persons for employment, or to secure or offer to secure for such person or persons any employment, when the purpose of such recruiting, securing or offering to secure employment, is to have such persons take the place in employment of employees in a business owned by a person, firm or corporation involved in a labor strike or lockout, or to have such persons act as pickets of a business owned by a person, firm or corporation where a labor strike or lockout exists: PROVIDED, That this section and RCW 49.44.110 shall not apply to activities and services offered by or through the Washington employment security department. [1961 c 180 § 1.]

**49.44.110 Bringing in out of state persons to replace employees involved in labor dispute—Penalty.** Any person violating the provisions of RCW 49.44.100 shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor. [1961 c 180 § 2.]

**49.44.120 Requiring lie detector tests.** It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, corporation or the state of Washington, its political subdivisions or municipal corporations to require, directly or indirectly, that any employee or prospective employee take or be subjected to any lie detector or similar tests as a condition of employment or continued employment: PROVIDED, That this section shall not apply to persons making initial application for employment with any law enforcement agency: PROVIDED FURTHER, That this section shall not apply to either the initial application for employment or continued employment of persons who manufacture, distribute, or dispense controlled substances as defined in chapter 69.50 RCW, or to persons in sensitive positions directly involving national security.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the use of psychological tests as defined in RCW 18.83.010. [1985 c 426 § 1; 1973 c 145 § 1; 1965 c 152 § 1.]

**49.44.130 Requiring lie detector tests—Criminal penalty.** (1) Any person violating the provisions of RCW 49.44.120 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

(2) As used in this section, "person" includes any individual, firm, corporation, or agency or political subdivision of the state.

(3) Nothing in this section or RCW 49.44.120 may be construed as limiting any statutory or common law rights of any person illegally denied employment or continued employment under RCW 49.44.120 for purposes of any civil action or injunctive relief. [1985 c 426 § 2; 1965 c 152 § 2.]

**49.44.135 Requiring lie detector tests—Civil penalty and damages—Attorneys' fees.** In a civil action alleging a violation of RCW 49.44.120, the court may:

(1) Award a penalty in the amount of five hundred dollars to a prevailing employee or prospective employee in addition to any award of actual damages;

(2) Award reasonable attorneys' fees and costs to the prevailing employee or prospective employee; and

(3) Pursuant to RCW 4.84.185, award any prevailing party against whom an action has been brought for a violation of RCW 49.44.120 reasonable expenses and attorneys' fees upon final judgment and written findings by the trial judge that the action was frivolous and advanced without reasonable cause. [1985 c 426 § 3.]

**49.44.140 Requiring assignment of employee's rights to inventions—Conditions.** (1) A provision in an employment agreement which provides that an employee shall assign or offer to assign any of the employee's rights in an invention to the employer does not apply to an invention for which no equipment, supplies, facilities, or trade secret information of the employer was used and which was developed entirely on the employee's own time, unless (a) the invention relates (i) directly to the business of the employer, or (ii) to the employer's actual or demonstrably anticipated research or development, or (b) the invention results from any work performed by the employee for the employer. Any provision which purports to apply to such an invention is to that extent against the public policy of this state and is to that extent void and unenforceable.

(2) An employer shall not require a provision made void and unenforceable by subsection (1) of this section as a condition of employment or continuing employment.

(3) If an employment agreement entered into after September 1, 1979, contains a provision requiring the employee to assign any of the employee's rights in any invention to the employer, the employer must also, at the time the agreement is made, provide a written notification to the employee that the agreement does not apply to an invention for which no equipment, supplies, facility, or trade secret information of the employer was used and which was developed entirely on the employee's own time, unless (a) the invention relates (i) directly to the business of the employer, or (ii) to the employer's actual or demonstrably anticipated research or development, or (b) the invention results from any work performed by the employee for the employer. [1979 ex.s. c 177 § 2.]

**49.44.150 Requiring assignment of employee's rights to inventions—Disclosure of inventions by employee.** Even though the employee meets the burden of proving the conditions specified in RCW 49.44.140, the employee shall, at the time of employment or thereafter, disclose all inventions being developed by the employee, for the purpose of determining employer or employee rights. The employer or the employee may disclose such inventions to the department of employment security, and the department shall maintain a record of such disclosures for a minimum period of five years. [1979 ex.s. c 177 § 3.]

## Chapter 49.46

### MINIMUM WAGE ACT

#### Sections

49.46.005	Declaration of necessity and police power.
49.46.010	Definitions.
49.46.020	Minimum hourly wage.
49.46.040	Investigation—Services of federal agencies—Employer's records—Industrial homework.



- 49.46.060 Exceptions for learners, apprentices, messengers, disabled.
- 49.46.065 Individual volunteering labor to state or local governmental agency—Amount reimbursed for expenses or received as nominal compensation not deemed salary for rendering services or affecting public retirement rights.
- 49.46.070 Records of employer—Contents—Inspection—Sworn statement.
- 49.46.080 New or modified regulations—Judicial review—Stay.
- 49.46.090 Payment of wages less than chapter requirements—Employer's liability—Assignment of wage claim.
- 49.46.100 Prohibited acts of employer—Penalty.
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- 49.46.120 Chapter establishes minimum standards and is supplementary to other laws—More favorable standards unaffected.
- 49.46.130 Minimum rate of compensation for employment in excess of forty hour work week—Exceptions.
- 49.46.140 Notification of employers.
- 49.46.150 Review and recommendations for increase.
- 49.46.900 Severability—1959 c 294.
- 49.46.910 Short title.
- 49.46.920 Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 289.

*Enforcement of wage claims: RCW 49.48.040.*

#### 49.46.005 Declaration of necessity and police power.

Whereas the establishment of a minimum wage for employees is a subject of vital and imminent concern to the people of this state and requires appropriate action by the legislature to establish minimum standards of employment within the state of Washington, therefore the legislature declares that in its considered judgment the health, safety and the general welfare of the citizens of this state require the enactment of this measure, and exercising its police power, the legislature endeavors by this chapter to establish a minimum wage for employees of this state to encourage employment opportunities within the state. The provisions of this chapter are enacted in the exercise of the police power of the state for the purpose of protecting the immediate and future health, safety and welfare of the people of this state. [1961 ex.s. c 18 § 1.]

#### 49.46.010 Definitions. As used in this chapter:

- (1) "Director" means the director of labor and industries;
- (2) "Wage" means compensation due to an employee by reason of employment, payable in legal tender of the United States or checks on banks convertible into cash on demand at full face value, subject to such deductions, charges, or allowances as may be permitted by rules of the director;
- (3) "Employ" includes to permit to work;
- (4) "Employer" includes any individual, partnership, association, corporation, business trust, or any person or group of persons acting directly or indirectly in the interest of an employer in relation to an employee;
- (5) "Employee" includes any individual employed by an employer but shall not include:
  - (a) Any individual (i) employed as a hand harvest laborer and paid on a piece rate basis in an operation which has been, and is generally and customarily recognized as having been, paid on a piece rate basis in the region of employment; (ii) who commutes daily from his or her permanent residence to the farm on which he or she is employed; and (iii) who has been employed in agriculture less than thirteen weeks during the preceding calendar year;
  - (b) Any individual employed in casual labor in or about a private home, unless performed in the course of the employer's trade, business, or profession;

(c) Any individual employed in a bona fide executive, administrative, or professional capacity or in the capacity of outside salesman as those terms are defined and delimited by rules of the director. However, those terms shall be defined and delimited by the Washington personnel resources board pursuant to chapter 41.06 RCW;

(d) Any individual engaged in the activities of an educational, charitable, religious, state or local governmental body or agency, or nonprofit organization where the employer-employee relationship does not in fact exist or where the services are rendered to such organizations gratuitously. If the individual receives reimbursement in lieu of compensation for normally incurred out-of-pocket expenses or receives a nominal amount of compensation per unit of voluntary service rendered, an employer-employee relationship is deemed not to exist for the purpose of this section or for purposes of membership or qualification in any state, local government or publicly supported retirement system other than that provided under chapter 41.24 RCW;

(e) Any individual employed full time by any state or local governmental body or agency who provides voluntary services but only with regard to the provision of the voluntary services. The voluntary services and any compensation therefor shall not affect or add to qualification, entitlement or benefit rights under any state, local government, or publicly supported retirement system other than that provided under chapter 41.24 RCW;

(f) Any newspaper vendor or carrier;

(g) Any carrier subject to regulation by Part 1 of the Interstate Commerce Act;

(h) Any individual engaged in forest protection and fire prevention activities;

(i) Any individual employed by any charitable institution charged with child care responsibilities engaged primarily in the development of character or citizenship or promoting health or physical fitness or providing or sponsoring recreational opportunities or facilities for young people or members of the armed forces of the United States;

(j) Any individual whose duties require that he or she reside or sleep at the place of his or her employment or who otherwise spends a substantial portion of his or her work time subject to call, and not engaged in the performance of active duties;

(k) Any resident, inmate, or patient of a state, county, or municipal correctional, detention, treatment or rehabilitative institution;

(l) Any individual who holds a public elective or appointive office of the state, any county, city, town, municipal corporation or quasi municipal corporation, political subdivision, or any instrumentality thereof, or any employee of the state legislature;

(m) All vessel operating crews of the Washington state ferries operated by the department of transportation;

(n) Any individual employed as a seaman on a vessel other than an American vessel.

(6) "Occupation" means any occupation, service, trade, business, industry, or branch or group of industries or employment or class of employment in which employees are gainfully employed. [1993 c 281 § 56; 1989 c 1 § 1 (Initiative Measure No. 518, approved November 8, 1988); 1984 c 7 § 364; 1977 ex.s. c 69 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 289 §

1; 1974 ex.s. c 107 § 1; 1961 ex.s. c 18 § 2; 1959 c 294 § 1.]

**Effective date—1993 c 281:** See note following RCW 41.06.022.

**Effective date—1989 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 518, approved November 8, 1988):** "This act shall take effect January 1, 1989." [1989 c 1 § 5.]

**Reviser's note:** "This act" consisted of the 1989 c 1 amendments to RCW 49.46.010, 49.46.020, and 49.12.121 and the enactment of RCW 49.46.150.

**Severability—1984 c 7:** See note following RCW 47.01.141.

**49.46.020 Minimum hourly wage.** (1) Every employer shall pay to each of his or her employees who has reached the age of eighteen years wages at a rate of not less than four dollars and ninety cents per hour.

(2) The director shall by regulation establish the minimum wage for employees under the age of eighteen years. [1993 c 309 § 1; 1989 c 1 § 2 (Initiative Measure No. 518, approved November 8, 1988); 1975 1st ex.s. c 289 § 2; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 9 § 1; 1967 ex.s. c 80 § 1; 1961 ex.s. c 18 § 3; 1959 c 294 § 2.]

**Effective date—1993 c 309:** "This act shall take effect January 1, 1994." [1993 c 309 § 2.]

**Effective date—1989 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 518):** See note following RCW 49.46.010.

*Notification of employers:* RCW 49.46.140.

**49.46.040 Investigation—Services of federal agencies—Employer's records—Industrial homework.** (1) The director or his designated representatives may investigate and gather data regarding the wages, hours, and other conditions and practices of employment in any industry subject to this chapter, and may enter and inspect such places and such records (and make such transcriptions thereof), question such employees, and investigate such facts, conditions, practices, or matters as he may deem necessary or appropriate to determine whether any person has violated any provision of this chapter, or which may aid in the enforcement of the provisions of this chapter.

(2) With the consent and cooperation of federal agencies charged with the administration of federal labor laws, the director may, for the purpose of carrying out his functions and duties under this chapter, utilize the services of federal agencies and their employees and, notwithstanding any other provision of law, may reimburse such federal agencies and their employees for services rendered for such purposes.

(3) Every employer subject to any provision of this chapter or of any order issued under this chapter shall make, keep, and preserve such records of the persons employed by him and of the wages, hours, and other conditions and practices of employment maintained by him, and shall preserve such records for such periods of time, and shall make reports therefrom to the director as he shall prescribe by regulation as necessary or appropriate for the enforcement of the provisions of this chapter or the regulations thereunder.

(4) The director is authorized to make such regulations regulating, restricting, or prohibiting industrial homework as are necessary or appropriate to prevent the circumvention or evasion of and to safeguard the minimum wage rate prescribed in this chapter, and all existing regulations of the

director relating to industrial homework are hereby continued in full force and effect. [1959 c 294 § 4.]

**49.46.060 Exceptions for learners, apprentices, messengers, disabled.** The director, to the extent necessary in order to prevent curtailment of opportunities for employment, shall by regulations provide for (1) the employment of learners, of apprentices, and of messengers employed primarily in delivering letters and messages, under special certificates issued pursuant to regulations of the director, at such wages lower than the minimum wage applicable under RCW 49.46.020 and subject to such limitations as to time, number, proportion, and length of service as the director shall prescribe, and (2) the employment of individuals whose earning capacity is impaired by age or physical or mental deficiency or injury, under special certificates issued by the director, at such wages lower than the minimum wage applicable under RCW 49.46.020 and for such period as shall be fixed in such certificates. [1959 c 294 § 6.]

**49.46.065 Individual volunteering labor to state or local governmental agency—Amount reimbursed for expenses or received as nominal compensation not deemed salary for rendering services or affecting public retirement rights.** When an individual volunteers his or her labor to a state or local governmental body or agency and receives pursuant to a statute or policy or an ordinance or resolution adopted by or applicable to the state or local governmental body or agency reimbursement in lieu of compensation at a nominal rate for normally incurred expenses or receives a nominal amount of compensation per unit of voluntary service rendered such reimbursement or compensation shall not be deemed a salary for the rendering of services or for purposes of granting, affecting or adding to any qualification, entitlement or benefit rights under any state, local government or publicly supported retirement system other than that provided under chapter 41.24 RCW. [1977 ex.s. c 69 § 2.]

**49.46.070 Records of employer—Contents—Inspection—Sworn statement.** Every employer subject to any provision of this chapter or of any regulation issued under this chapter shall make, and keep in or about the premises wherein any employee is employed, a record of the name, address, and occupation of each of his employees, the rate of pay, and the amount paid each pay period to each such employee, the hours worked each day and each work week by such employee, and such other information as the director shall prescribe by regulation as necessary or appropriate for the enforcement of the provisions of this chapter or of the regulations thereunder. Such records shall be open for inspection or transcription by the director or his authorized representative at any reasonable time. Every such employer shall furnish to the director or to his authorized representative on demand a sworn statement of such records and information upon forms prescribed or approved by the director. [1959 c 294 § 7.]

**49.46.080 New or modified regulations—Judicial review—Stay.** (1) As new regulations or changes or modification of previously established regulations are

proposed, the director shall call a public hearing for the purpose of the consideration and establishment of such regulations following the procedures used in the promulgation of standards of safety under chapter 49.17 RCW.

(2) Any interested party may obtain a review of the director's findings and order in the superior court of county of petitioners' residence by filing in such court within sixty days after the date of publication of such regulation a written petition praying that the regulation be modified or set aside. A copy of such petition shall be served upon the director. The finding of facts, if supported by evidence, shall be conclusive upon the court. The court shall determine whether the regulation is in accordance with law. If the court determines that such regulation is not in accordance with law, it shall remand the case to the director with directions to modify or revoke such regulation. If application is made to the court for leave to adduce additional evidence by any aggrieved party, such party shall show to the satisfaction of the court that such additional evidence is material, and that there were reasonable grounds for the failure to adduce such evidence before the director. If the court finds that such evidence is material and that reasonable grounds exist for failure of the aggrieved party to adduce such evidence in prior proceedings, the court may remand the case to the director with directions that such additional evidence be taken before the director. The director may modify the findings and conclusions, in whole or in part, by reason of such additional evidence.

(3) The judgment and decree of the court shall be final except that it shall be subject to review by the supreme court or the court of appeals as in other civil cases.

(4) The proceedings under this section shall not, unless specifically ordered by the court, operate as a stay of an administrative regulation issued under the provisions of this chapter. The court shall not grant any stay of an administrative regulation unless the person complaining of such regulation shall file in the court an undertaking with a surety or sureties satisfactory to the court for the payment to the employees affected by the regulation, in the event such regulation is affirmed, of the amount by which the compensation such employees are entitled to receive under the regulation exceeds the compensation they actually receive while such stay is in effect. [1983 c 3 § 157; 1971 c 81 § 117; 1959 c 294 § 8.]

**49.46.090 Payment of wages less than chapter requirements—Employer's liability—Assignment of wage claim.** (1) Any employer who pays any employee less than wages to which such employee is entitled under or by virtue of this chapter, shall be liable to such employee affected for the full amount of such wage rate, less any amount actually paid to such employee by the employer, and for costs and such reasonable attorney's fees as may be allowed by the court. Any agreement between such employee and the employer to work for less than such wage rate shall be no defense to such action.

(2) At the written request of any employee paid less than the wages to which he is entitled under or by virtue of this chapter, the director may take an assignment under this chapter or as provided in RCW 49.48.040 of such wage claim in trust for the assigning employee and may bring any

legal action necessary to collect such claim, and the employer shall be required to pay the costs and such reasonable attorney's fees as may be allowed by the court. [1959 c 294 § 9.]

**49.46.100 Prohibited acts of employer—Penalty.** (1) Any employer who hinders or delays the director or his authorized representatives in the performance of his duties in the enforcement of this chapter, or refuses to admit the director or his authorized representatives to any place of employment, or fails to make, keep, and preserve any records as required under the provisions of this chapter, or falsifies any such record, or refuses to make any record accessible to the director or his authorized representatives upon demand, or refuses to furnish a sworn statement of such record or any other information required for the proper enforcement of this chapter to the director or his authorized representatives upon demand, or pays or agrees to pay wages at a rate less than the rate applicable under this chapter, or otherwise violates any provision of this chapter or of any regulation issued under this chapter shall be deemed in violation of this chapter and shall, upon conviction therefor, be guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

(2) Any employer who discharges or in any other manner discriminates against any employee because such employee has made any complaint to his employer, to the director, or his authorized representatives that he has not been paid wages in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, or that the employer has violated any provision of this chapter, or because such employee has caused to be instituted or is about to cause to be instituted any proceeding under or related to this chapter, or because such employee has testified or is about to testify in any such proceeding shall be deemed in violation of this chapter and shall, upon conviction therefor, be guilty of a gross misdemeanor. [1959 c 294 § 10.]

**49.46.110 Collective bargaining not impaired.** Nothing in this chapter shall be deemed to interfere with, impede, or in any way diminish the right of employees to bargain collectively with their employers through representatives of their own choosing in order to establish wages or other conditions of work in excess of the applicable minimum under the provisions of this chapter. [1959 c 294 § 11.]

**49.46.120 Chapter establishes minimum standards and is supplementary to other laws—More favorable standards unaffected.** This chapter establishes a minimum standard for wages and working conditions of all employees in this state, unless exempted herefrom, and is in addition to and supplementary to any other federal, state, or local law or ordinance, or any rule or regulation issued thereunder. Any standards relating to wages, hours, or other working conditions established by any applicable federal, state, or local law or ordinance, or any rule or regulation issued thereunder, which are more favorable to employees than the minimum standards applicable under this chapter, or any rule or regulation issued hereunder, shall not be affected by this chapter and such other laws, or rules or regulations, shall be

in full force and effect and may be enforced as provided by law. [1961 ex.s. c 18 § 4; 1959 c 294 § 12.]

**49.46.130 Minimum rate of compensation for employment in excess of forty hour work week—**

**Exceptions.** (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, no employer shall employ any of his employees for a work week longer than forty hours unless such employee receives compensation for his employment in excess of the hours above specified at a rate not less than one and one-half times the regular rate at which he is employed.

(2) This section does not apply to:

(a) Any person exempted pursuant to RCW 49.46.010(5). The payment of compensation or provision of compensatory time off in addition to a salary shall not be a factor in determining whether a person is exempted under RCW 49.46.010(5)(c);

(b) Employees who request compensating time off in lieu of overtime pay;

(c) Any individual employed as a seaman whether or not the seaman is employed on a vessel other than an American vessel;

(d) Seasonal employees who are employed at concessions and recreational establishments at agricultural fairs, including those seasonal employees employed by agricultural fairs, within the state provided that the period of employment for any seasonal employee at any or all agricultural fairs does not exceed fourteen working days a year;

(e) Any individual employed as a motion picture projectionist if that employee is covered by a contract or collective bargaining agreement which regulates hours of work and overtime pay;

(f) An individual employed as a truck or bus driver who is subject to the provisions of the Federal Motor Carrier Act (49 U.S.C. Sec. 3101 et seq. and 49 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.), if the compensation system under which the truck or bus driver is paid includes overtime pay, reasonably equivalent to that required by this subsection, for working longer than forty hours per week;

(g) Any individual employed (i) on a farm, in the employ of any person, in connection with the cultivation of the soil, or in connection with raising or harvesting any agricultural or horticultural commodity, including raising, shearing, feeding, caring for, training, and management of livestock, bees, poultry, and furbearing animals and wildlife, or in the employ of the owner or tenant or other operator of a farm in connection with the operation, management, conservation, improvement, or maintenance of such farm and its tools and equipment; or (ii) in packing, packaging, grading, storing or delivering to storage, or to market or to a carrier for transportation to market, any agricultural or horticultural commodity; or (iii) commercial canning, commercial freezing, or any other commercial processing, or with respect to services performed in connection with the cultivation, raising, harvesting, and processing of oysters or in connection with any agricultural or horticultural commodity after its delivery to a terminal market for distribution for consumption;

(h) Any industry in which federal law provides for an overtime payment based on a work week other than forty hours. However, the provisions of the federal law regarding

overtime payment based on a work week other than forty hours shall nevertheless apply to employees covered by this section without regard to the existence of actual federal jurisdiction over the industrial activity of the particular employer within this state. For the purposes of this subsection, "industry" means a trade, business, industry, or other activity, or branch, or group thereof, in which individuals are gainfully employed (section 3(h) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended (Public Law 93-259)).

(3) No employer of commissioned salespeople primarily engaged in the business of selling automobiles, trucks, recreational vessels, recreational vessel trailers, recreational vehicle trailers, recreational campers, or manufactured housing to ultimate purchasers shall violate subsection (1) of this section with respect to such commissioned salespeople if the commissioned salespeople are paid the greater of:

(a) Compensation at the hourly rate, which may not be less than the rate required under RCW 49.46.020, for each hour worked up to forty hours per week, and compensation of one and one-half times that hourly rate for all hours worked over forty hours in one week; or

(b) A straight commission, a salary plus commission, or a salary plus bonus applied to gross salary.

(4) No public agency shall be deemed to have violated subsection (1) of this section with respect to the employment of any employee in fire protection activities or any employee in law enforcement activities (including security personnel in correctional institutions) if: (a) In a work period of twenty-eight consecutive days the employee receives for tours of duty which in the aggregate exceed two hundred forty hours; or (b) in the case of such an employee to whom a work period of at least seven but less than twenty-eight days applies, in his or her work period the employee receives for tours of duty which in the aggregate exceed a number of hours which bears the same ratio to the number of consecutive days in his or her work period as two hundred forty hours bears to twenty-eight days; compensation at a rate not less than one and one-half times the regular rate at which he or she is employed. [1995 c 5 § 1; 1993 c 191 § 1; 1992 c 94 § 1; 1989 c 104 § 1. Prior: 1977 ex.s. c 4 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 74 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 289 § 3.]

**Intent—Application—1995 c 5:** "This act is intended to clarify the original intent of RCW 49.46.010(5)(c). This act applies to all administrative and judicial actions commenced on or after February 1, 1995, and pending on March 30, 1995, and such actions commenced on or after March 30, 1995." [1995 c 5 § 2.]

**Effective date—1995 c 5:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately [March 30, 1995]." [1995 c 5 § 3.]

**49.46.140 Notification of employers.** The director of the department of labor and industries and the commissioner of employment security shall each notify employers of the requirements of chapter 289, Laws of 1975 1st ex. sess. through their regular quarterly notices to employers. [1975 1st ex.s. c 289 § 4.]

**49.46.150 Review and recommendations for increase.** Beginning January 1, 1991, and prior to January 1 of each odd-numbered year thereafter, the office of financial management shall review the state minimum wage and make

recommendations to the legislature and the governor regarding its increase. [1989 c 1 § 4 (Initiative Measure No. 518, approved November 8, 1988).]

**Effective date—1989 c 1 (Initiative Measure No. 518):** See note following RCW 49.46.010.

**49.46.900 Severability—1959 c 294.** If any provision of this chapter, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances, is held invalid, the remainder of the chapter and the application thereof to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby. [1959 c 294 § 13.]

**49.46.910 Short title.** This chapter may be known and cited as the "Washington Minimum Wage Act." [1961 ex.s. c 18 § 6; 1959 c 294 § 14.]

**49.46.920 Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 289.** This 1975 amendatory 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 September 1, 1975. [1975 1st ex.s. c 289 § 5.]

## Chapter 49.48

### WAGES—PAYMENT—COLLECTION

#### Sections

49.48.010	Payment of wages due to employee ceasing work to be at end of pay period—Exceptions—Authorized deductions or withholdings.
49.48.020	Penalty for noncompliance with RCW 49.48.010 through 49.48.030 and 49.48.060.
49.48.030	Attorney's fee in action on wages—Exception.
49.48.040	Enforcement of wage claims—Issuance of subpoenas—Compliance.
49.48.050	Remedy cumulative.
49.48.060	Director may require bond after assignment of wage claims—Court action—Penalty for failure to pay wage claim.
49.48.070	Enforcement.
49.48.075	Reciprocal enforcement agreements with other states.
49.48.080	Public employees excluded.
49.48.090	Assignment of wages—Requisites to validity.
49.48.100	Written consent of spouse required.
49.48.115	Employer defined.
49.48.120	Payment on employee's death.
49.48.150	Sales representatives—Definitions.
49.48.160	Sales representatives—Contract—Agreement.
49.48.170	Sales representatives—Payment.
49.48.180	Sales representatives—Principal considered doing business in this state.
49.48.190	Sales representatives—Rights and remedies not exclusive—Waiver void.

*Chattel liens: Chapter 60.08 RCW.*

*Mechanics' and materialmen's liens: Chapter 60.04 RCW.*

**49.48.010 Payment of wages due to employee ceasing work to be at end of pay period—Exceptions—Authorized deductions or withholdings.** When any employee shall cease to work for an employer, whether by discharge or by voluntary withdrawal, the wages due him on account of his employment shall be paid to him at the end of the established pay period: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That this paragraph shall not apply when workers are engaged in an employment that normally involves working

for several employers in the same industry interchangeably, and the several employers or some of them cooperate to establish a plan for the weekly payment of wages at a central place or places and in accordance with a unified schedule of paydays providing for at least one payday each week; but this subsection shall not apply to any such plan until ten days after notice of their intention to set up such a plan shall have been given to the director of labor and industries by the employers who cooperate to establish the plan; and having once been established, no such plan can be abandoned except after notice of their intention to abandon such plan has been given to the director of labor and industries by the employers intending to abandon the plan: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the duty to pay an employee forthwith shall not apply if the labor-management agreement under which the employee has been employed provides otherwise.

It shall be unlawful for any employer to withhold or divert any portion of an employee's wages unless the deduction is:

- (1) Required by state or federal law; or
- (2) Specifically agreed upon orally or in writing by the employee and employer; or
- (3) For medical, surgical or hospital care or service, pursuant to any rule or regulation: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That the deduction is openly, clearly and in due course recorded in the employer's books and records.

Paragraph \*three of this section shall not be construed to affect the right of any employer or former employer to sue upon or collect any debt owed to said employer or former employer by his employees or former employees. [1971 ex.s. c 55 § 1; 1947 c 181 § 1; 1905 c 112 § 1; 1888 c 128 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7594.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The reference to paragraph three of this section appears to be erroneous. An amendment to Engrossed Senate Bill No. 137 [1971 ex.s. c 55] deleted the first paragraph of the section without making a corresponding change in the reference to "paragraph three." It was apparently intended that the phrase "paragraph three of this section" refer to the paragraph beginning "It shall be unlawful ...", which now appears as the second paragraph of the section.

**Saving—1888 c 128:** "This act is not to be construed as affecting any bona fide contract heretofore entered into contrary to its provisions and existing at the date of the passage hereof, and continuing by reason of limitation of said contract being still in force." [1888 c 128 § 4; no RRS.]

**Effective date—1888 c 128:** "This act is to take effect on and after its approval." [1888 c 128 § 5; no RRS.]

**General repealer—1888 c 128:** "All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act be and the same are hereby repealed." [1888 c 128 § 6; no RRS.]

The foregoing annotations apply to RCW 49.48.010 through 49.48.030.

**49.48.020 Penalty for noncompliance with RCW 49.48.010 through 49.48.030 and 49.48.060.** Any person, firm, or corporation which violates any of the provisions of RCW 49.48.010 through 49.48.030 and 49.48.060 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. [1971 ex.s. c 55 § 2; 1933 ex.s. c 20 § 1; 1888 c 128 § 2; RRS § 7595.]

*Wages—Deductions—Rebates, authorized withholding: RCW 49.52.060.*

**49.48.030 Attorney's fee in action on wages—Exception.** In any action in which any person is successful in recovering judgment for wages or salary owed to him, reasonable attorney's fees, in an amount to be determined by

the court, shall be assessed against said employer or former employer: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That this section shall not apply if the amount of recovery is less than or equal to the amount admitted by the employer to be owing for said wages or salary. [1971 ex.s. c 55 § 3; 1888 c 128 § 3; RRS § 7596.]

**49.48.040 Enforcement of wage claims—Issuance of subpoenas—Compliance.** (1) The department of labor and industries may:

(a) Upon obtaining information indicating an employer may be committing a violation under chapters 39.12, 49.46, and 49.48 RCW, conduct investigations to ensure compliance with chapters 39.12, 49.46, and 49.48 RCW;

(b) Order the payment of all wages owed the workers and institute actions necessary for the collection of the sums determined owed; and

(c) Take assignments of wage claims and prosecute actions for the collection of wages of persons who are financially unable to employ counsel when in the judgment of the director of the department the claims are valid and enforceable in the courts.

(2) The director of the department or any authorized representative may, for the purpose of carrying out RCW 49.48.040 through 49.48.080: (a) Issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses or parties and the production of books, papers, or records; (b) administer oaths and examine witnesses under oath; (c) take the verification of proof of instruments of writing; and (d) take depositions and affidavits. If assignments for wage claims are taken, court costs shall not be payable by the department for prosecuting such suits.

(3) The director shall have a seal inscribed "Department of Labor and Industries—State of Washington" and all courts shall take judicial notice of such seal. Obedience to subpoenas issued by the director or authorized representative shall be enforced by the courts in any county.

(4) The director or authorized representative shall have free access to all places and works of labor. Any employer or any agent or employee of such employer who refuses the director or authorized representative admission therein, or who, when requested by the director or authorized representative, wilfully neglects or refuses to furnish the director or authorized representative any statistics or information pertaining to his or her lawful duties, which statistics or information may be in his or her possession or under the control of the employer or agent, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. [1987 c 172 § 1; 1935 c 96 § 1; RRS § 7596-1.]

**49.48.050 Remedy cumulative.** Nothing herein contained shall be construed to limit the authority of the prosecuting attorney of any county to prosecute actions, both civil and criminal, for such violations of RCW 49.48.040 through 49.48.080 as may come to his knowledge, or to enforce the provisions hereof independently and without specific direction of the director of labor and industries. [1935 c 96 § 2; RRS § 7596-2.]

**49.48.060 Director may require bond after assignment of wage claims—Court action—Penalty for failure**

**to pay wage claim.** (1) If upon investigation by the director, after taking assignments of any wage claim under RCW 49.48.040, it appears to the director that the employer is representing to his employees that he is able to pay wages for their services and that the employees are not being paid for their services, the director may require the employer to give a bond in such sum as the director deems reasonable and adequate in the circumstances, with sufficient surety, conditioned that the employer will for a definite future period not exceeding six months conduct his business and pay his employees in accordance with the laws of the state of Washington.

(2) If within ten days after demand for such bond the employer fails to provide the same, the director may commence a suit against the employer in the superior court of appropriate jurisdiction to compel him to furnish such bond or cease doing business until he has done so. The employer shall have the burden of proving the amount thereof to be excessive.

(3) If the court finds that there is just cause for requiring such bond and that the same is reasonable, necessary or appropriate to secure the prompt payment of the wages of the employees of such employer and his compliance with RCW 49.48.010 through 49.48.080, the court shall enjoin such employer from doing business in this state until the requirement is met, or shall make other, and may make further, orders appropriate to compel compliance with the requirement.

Upon being informed of a wage claim against an employer or former employer, the director shall, if such claim appears to be just, immediately notify the employer or former employer, of such claim by mail. If the employer or former employer fails to pay the claim or make satisfactory explanation to the director of his failure to do so, within thirty days thereafter, the employer or former employer shall be liable to a penalty of ten percent of that portion of the claim found to be justly due. The director shall have a cause of action against the employer or former employer for the recovery of such penalty, and the same may be included in any subsequent action by the director on said wage claim, or may be exercised separately after adjustment of such wage claim without court action. [1971 ex.s. c 55 § 4; 1935 c 96 § 3; RRS § 7596-3.]

**49.48.070 Enforcement.** It shall be the duty of the director of labor and industries to inquire diligently for any violations of RCW 49.48.040 through 49.48.080, and to institute the actions for penalties herein provided, and to enforce generally the provisions of RCW 49.48.040 through 49.48.080. [1935 c 96 § 4; RRS § 7596-4.]

**49.48.075 Reciprocal enforcement agreements with other states.** (1) The director of labor and industries, or the director's designee, may enter into reciprocal agreements with the labor department or corresponding agency of any other state or with the person, board, officer, or commission authorized to act on behalf of such department or agency, for the collection in such other states of claims or judgments for wages and other demands based upon claims assigned to the director.

(2) The director, or the director's designee, may, to the extent provided for by any reciprocal agreement entered into by law or with an agency of another state as herein provided, maintain actions in the courts of such other state for the collection of claims for wages, judgments, and other demands and may assign such claims, judgments, and demands to the labor department or agency of such other state for collection to the extent that such an assignment may be permitted or provided for by the law of such state or reciprocal agreement.

(3) The director, or the director's designee, may, upon the written consent of the labor department or corresponding agency of any other state or of the person, board, officer, or commission of such state authorized to act on behalf of such labor department or corresponding agency, maintain actions in the courts of Washington upon assigned claims for wages, judgments, and demands arising in such other state in the same manner and to the same extent that such actions by the director are authorized when arising in Washington. Such actions may be maintained only in cases where such other state by law or reciprocal agreement extends a like comity to cases arising in Washington. [1985 c 48 § 1.]

**49.48.080 Public employees excluded.** Nothing in RCW 49.48.040 through 49.48.080 shall apply to the payment of wages or compensation of employees directly employed by any county, incorporated city or town, or other municipal corporation. Nor shall anything herein apply to employees, directly employed by the state, any department, bureau, office, board, commission or institution hereof. [1935 c 96 § 5; RRS § 7596-5.]

**49.48.090 Assignment of wages—Requisites to validity.** No assignment of, or order for, wages to be earned in the future to secure a loan of less than three hundred dollars, shall be valid against an employer of the person making said assignment or order unless said assignment or order is accepted in writing by the employer, and said assignment or order, and the acceptance of the same, have been filed and recorded with the county auditor of the county where the party making said assignment or order resides, if a resident of the state, or in which he is employed, if not a resident of the state. [1909 c 32 § 1; RRS § 7597.]

**49.48.100 Written consent of spouse required.** No assignment of, or order for, wages to be earned in the future shall be valid, when made by a married person, unless the written consent of the other spouse to the making of such assignment or order is attached thereto. [1972 ex.s. c 108 § 7; 1909 c 32 § 2; RRS § 7598.]

**49.48.115 Employer defined.** For the purposes of RCW 49.48.120 the word "employer" shall include every person, firm, partnership, corporation, the state of Washington, and all municipal corporations. [1939 c 139 § 1; RRS § 1464-1. Formerly RCW 49.48.120, part.]

**49.48.120 Payment on employee's death.** If at the time of the death of any person, his employer is indebted to him for work, labor, and services performed, and no executor or administrator of his estate has been appointed, such

employer shall upon the request of the surviving spouse forthwith pay said indebtedness, in such an amount as may be due not exceeding the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars, to the said surviving spouse or if the decedent leaves no surviving spouse, then to the child or children, or if no children, then to the father or mother of said decedent: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That if by virtue of a community property agreement between the decedent and the surviving spouse, which meets the requirements of RCW 26.16.120, the right to such indebtedness became the sole property of the surviving spouse upon the death of the decedent, the employer shall pay to the surviving spouse the total of such indebtedness or that portion which is governed by the community property agreement upon presentation of said agreement accompanied by affidavit of the surviving spouse stating that such agreement was executed in good faith between the parties thereto and had not been rescinded by the parties prior to the death of the decedent: PROVIDED FURTHER, That in all cases the employer shall require proof of claimant's relationship to decedent by affidavit, and shall require claimant to acknowledge receipt of such payment in writing. Any payments made by an employer pursuant to the provisions of RCW 49.48.115 and 49.48.120 shall operate as a full and complete discharge of the employer's indebtedness to the extent of said payment, and no employer shall thereafter be liable therefor to the decedent's estate, or the decedent's executor or administrator thereafter appointed. The employer may also pay the indebtedness upon presentation of an affidavit as provided in RCW 11.62.010. [1981 c 333 § 2; 1974 ex.s. c 117 § 42; 1967 c 210 § 1; 1939 c 139 § 2; RRS § 1464-2. FORMER PART OF SECTION: 1939 c 139 § 1; RRS § 1464-1 now codified as RCW 49.48.115.]

**Application, construction—Severability—Effective date—1974 ex.s. c 117:** See RCW 11.02.080 and notes following.

**49.48.150 Sales representatives—Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout RCW 49.48.160 through 49.48.190.

(1) "Commission" means compensation paid a sales representative by a principal in an amount based on a percentage of the dollar amount of certain orders for or sales of the principal's product.

(2) "Principal" means a person, whether or not the person has a permanent or fixed place of business in this state, who:

(a) Manufactures, produces, imports, or distributes a product for sale to customers who purchase the product for resale;

(b) Uses a sales representative to solicit orders for the product; and

(c) Compensates the sales representative in whole or in part by commission.

(3) "Sales representative" means a person who solicits, on behalf of a principal, orders for the purchase at wholesale of the principal's product, but does not include a person who places orders for his own account for resale, or purchases for his own account for resale, or sells or takes orders for the direct sale of products to the ultimate consumer. [1992 c 177 § 1.]

**Severability—1992 c 177:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of

the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1992 c 177 § 7.]

**49.48.160 Sales representatives—Contract—Agreement.** (1) A contract between a principal and a sales representative under which the sales representative is to solicit wholesale orders within this state must be in writing and must set forth the method by which the sales representative's commission is to be computed and paid. The principal shall provide the sales representative with a copy of the contract. A provision in the contract establishing venue for an action arising under the contract in a state other than this state is void.

(2) When no written contract has been entered into, any agreement between a sales representative and a principal is deemed to incorporate the provisions of RCW 49.48.150 through 49.48.190.

(3) During the course of the contract, a sales representative shall be paid the earned commission and all other moneys earned or payable in accordance with the agreed terms of the contract, but no later than thirty days after receipt of payment by the principal for products or goods sold on behalf of the principal by the sales representative.

Upon termination of a contract, whether or not the agreement is in writing, all earned commissions due to the sales representative shall be paid within thirty days after receipt of payment by the principal for products or goods sold on behalf of the principal by the sales representative, including earned commissions not due when the contract is terminated. [1992 c 177 § 2.]

**Severability—1992 c 177:** See note following RCW 49.48.150.

**49.48.170 Sales representatives—Payment.** A principal shall pay wages and commissions at the usual place of payment unless the sales representative requests that the wages and commissions be sent through registered mail. If, in accordance with a request by the sales representative, the sales representative's wages and commissions are sent through the mail, the wages and commissions are deemed to have been paid as of the date of their registered postmark. [1992 c 177 § 3.]

**Severability—1992 c 177:** See note following RCW 49.48.150.

**49.48.180 Sales representatives—Principal considered doing business in this state.** A principal who is not a resident of this state and who enters into a contract subject to RCW 49.48.150 through 49.48.190 is considered to be doing business in this state for purposes of the exercise of personal jurisdiction over the principal. [1992 c 177 § 4.]

**Severability—1992 c 177:** See note following RCW 49.48.150.

**49.48.190 Sales representatives—Rights and remedies not exclusive—Waiver void.** (1) RCW 49.48.150 through 49.48.190 supplement but do not supplant any other rights and remedies enjoyed by sales representatives.

(2) A provision of RCW 49.48.150 through 49.48.190 may not be waived, whether by express waiver or by attempt to make a contract or agreement subject to the laws of another state. A waiver of a provision of RCW 49.48.150 through 49.48.190 is void. [1992 c 177 § 5.]

**Severability—1992 c 177:** See note following RCW 49.48.150.

## Chapter 49.52

### WAGES—DEDUCTIONS—CONTRIBUTIONS—REBATES

#### Sections

- 49.52.010 Employees' benefit deductions and employer contributions are trust funds—Enforcement.
- 49.52.020 Lien of party rendering service.
- 49.52.030 Deductions in extrahazardous employment—Medical aid fund deductions excluded.
- 49.52.040 Actions to recover for service—Lien—Priority.
- 49.52.050 Rebates of wages—False records—Penalty.
- 49.52.060 Authorized withholding.
- 49.52.070 Civil liability for double damages.
- 49.52.080 Presumption as to intent.
- 49.52.090 Rebates of wages on public works—Penalty.

*Chattel liens: Chapter 60.08 RCW.*

*Mechanics' and materialmen's liens: Chapter 60.04 RCW.*

*Mutual savings bank employees, pension benefits: RCW 32.04.082.*

*Public employees, payroll deductions: RCW 41.04.020, 41.04.030, 41.04.035, and 41.04.036.*

**49.52.010 Employees' benefit deductions and employer contributions are trust funds—Enforcement.** All moneys collected by any employer from his or its employees and all money to be paid by any employer as his contribution for furnishing, either directly, or through contract, or arrangement with a hospital association, corporation, firm or individual, of medicine, medical or surgical treatment, nursing, hospital service, ambulance service, dental service, burial service, or any or all of the above enumerated services, or any other necessary service, contingent upon sickness, accident or death, are hereby declared to be a trust fund for the purposes for which the same are collected. The trustees (or their administrator, representative, or agent under direction of the trustees) of such fund are authorized to take such action as is deemed necessary to ensure that the employer contributions are made including, but not limited to filing actions at law, and filing liens against moneys due to the employer from the performance of labor or furnishing of materials to which the employees contributed their services. Such trust fund is subject to the provisions of \*chapter 48.52 RCW. [1975 c 34 § 1; 1927 c 307 § 1; RRS § 7614-1.]

**Reviser's note:** Chapter 48.52 RCW was repealed by 1979 ex.s. c 34 § 1.

**49.52.020 Lien of party rendering service.** In case any employer collecting moneys from his employees or making contributions to any type of benefit plan for any or all of the purposes specified in RCW 49.52.010, shall enter into a contract or arrangement with any hospital association, corporation, firm or individual, to furnish any such service to its employees, the association, corporation, firm or individual contracting to furnish such services, shall have a lien upon such trust fund prior to all other liens except taxes. The lien hereby created shall attach from the date of the arrangement or contract to furnish such services and may be foreclosed in the manner provided by law for the foreclosure of other liens on personal property. [1975 c 34 § 2; 1927 c 307 § 2; RRS § 7614-2.]



**49.52.030 Deductions in extrahazardous employment—Medical aid fund deductions excluded.** All moneys realized by any employer from the employer's employees either by collection or by deduction from the wages or pay of employees intended or to be used for the furnishing to workers engaged in extrahazardous work, their families or dependents, of medical, surgical or hospital care and treatment, or for nursing, ambulance service, burial or any or all of the above enumerated services, or any service incidental to or furnished or rendered because of sickness, disease, accident or death, and all moneys owing by any employer therefor, shall be and remain a fund for the purposes for which such moneys are intended to be used, and shall not constitute or become any part of the assets of the employer making such collections or deductions: **PROVIDED, HOWEVER,** That RCW 49.52.030 and 49.52.040 shall not apply to moneys collected or deducted as aforesaid for, or owing by employers to the state medical aid fund. Such moneys shall be paid over promptly to the physician or surgeon or hospital association or other parties to which such moneys are due and for the purposes for which such collections or deductions were made. [1989 c 12 § 16; 1929 c 136 § 1; RRS § 7713-1.]

**49.52.040 Actions to recover for service—Lien—Priority.** If any such employer shall default in any such payment to any physician, surgeon, hospital, hospital association or any other parties to whom any such payment is due, the sum so due may be collected by an action at law in the name of the physician, surgeon, hospital, hospital association or any other party to whom such payment is owing, or their assigns and against such defaulting employer, and in addition to such action, such claims shall have the same priority and lien rights as granted to the state for claims due the accident and medical aid funds by section 7682 of Remington's Compiled Statutes of Washington, 1922 [RCW 51.16.150 through 51.16.170], and acts amendatory thereto, which priority and lien rights shall be enforced in the same manner and under the same conditions as provided in said section 7682 [RCW 51.16.150 through 51.16.170]: **PROVIDED, HOWEVER,** That the said claims for physicians, surgeons, hospitals and hospital associations and others shall be secondary and inferior to any claims of the state and to any claims for labor. Such right of action shall be in addition to any other right of action or remedy. [1929 c 136 § 2; RRS § 7713-2.]

**49.52.050 Rebates of wages—False records—Penalty.** Any employer or officer, vice principal or agent of any employer, whether said employer be in private business or an elected public official, who

(1) Shall collect or receive from any employee a rebate of any part of wages theretofore paid by such employer to such employee; or

(2) Wilfully and with intent to deprive the employee of any part of his wages, shall pay any employee a lower wage than the wage such employer is obligated to pay such employee by any statute, ordinance, or contract; or

(3) Shall wilfully make or cause another to make any false entry in any employer's books or records purporting to

show the payment of more wages to an employee than such employee received; or

(4) Being an employer or a person charged with the duty of keeping any employer's books or records shall wilfully fail or cause another to fail to show openly and clearly in due course in such employer's books and records any rebate of or deduction from any employee's wages; or

(5) Shall wilfully receive or accept from any employee any false receipt for wages;

Shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. [1941 c 72 § 1; 1939 c 195 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7612-21.]

**Severability—1939 c 195:** "If any section, sub-section, sentence or clause of this act shall be adjudged unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the act as a whole or of any section, sub-section, sentence or clause thereof not adjudged unconstitutional." [1939 c 195 § 5; RRS § 7612-25.] This applies to RCW 49.52.050 through 49.52.080.

**49.52.060 Authorized withholding.** The provisions of RCW 49.52.050 shall not make it unlawful for an employer to withhold or divert any portion of an employee's wages when required or empowered so to do by state or federal law or when a deduction has been expressly authorized in writing in advance by the employee for a lawful purpose accruing to the benefit of such employee nor shall the provisions of RCW 49.52.050 make it unlawful for an employer to withhold deductions for medical, surgical, or hospital care or service, pursuant to any rule or regulation: **PROVIDED,** That the employer derives no financial benefit from such deduction and the same is openly, clearly and in due course recorded in the employer's books. [1939 c 195 § 2; RRS § 7612-22.]

*Penalty for coercion as to purchase of goods, meals, etc.:* RCW 49.48.020.

*Public employment, payroll deductions:* RCW 41.04.020, 41.04.030, 41.04.035, and 41.04.036.

*Wages to be paid in lawful money or negotiable order, penalty:* RCW 49.48.010.

**49.52.070 Civil liability for double damages.** Any employer and any officer, vice principal or agent of any employer who shall violate any of the provisions of subdivisions (1) and (2) of RCW 49.52.050 shall be liable in a civil action by the aggrieved employee or his assignee to judgment for twice the amount of the wages unlawfully rebated or withheld by way of exemplary damages, together with costs of suit and a reasonable sum for attorney's fees: **PROVIDED, HOWEVER,** That the benefits of this section shall not be available to any employee who has knowingly submitted to such violations. [1939 c 195 § 3; RRS § 7612-23.]

**49.52.080 Presumption as to intent.** The violations by an employer or any officer, vice principal, or agent of any employer of any of the provisions of subdivisions (3), (4), and (5) of RCW 49.52.050 shall raise a presumption that any deduction from or underpayment of any employee's wages connected with such violation was wilful. [1939 c 195 § 4; RRS § 7612-24.]

**49.52.090 Rebates of wages on public works—Penalty.** Every person, whether as a representative of an awarding or public body or officer, or as a contractor or subcontractor doing public work, or agent or officer thereof,

who takes or receives, or conspires with another to take or receive, for his own use or the use of any other person acting with him any part or portion of the wages paid to any laborer, workman or mechanic, including a piece worker and working subcontractor, in connection with services rendered upon any public work within this state, whether such work is done directly for the state, or public body or officer thereof, or county, city and county, city, town, township, district or other political subdivision of the said state or for any contractor or subcontractor engaged in such public work for such an awarding or public body or officer, shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor. [1935 c 29 § 1; RRS § 10320-1.]

*Prevailing wages must be paid on public works: RCW 39.12.020.*

### Chapter 49.56

#### WAGES—PRIORITIES—PREFERENCES

##### Sections

- 49.56.010 Priority of wages in insolvency.
- 49.56.020 Preference on death of employer.
- 49.56.030 Priority in executions, attachments, etc.
- 49.56.040 Labor claims paramount to claims by state agencies.

*Chattel liens: Chapter 60.08 RCW.*

*Mechanics' and materialmen's liens: Chapter 60.04 RCW.*

**49.56.010 Priority of wages in insolvency.** In all assignments of property made by any person to trustees or assignees on account of the inability of the person at the time of the assignment to pay his debts, or in proceedings in insolvency, the wages of the miners, mechanics, salesmen, servants, clerks or laborers employed by such persons to the amount of one hundred dollars, each, and for services rendered within sixty days previously, are preferred claims, and must be paid by such trustees or assignees before any other creditor or creditors of the assignor. [Code 1881 § 1972; 1877 p 223 § 34; RRS § 1204.]

**Construction—1877 p 224:** "In construing the provisions of this act, words used in the masculine gender include the feminine and neuter, the singular number includes the plural and the plural the singular; the word person includes a corporation as well as a natural person, and the word writing includes printing." [1877 p 224 § 37.]

**Construction—1877 p 224:** "This act establishes the law of this territory respecting the subject to which it relates and its provisions and all proceedings under it are to be liberally construed with a view to effect its object." [1877 p 224 § 39.]

**Repeal and saving—1877 p 224:** "All acts relating to any kind or class of liens provided for in this act are hereby repealed, but no action or proceeding commenced before this act takes effect, and no right accrued is affected by such repeal but the proceedings therein must conform to the requirements of this act as far as applicable." [1877 p 224 § 38.]

**Effective date—1877 p 224:** "This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and the approval thereof by the governor." (Approved, November 8th, 1877.) [1877 p 224 § 40.]

**49.56.020 Preference on death of employer.** In case of the death of any employer, the wages of each miner, mechanic, salesman, clerk, servant and laborer for services rendered within sixty days next preceding the death of the employer, not exceeding one hundred dollars, rank in priority next after the funeral expenses, expenses of the last sickness, the charges and expenses of administering upon the estate and the allowance to the widow and infant children, and

must be paid before other claims against the estate of the deceased person. [Code 1881 § 1973; 1877 p 223 § 35; RRS § 1205.]

#### 49.56.030 Priority in executions, attachments, etc.

In cases of executions, attachments and writs of similar nature issued against any person, except for claims for labor done, any miners, mechanics, salesmen, servants, clerks and laborers who have claims against the defendant for labor done, may give notice of their claims and the amount thereof, sworn to by the person making the claim to the creditor and the officer executing either of such writs at any time before the actual sale of property levied on, and unless such claim is disputed by the debtor or a creditor, such officer must pay to such person out of the proceeds of the sale, the amount each is entitled to receive for services rendered within sixty days next preceding the levy of the writ, not exceeding one hundred dollars. If any or all the claims so presented and claiming preference under this chapter, are disputed by either the debtor or a creditor, the person presenting the same must commence an action within ten days from the recovery thereof, and must prosecute his action with due diligence, or be forever barred from any claim of priority of payment thereof; and the officer shall retain possession of so much of the proceeds of the sale as may be necessary to satisfy such claim, until the determination of such action; and in case judgment be had for the claim or any part thereof, carrying costs, the costs taxable therein shall likewise be a preferred claim with the same rank as the original claim. [Code 1881 § 1974; 1877 p 223 § 36; RRS § 1206.]

#### 49.56.040 Labor claims paramount to claims by state agencies.

In distraint or insolvency proceedings affecting the assets of an employer, claims for labor, salaries or wages not to exceed six hundred dollars to each claimant which have been earned within three months before the date of the distraint or commencement of the proceeding shall be paramount and superior to any claim preferred or presented by an agency of the state: PROVIDED, That this section shall not apply to any compensation payable to an employer or to an officer, director, or stockholder of a corporate employer. [1967 ex.s. c 86 § 1.]

### Chapter 49.60

#### DISCRIMINATION—HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

##### Sections

- 49.60.010 Purpose of chapter.
- 49.60.020 Construction of chapter—Election of other remedies.
- 49.60.030 Freedom from discrimination—Declaration of civil rights.
- 49.60.040 Definitions.
- 49.60.050 Commission created.
- 49.60.051 Board name changed to Washington State Human Rights Commission.
- 49.60.060 Membership of commission.
- 49.60.070 Compensation and reimbursement for travel expenses of commission members.
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 49.60.223 Unfair practice to induce sale or rental of real property by representations regarding entry into neighborhood of persons of particular race, disability, etc.  
 49.60.2235 Unfair practice to coerce, intimidate, threaten, or interfere regarding secured real estate transaction rights.  
 49.60.224 Real property contract provisions restricting conveyance, encumbrance, occupancy, or use to persons of particular race, disability, etc., void—Unfair practice.  
 49.60.225 Relief for unfair practice in real estate transaction—Damages—Penalty.  
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 49.60.240 Complaint investigated—Conference, conciliation—Agreement, findings—Rules.  
 49.60.250 Hearing of complaint by administrative law judge—Limitation of relief—Penalties—Order.  
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 49.60.280 Court shall expeditiously hear and determine.  
 49.60.310 Misdemeanor to interfere with or resist commission.  
 49.60.320 Governor may act on orders against state or political subdivisions.  
 49.60.330 First class cities of over one hundred twenty-five thousand population—Administrative remedies authorized—Superior court jurisdiction.  
 49.60.340 Election for civil action in lieu of hearing—Relief.  
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*Annual report on programs to reduce racial disproportionality: RCW 13.06.050.*

*Application forms—Licenses—Mention of race or religion prohibited: RCW 43.01.100, 43.01.110.*

*Blind persons with guide dog not to be refused service: RCW 70.84.030.*

*Denial of civil rights: RCW 9.91.010.*

*Handicapped persons, discrimination in public employment prohibited: RCW 70.84.080.*

*Gender equality in higher education: Chapter 28B.110 RCW.*

*Interscholar athletic and other extracurricular activities for students, discrimination prohibited: RCW 28A.600.200.*

*Malicious harassment because of a person's race, color, religion, ancestry, or national origin—Criminal penalty—Civil cause of action: RCW 9A.36.080.*

*Militia, organized, discrimination prohibited: RCW 38.40.110.*

*Sexual equality: State Constitution Art. 31 §§ 1, 2 (Amendment 61).*

*Sexual equality mandated for public schools: Chapter 28A.640 RCW.*

*Unfit buildings, discrimination prohibited: RCW 35.80.040.*

**49.60.010 Purpose of chapter.** This chapter shall be known as the "law against discrimination". It is an exercise of the police power of the state for the protection of the public welfare, health, and peace of the people of this state, and in fulfillment of the provisions of the Constitution of this state concerning civil rights. The legislature hereby finds and declares that practices of discrimination against any of its inhabitants because of race, creed, color, national origin, families with children, sex, marital status, age, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained guide dog or service dog by a disabled person are a matter of state concern, that such discrimination threatens not only the rights and proper privileges of its inhabitants but menaces the institutions and foundation of a free democratic state. A state agency is herein created with powers with respect to elimination and prevention of discrimination in employment, in credit and insurance transactions, in places of public resort, accommodation, or amusement, and in real property transactions because of race, creed, color, national origin, families with children, sex, marital status, age, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained guide dog or service dog by a disabled person; and the commission established hereunder is hereby given general jurisdiction and power for such purposes. [1995 c 259 § 1; 1993 c 510 § 1; 1985 c 185 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 214 § 1; 1973 c 141 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 167 § 1; 1957 c 37 § 1; 1949 c 183 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7614-20.]

**Effective date—1995 c 259:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect July 1, 1995." [1995 c 259 § 7.]

**Severability—1993 c 510:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1993 c 510 § 26.]

**Severability—1969 ex.s. c 167:** "If any provision of this act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1969 ex.s. c 167 § 10.]

**Severability—1957 c 37:** "If any provision of this act or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance shall be held invalid, the remainder of such act or the application of such provision to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby." [1957 c 37 § 27.]

**Severability—1949 c 183:** "If any provision of this act or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance shall be held invalid, the remainder of such act or the application of such provision to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby." [1949 c 183 § 13.]

*Urban renewal law—Discrimination prohibited: RCW 35.81.170.*

**49.60.020 Construction of chapter—Election of other remedies.** The provisions of this chapter shall be construed liberally for the accomplishment of the purposes thereof. Nothing contained in this chapter shall be deemed to repeal any of the provisions of any other law of this state relating to discrimination because of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, marital status, age, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, other than a law which purports to require or permit doing any act which is an unfair practice under this chapter. Nor shall anything

herein contained be construed to deny the right to any person to institute any action or pursue any civil or criminal remedy based upon an alleged violation of his or her civil rights. [1993 c 510 § 2; 1973 1st ex.s. c 214 § 2; 1973 c 141 § 2; 1957 c 37 § 2; 1949 c 183 § 12; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7614-30.]

**Severability—1993 c 510:** See note following RCW 49.60.010.

**49.60.030 Freedom from discrimination—Declaration of civil rights.** (1) The right to be free from discrimination because of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained guide dog or service dog by a disabled person is recognized as and declared to be a civil right. This right shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) The right to obtain and hold employment without discrimination;

(b) The right to the full enjoyment of any of the accommodations, advantages, facilities, or privileges of any place of public resort, accommodation, assemblage, or amusement;

(c) The right to engage in real estate transactions without discrimination, including discrimination against families with children;

(d) The right to engage in credit transactions without discrimination;

(e) The right to engage in insurance transactions or transactions with health maintenance organizations without discrimination: PROVIDED, That a practice which is not unlawful under RCW 48.30.300, 48.44.220, or 48.46.370 does not constitute an unfair practice for the purposes of this subparagraph; and

(f) The right to engage in commerce free from any discriminatory boycotts or blacklists. Discriminatory boycotts or blacklists for purposes of this section shall be defined as the formation or execution of any express or implied agreement, understanding, policy or contractual arrangement for economic benefit between any persons which is not specifically authorized by the laws of the United States and which is required or imposed, either directly or indirectly, overtly or covertly, by a foreign government or foreign person in order to restrict, condition, prohibit, or interfere with or in order to exclude any person or persons from any business relationship on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained guide dog or service dog by a disabled person, or national origin or lawful business relationship: PROVIDED HOWEVER, That nothing herein contained shall prohibit the use of boycotts as authorized by law pertaining to labor disputes and unfair labor practices.

(2) Any person deeming himself or herself injured by any act in violation of this chapter shall have a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction to enjoin further violations, or to recover the actual damages sustained by the person, or both, together with the cost of suit including reasonable attorneys' fees or any other appropriate remedy authorized by this chapter or the United States Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, or the Federal Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 3601 et seq.).

(3) Except for any unfair practice committed by an employer against an employee or a prospective employee, or any unfair practice in a real estate transaction which is the basis for relief specified in the amendments to RCW 49.60.225 contained in chapter 69, Laws of 1993, any unfair practice prohibited by this chapter which is committed in the course of trade or commerce as defined in the Consumer Protection Act, chapter 19.86 RCW, is, for the purpose of applying that chapter, a matter affecting the public interest, is not reasonable in relation to the development and preservation of business, and is an unfair or deceptive act in trade or commerce. [1995 c 135 § 3. Prior: 1993 c 510 § 3; 1993 c 69 § 1; 1984 c 32 § 2; 1979 c 127 § 2; 1977 ex.s. c 192 § 1; 1974 ex.s. c 32 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 214 § 3; 1973 c 141 § 3; 1969 ex.s. c 167 § 2; 1957 c 37 § 3; 1949 c 183 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7614-21.]

**Intent—1995 c 135:** See note following RCW 29.04.160.

**Severability—1993 c 510:** See note following RCW 49.60.010.

**Severability—1993 c 69:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1993 c 69 § 17.]

**Severability—1969 ex.s. c 167:** See note following RCW 49.60.010.

**Severability—1957 c 37:** See note following RCW 49.60.010.

**Severability—1949 c 183:** See note following RCW 49.60.010.

**49.60.040 Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

(1) "Person" includes one or more individuals, partnerships, associations, organizations, corporations, cooperatives, legal representatives, trustees and receivers, or any group of persons; it includes any owner, lessee, proprietor, manager, agent, or employee, whether one or more natural persons; and further includes any political or civil subdivisions of the state and any agency or instrumentality of the state or of any political or civil subdivision thereof;

(2) "Commission" means the Washington state human rights commission;

(3) "Employer" includes any person acting in the interest of an employer, directly or indirectly, who employs eight or more persons, and does not include any religious or sectarian organization not organized for private profit;

(4) "Employee" does not include any individual employed by his or her parents, spouse, or child, or in the domestic service of any person;

(5) "Labor organization" includes any organization which exists for the purpose, in whole or in part, of dealing with employers concerning grievances or terms or conditions of employment, or for other mutual aid or protection in connection with employment;

(6) "Employment agency" includes any person undertaking with or without compensation to recruit, procure, refer, or place employees for an employer;

(7) "Marital status" means the legal status of being married, single, separated, divorced, or widowed;

(8) "National origin" includes "ancestry";

(9) "Full enjoyment of" includes the right to purchase any service, commodity, or article of personal property offered or sold on, or by, any establishment to the public, and the admission of any person to accommodations, advantages, facilities, or privileges of any place of public resort, accommodation, assemblage, or amusement, without acts directly or indirectly causing persons of any particular

race, creed, color, sex, national origin, or with any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained guide dog or service dog by a disabled person, to be treated as not welcome, accepted, desired, or solicited;

(10) "Any place of public resort, accommodation, assemblage, or amusement" includes, but is not limited to, any place, licensed or unlicensed, kept for gain, hire, or reward, or where charges are made for admission, service, occupancy, or use of any property or facilities, whether conducted for the entertainment, housing, or lodging of transient guests, or for the benefit, use, or accommodation of those seeking health, recreation, or rest, or for the burial or other disposition of human remains, or for the sale of goods, merchandise, services, or personal property, or for the rendering of personal services, or for public conveyance or transportation on land, water, or in the air, including the stations and terminals thereof and the garaging of vehicles, or where food or beverages of any kind are sold for consumption on the premises, or where public amusement, entertainment, sports, or recreation of any kind is offered with or without charge, or where medical service or care is made available, or where the public gathers, congregates, or assembles for amusement, recreation, or public purposes, or public halls, public elevators, and public washrooms of buildings and structures occupied by two or more tenants, or by the owner and one or more tenants, or any public library or educational institution, or schools of special instruction, or nursery schools, or day care centers or children's camps: PROVIDED, That nothing contained in this definition shall be construed to include or apply to any institute, bona fide club, or place of accommodation, which is by its nature distinctly private, including fraternal organizations, though where public use is permitted that use shall be covered by this chapter; nor shall anything contained in this definition apply to any educational facility, columbarium, crematory, mausoleum, or cemetery operated or maintained by a bona fide religious or sectarian institution;

(11) "Real property" includes buildings, structures, dwellings, real estate, lands, tenements, leaseholds, interests in real estate cooperatives, condominiums, and hereditaments, corporeal and incorporeal, or any interest therein;

(12) "Real estate transaction" includes the sale, appraisal, brokering, exchange, purchase, rental, or lease of real property, transacting or applying for a real estate loan, or the provision of brokerage services;

(13) "Dwelling" means any building, structure, or portion thereof that is occupied as, or designed or intended for occupancy as, a residence by one or more families, and any vacant land that is offered for sale or lease for the construction or location thereon of any such building, structure, or portion thereof;

(14) "Sex" means gender;

(15) "Aggrieved person" means any person who: (a) Claims to have been injured by an unfair practice in a real estate transaction; or (b) believes that he or she will be injured by an unfair practice in a real estate transaction that is about to occur;

(16) "Complainant" means the person who files a complaint in a real estate transaction;

(17) "Respondent" means any person accused in a complaint or amended complaint of an unfair practice in a real estate transaction;

(18) "Credit transaction" includes any open or closed end credit transaction, whether in the nature of a loan, retail installment transaction, credit card issue or charge, or otherwise, and whether for personal or for business purposes, in which a service, finance, or interest charge is imposed, or which provides for repayment in scheduled payments, when such credit is extended in the regular course of any trade or commerce, including but not limited to transactions by banks, savings and loan associations or other financial lending institutions of whatever nature, stock brokers, or by a merchant or mercantile establishment which as part of its ordinary business permits or provides that payment for purchases of property or service therefrom may be deferred;

(19) "Families with children status" means one or more individuals who have not attained the age of eighteen years being domiciled with a parent or another person having legal custody of such individual or individuals, or with the designee of such parent or other person having such legal custody, with the written permission of such parent or other person. Families with children status also applies to any person who is pregnant or is in the process of securing legal custody of any individual who has not attained the age of eighteen years;

(20) "Covered multifamily dwelling" means: (a) Buildings consisting of four or more dwelling units if such buildings have one or more elevators; and (b) ground floor dwelling units in other buildings consisting of four or more dwelling units;

(21) "Premises" means the interior or exterior spaces, parts, components, or elements of a building, including individual dwelling units and the public and common use areas of a building. [1995 c 259 § 2. Prior: 1993 c 510 § 4; 1993 c 69 § 3; prior: 1985 c 203 § 2; 1985 c 185 § 2; 1979 c 127 § 3; 1973 c 141 § 4; 1969 ex.s. c 167 § 3; 1961 c 103 § 1; 1957 c 37 § 4; 1949 c 183 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7614-22.]

**Effective date—1995 c 259:** See note following RCW 49.60.010.

**Severability—1993 c 510:** See note following RCW 49.60.010.

**Severability—1993 c 69:** See note following RCW 49.60.030.

**Severability—1969 ex.s. c 167:** See note following RCW 49.60.010.

**Construction—1961 c 103:** "Nothing herein shall be construed to render any person or corporation liable for breach of preexisting contracts by reason of compliance by such person or corporation with this act." [1961 c 103 § 4.]

**Severability—1957 c 37:** See note following RCW 49.60.010.

**Severability—1949 c 183:** See note following RCW 49.60.010.

**49.60.050 Commission created.** There is created the "Washington state human rights commission," which shall be composed of five members to be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate, one of whom shall be designated as chairperson by the governor. [1985 c 185 § 3; 1981 c 338 § 9; 1957 c 37 § 5; 1955 c 270 § 2. Prior: 1949 c 183 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7614-23, part.]

**49.60.051 Board name changed to Washington State Human Rights Commission.** From and after August 9, 1971 the "Washington State Board Against Discrimination"

shall be known and designated as the "Washington State Human Rights Commission". [1971 ex.s. c 52 § 2.]

**49.60.060 Membership of commission.** One of the original members of the commission shall be appointed for a term of one year, one for a term of two years, one for a term of three years, one for a term of four years, one for a term of five years, but their successors shall be appointed for terms of five years each, except that any individual chosen to fill a vacancy shall be appointed only for the unexpired term of the member whom the individual succeeds.

A member shall be eligible for reappointment.

A vacancy in the commission shall be filled within thirty days, the remaining members to exercise all powers of the commission.

Any member of the commission may be removed by the governor for inefficiency, neglect of duty, misconduct or malfeasance in office, after being given a written statement of the charges and an opportunity to be heard thereon. [1985 c 185 § 4; 1955 c 270 § 3. Prior: 1949 c 183 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7614-23, part.]

**49.60.070 Compensation and reimbursement for travel expenses of commission members.** Each member of the commission shall be compensated in accordance with RCW 43.03.250 and, while in session or on official business, shall receive reimbursement for travel expenses incurred during such time in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. [1985 c 185 § 5; 1984 c 287 § 98; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34 § 145; 1955 c 270 § 4. Prior: 1949 c 183 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7614-23, part.]

**Legislative findings—Severability—Effective date—1984 c 287:** See notes following RCW 43.03.220.

**Effective date—Severability—1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34:** See notes following RCW 2.08.115.

**49.60.080 Official seal.** The commission shall adopt an official seal, which shall be judicially noticed. [1985 c 185 § 6; 1955 c 270 § 5. Prior: (i) 1949 c 183 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7614-23, part. (ii) 1949 c 183 § 6, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7614-25, part.]

**49.60.090 Offices of commission.** The principal office of the commission shall be in the city of Olympia, but it may meet and exercise any or all of its powers at any other place in the state, and may establish such district offices as it deems necessary. [1985 c 185 § 7; 1957 c 37 § 6; 1955 c 270 § 6. Prior: (i) 1949 c 183 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7614-23, part. (ii) 1949 c 183 § 6, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7614-25, part.]

**49.60.100 Reports of commission.** Subject to RCW 40.07.040, the commission, each biennium, shall report to the governor, describing the investigations, proceedings, and hearings it has conducted and their outcome, the decisions it has rendered, the recommendations it has issued, and the other work performed by it, and shall make such recommendations for further legislation as may appear desirable. The commission may present its reports to the legislature; the commission's reports shall be made available upon request. [1987 c 505 § 55; 1985 c 185 § 8; 1977 c 75 § 74; 1955 c

270 § 7. Prior: 1949 c 183 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7614-23, part.]

**49.60.110 Commission to formulate policies.** The commission shall formulate policies to effectuate the purposes of this chapter and may make recommendations to agencies and officers of the state or local subdivisions of government in aid of such policies and purposes. [1985 c 185 § 9; 1949 c 183 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7614-24.]

**49.60.120 Certain powers and duties of commission.** The commission shall have the functions, powers and duties:

(1) To appoint an executive director and chief examiner, and such investigators, examiners, clerks, and other employees and agents as it may deem necessary, fix their compensation within the limitations provided by law, and prescribe their duties.

(2) To obtain upon request and utilize the services of all governmental departments and agencies.

(3) To adopt, promulgate, amend, and rescind suitable rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this chapter, and the policies and practices of the commission in connection therewith.

(4) To receive, impartially investigate, and pass upon complaints alleging unfair practices as defined in this chapter.

(5) To issue such publications and such results of investigations and research as in its judgment will tend to promote good will and minimize or eliminate discrimination because of sex, race, creed, color, national origin, marital status, age, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained guide dog or service dog by a disabled person.

(6) To make such technical studies as are appropriate to effectuate the purposes and policies of this chapter and to publish and distribute the reports of such studies.

(7) To cooperate and act jointly or by division of labor with the United States or other states, with other Washington state agencies, commissions, and other government entities, and with political subdivisions of the state of Washington and their respective human rights agencies to carry out the purposes of this chapter. However, the powers which may be exercised by the commission under this subsection permit investigations and complaint dispositions only if the investigations are designed to reveal, or the complaint deals only with, allegations which, if proven, would constitute unfair practices under this chapter. The commission may perform such services for these agencies and be reimbursed therefor.

(8) To foster good relations between minority and majority population groups of the state through seminars, conferences, educational programs, and other intergroup relations activities. [1993 c 510 § 6; 1993 c 69 § 4; 1985 c 185 § 10; 1973 1st ex.s. c 214 § 4; 1973 c 141 § 7; 1971 ex.s. c 81 § 1; 1957 c 37 § 7; 1955 c 270 § 8. Prior: 1949 c 183 § 6, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7614-25, part.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1993 c 69 § 4 and by 1993 c 510 § 6, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section pursuant to RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Severability—1993 c 510:** See note following RCW 49.60.010.

**Severability—1993 c 69:** See note following RCW 49.60.030.

**Effective date—1971 ex.s. c 81:** "The effective date of this act shall be July 1, 1971." [1971 ex.s. c 81 § 6.]

*Human rights commission to investigate unlawful use of refueling services for disabled: RCW 70.84.090.*

**49.60.130 May create advisory agencies and conciliation councils.** The commission has power to create such advisory agencies and conciliation councils, local, regional, or state-wide, as in its judgment will aid in effectuating the purposes of this chapter. The commission may empower them to study the problems of discrimination in all or specific fields of human relationships or in specific instances of discrimination because of sex, race, creed, color, national origin, marital status, age, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained guide dog or service dog by a disabled person; to foster through community effort or otherwise good will, cooperation, and conciliation among the groups and elements of the population of the state, and to make recommendations to the commission for the development of policies and procedures in general and in specific instances, and for programs of formal and informal education which the commission may recommend to the appropriate state agency.

Such advisory agencies and conciliation councils shall be composed of representative citizens, serving without pay, but with reimbursement for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 as now existing or hereafter amended, and the commission may make provision for technical and clerical assistance to such agencies and councils and for the expenses of such assistance. The commission may use organizations specifically experienced in dealing with questions of discrimination. [1993 c 510 § 7; 1985 c 185 § 11; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34 § 146; 1973 1st ex.s. c 214 § 5; 1973 c 141 § 8; 1971 ex.s. c 81 § 2; 1955 c 270 § 9. Prior: 1949 c 183 § 6, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7614-25, part.]

**Severability—1993 c 510:** See note following RCW 49.60.010.

**Effective date—Severability—1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34:** See notes following RCW 2.08.115.

**Effective date—1971 ex.s. c 81:** See note following RCW 49.60.120.

**49.60.140 Commission may hold hearings and subpoena witnesses.** The commission has power to hold hearings, subpoena witnesses, compel their attendance, administer oaths, take the testimony of any person under oath, and in connection therewith, to require the production for examination of any books or papers relating to any matter under investigation or in question before the commission. The commission may make rules as to the issuance of subpoenas by individual members, as to service of complaints, decisions, orders, recommendations and other process or papers of the commission, its member, agent, or agency, either personally or by registered mail, return receipt requested, or by leaving a copy thereof at the principal office or place of business of the person required to be served. The return post office receipt, when service is by registered mail, shall be proof of service of the same. [1985 c 185 § 12; 1955 c 270 § 10. Prior: 1949 c 183 § 6, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7614-25, part.]

**49.60.150 Witnesses compelled to testify.** No person shall be excused from attending and testifying or from

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producing records, correspondence, documents or other evidence in obedience to the subpoena of the commission or of any individual member, on the ground that the testimony or evidence required of the person may tend to incriminate or subject the person to a penalty or forfeiture, but no person shall be prosecuted or subjected to any penalty or forfeiture for or on account of any transaction, matter or thing concerning which the person is compelled, after having claimed the privilege against self-incrimination, to testify or produce evidence, except that such person so testifying shall not be exempt from prosecution and punishment for perjury committed in so testifying. The immunity herein provided shall extend only to natural persons so compelled to testify. [1985 c 185 § 13; 1955 c 270 § 11. Prior: 1949 c 183 § 6, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7614-25, part.]

**49.60.160 Refusals may be punished as contempt of court.** In case of contumacy or refusal to obey a subpoena issued to any person, the superior court of any county within the jurisdiction of which the investigation, proceeding, or hearing is carried on or within the jurisdiction of which the person guilty of contumacy or refusal to obey is found or resides or transacts business, upon application by the commission shall have jurisdiction to issue to such person an order requiring such person to appear before the commission, its member, agent, or agency, there to produce evidence if so ordered, or there to give testimony touching the matter under investigation or in question. Any failure to obey such order of the court may be punished by the court as a contempt thereof. [1985 c 185 § 14; 1955 c 270 § 12. Prior: 1949 c 183 § 6, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7614-25, part.]

**49.60.170 Witness fees—Deposition fees.** Witnesses before the commission, its member, agent, or agency, shall be paid the same fees and mileage that are paid witnesses in the courts of this state. Witnesses whose depositions are taken and the person taking the same shall be entitled to same fees as are paid for like services in the courts of the state. [1985 c 185 § 15; 1955 c 270 § 13. Prior: 1949 c 183 § 6, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7614-25, part.]

*Courts of record—Witnesses: Chapter 2.40 RCW.*

*Discovery and depositions: Title 5 RCW; see also Rules of Court, CR 26 through 37.*

**49.60.172 Unfair practices with respect to HIV infection.** (1) No person may require an individual to take an HIV test, as defined in chapter 70.24 RCW, as a condition of hiring, promotion, or continued employment unless the absence of HIV infection is a bona fide occupational qualification for the job in question.

(2) No person may discharge or fail or refuse to hire any individual, or segregate or classify any individual in any way which would deprive or tend to deprive that individual of employment opportunities or adversely affect his or her status as an employee, or otherwise discriminate against any individual with respect to compensation, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment on the basis of the results of an HIV test unless the absence of HIV infection is a bona fide occupational qualification of the job in question.

(3) The absence of HIV infection as a bona fide occupational qualification exists when performance of a

particular job can be shown to present a significant risk, as defined by the board of health by rule, of transmitting HIV infection to other persons, and there exists no means of eliminating the risk by restructuring the job.

(4) For the purpose of this chapter, any person who is actually infected with HIV, but is not disabled as a result of the infection, shall not be eligible for any benefits under the affirmative action provisions of chapter 49.74 RCW solely on the basis of such infection.

(5) Employers are immune from civil action for damages arising out of transmission of HIV to employees or to members of the public unless such transmission occurs as a result of the employer's gross negligence. [1988 c 206 § 903.]

**Severability—1988 c 206:** See RCW 70.24.900.

**49.60.174 Evaluation of claim of discrimination—Actual or perceived HIV infection.** (1) For the purposes of determining whether an unfair practice under this chapter has occurred, claims of discrimination based on actual or perceived HIV infection shall be evaluated in the same manner as other claims of discrimination based on sensory, mental, or physical disability; or the use of a trained guide dog or service dog by a disabled person.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section shall not apply to transactions with insurance entities, health service contractors, or health maintenance organizations subject to RCW 49.60.030(1)(e) or 49.60.178 to prohibit fair discrimination on the basis of actual HIV infection status when bona fide statistical differences in risk or exposure have been substantiated.

(3) For the purposes of this chapter, "HIV" means the human immunodeficiency virus, and includes all HIV and HIV-related viruses which damage the cellular branch of the human immune system and leave the infected person immunodeficient. [1993 c 510 § 8; 1988 c 206 § 902.]

**Severability—1993 c 510:** See note following RCW 49.60.010.

**Severability—1988 c 206:** See RCW 70.24.900.

**49.60.175 Unfair practices of financial institutions.** It shall be an unfair practice to use the sex, race, creed, color, national origin, marital status, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability of any person, or the use of a trained guide dog or service dog by a disabled person, concerning an application for credit in any credit transaction to determine the credit worthiness of an applicant. [1993 c 510 § 9; 1979 c 127 § 4; 1977 ex.s. c 301 § 14; 1973 c 141 § 9; 1959 c 68 § 1.]

**Severability—1993 c 510:** See note following RCW 49.60.010.

*Fairness in lending act:* RCW 30.04.500 through 30.04.515.

**49.60.176 Unfair practices with respect to credit transactions.** (1) It is an unfair practice for any person whether acting for himself, herself, or another in connection with any credit transaction because of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, marital status, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained guide dog or service dog by a disabled person:

(a) To deny credit to any person;

(b) To increase the charges or fees for or collateral required to secure any credit extended to any person;

(c) To restrict the amount or use of credit extended or to impose different terms or conditions with respect to the credit extended to any person or any item or service related thereto;

(d) To attempt to do any of the unfair practices defined in this section.

(2) Nothing in this section shall prohibit any party to a credit transaction from considering the credit history of any individual applicant.

(3) Further, nothing in this section shall prohibit any party to a credit transaction from considering the application of the community property law to the individual case or from taking reasonable action thereon. [1993 c 510 § 10; 1979 c 127 § 5; 1973 c 141 § 5.]

**Severability—1993 c 510:** See note following RCW 49.60.010.

**49.60.178 Unfair practices with respect to insurance transactions.** It is an unfair practice for any person whether acting for himself, herself, or another in connection with an insurance transaction or transaction with a health maintenance organization to cancel or fail or refuse to issue or renew insurance or a health maintenance agreement to any person because of sex, marital status, race, creed, color, national origin, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained guide dog or service dog by a disabled person: PROVIDED, That a practice which is not unlawful under RCW 48.30.300, 48.44.220, or 48.46.370 does not constitute an unfair practice for the purposes of this section. For the purposes of this section, "insurance transaction" is defined in RCW 48.01.060, health maintenance agreement is defined in RCW 48.46.020, and "health maintenance organization" is defined in RCW 48.46.020.

The fact that such unfair practice may also be a violation of chapter 48.30, 48.44, or 48.46 RCW does not constitute a defense to an action brought under this section.

The insurance commissioner, under RCW 48.30.300, and the human rights commission, under chapter 49.60 RCW, shall have concurrent jurisdiction under this section and shall enter into a working agreement as to procedure to be followed in complaints under this section. [1993 c 510 § 11; 1984 c 32 § 1; 1979 c 127 § 6; 1974 ex.s. c 32 § 2; 1973 c 141 § 6.]

**Severability—1993 c 510:** See note following RCW 49.60.010.

**49.60.180 Unfair practices of employer.** It is an unfair practice for any employer:

(1) To refuse to hire any person because of age, sex, marital status, race, creed, color, national origin, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained guide dog or service dog by a disabled person, unless based upon a bona fide occupational qualification: PROVIDED, That the prohibition against discrimination because of such disability shall not apply if the particular disability prevents the proper performance of the particular worker involved.

(2) To discharge or bar any person from employment because of age, sex, marital status, race, creed, color, national origin, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained guide dog or service dog by a disabled person.



(3) To discriminate against any person in compensation or in other terms or conditions of employment because of age, sex, marital status, race, creed, color, national origin, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained guide dog or service dog by a disabled person: PROVIDED, That it shall not be an unfair practice for an employer to segregate washrooms or locker facilities on the basis of sex, or to base other terms and conditions of employment on the sex of employees where the commission by regulation or ruling in a particular instance has found the employment practice to be appropriate for the practical realization of equality of opportunity between the sexes.

(4) To print, or circulate, or cause to be printed or circulated any statement, advertisement, or publication, or to use any form of application for employment, or to make any inquiry in connection with prospective employment, which expresses any limitation, specification, or discrimination as to age, sex, marital status, race, creed, color, national origin, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained guide dog or service dog by a disabled person, or any intent to make any such limitation, specification, or discrimination, unless based upon a bona fide occupational qualification: PROVIDED, Nothing contained herein shall prohibit advertising in a foreign language. [1993 c 510 § 12; 1985 c 185 § 16; 1973 1st ex.s. c 214 § 6; 1973 c 141 § 10; 1971 ex.s. c 81 § 3; 1961 c 100 § 1; 1957 c 37 § 9. Prior: 1949 c 183 § 7, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7614-26, part.]

**Severability—1993 c 510:** See note following RCW 49.60.010.

**Effective date—1971 ex.s. c 81:** See note following RCW 49.60.120.

*Element of age not to affect apprenticeship agreements:* RCW 49.04.910.

*Labor—Prohibited practices:* Chapter 49.44 RCW.

*Unfair practices in employment because of age of employee or applicant:* RCW 49.44.090.

**49.60.190 Unfair practices of labor unions.** It is an unfair practice for any labor union or labor organization:

(1) To deny membership and full membership rights and privileges to any person because of age, sex, marital status, race, creed, color, national origin, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained guide dog or service dog by a disabled person.

(2) To expel from membership any person because of age, sex, marital status, race, creed, color, national origin, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained guide dog or service dog by a disabled person.

(3) To discriminate against any member, employer, employee, or other person to whom a duty of representation is owed because of age, sex, marital status, race, creed, color, national origin, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained guide dog or service dog by a disabled person. [1993 c 510 § 13; 1985 c 185 § 17; 1973 1st ex.s. c 214 § 8; 1973 c 141 § 11; 1971 ex.s. c 81 § 4; 1961 c 100 § 2; 1957 c 37 § 10. Prior: 1949 c 183 § 7, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7614-26, part.]

**Severability—1993 c 510:** See note following RCW 49.60.010.

**Effective date—1971 ex.s. c 81:** See note following RCW 49.60.120.

*Element of age not to affect apprenticeship agreements:* RCW 49.04.910.

#### **49.60.200 Unfair practices of employment agencies.**

It is an unfair practice for any employment agency to fail or refuse to classify properly or refer for employment, or otherwise to discriminate against, an individual because of age, sex, marital status, race, creed, color, national origin, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained guide dog or service dog by a disabled person, or to print or circulate, or cause to be printed or circulated any statement, advertisement, or publication, or to use any form of application for employment, or to make any inquiry in connection with prospective employment, which expresses any limitation, specification or discrimination as to age, sex, race, creed, color, or national origin, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained guide dog or service dog by a disabled person, or any intent to make any such limitation, specification, or discrimination, unless based upon a bona fide occupational qualification: PROVIDED, Nothing contained herein shall prohibit advertising in a foreign language. [1993 c 510 § 14; 1973 1st ex.s. c 214 § 9; 1973 c 141 § 12; 1971 ex.s. c 81 § 5; 1961 c 100 § 3; 1957 c 37 § 11. Prior: 1949 c 183 § 7, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7614-26, part.]

**Severability—1993 c 510:** See note following RCW 49.60.010.

**Effective date—1971 ex.s. c 81:** See note following RCW 49.60.120.

*Element of age not to affect apprenticeship agreements:* RCW 49.04.910.

*Fraud by employment agent:* RCW 49.44.050.

**49.60.205 Age discrimination—Limitation.** No person shall be considered to have committed an unfair practice on the basis of age discrimination unless the practice violates RCW 49.44.090. It is a defense to any complaint of an unfair practice of age discrimination that the practice does not violate RCW 49.44.090. [1993 c 510 § 15; 1985 c 185 § 28.]

**Severability—1993 c 510:** See note following RCW 49.60.010.

**49.60.210 Unfair to discriminate against person opposing unfair practice.** (1) It is an unfair practice for any employer, employment agency, labor union, or other person to discharge, expel, or otherwise discriminate against any person because he or she has opposed any practices forbidden by this chapter, or because he or she has filed a charge, testified, or assisted in any proceeding under this chapter.

(2) It is an unfair practice for a government agency or government manager or supervisor to retaliate against a whistleblower as defined in chapter 42.40 RCW. [1992 c 118 § 4; 1985 c 185 § 18; 1957 c 37 § 12. Prior: 1949 c 183 § 7, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7614-26, part.]

**49.60.215 Unfair practices of places of public resort, accommodation, assemblage, amusement.** It shall be an unfair practice for any person or the person's agent or employee to commit an act which directly or indirectly results in any distinction, restriction, or discrimination, or the requiring of any person to pay a larger sum than the uniform rates charged other persons, or the refusing or withholding from any person the admission, patronage, custom, presence, frequenting, dwelling, staying, or lodging in any place of public resort, accommodation, assemblage, or amusement, except for conditions and limitations established by law and

applicable to all persons, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained guide dog or service dog by a disabled person: PROVIDED, That this section shall not be construed to require structural changes, modifications, or additions to make any place accessible to a disabled person except as otherwise required by law: PROVIDED, That behavior or actions constituting a risk to property or other persons can be grounds for refusal and shall not constitute an unfair practice. [1993 c 510 § 16. Prior: 1985 c 203 § 1; 1985 c 90 § 6; 1979 c 127 § 7; 1957 c 37 § 14.]

**Severability—1993 c 510:** See note following RCW 49.60.010.

*Denial of civil rights: RCW 9.91.010.*

**49.60.220 Unfair practice to aid violation.** It is an unfair practice for any person to aid, abet, encourage, or incite the commission of any unfair practice, or to attempt to obstruct or prevent any other person from complying with the provisions of this chapter or any order issued thereunder. [1957 c 37 § 13. Prior: 1949 c 183 § 7, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7614-26, part.]

**49.60.222 Unfair practices with respect to real estate transactions, facilities, or services.** (1) It is an unfair practice for any person, whether acting for himself, herself, or another, because of sex, marital status, race, creed, color, national origin, families with children status, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained guide dog or service dog by a disabled person:

(a) To refuse to engage in a real estate transaction with a person;

(b) To discriminate against a person in the terms, conditions, or privileges of a real estate transaction or in the furnishing of facilities or services in connection therewith;

(c) To refuse to receive or to fail to transmit a bona fide offer to engage in a real estate transaction from a person;

(d) To refuse to negotiate for a real estate transaction with a person;

(e) To represent to a person that real property is not available for inspection, sale, rental, or lease when in fact it is so available, or to fail to bring a property listing to his or her attention, or to refuse to permit the person to inspect real property;

(f) To discriminate in the sale or rental, or to otherwise make unavailable or deny a dwelling, to any person; or to a person residing in or intending to reside in that dwelling after it is sold, rented, or made available; or to any person associated with the person buying or renting;

(g) To make, print, circulate, post, or mail, or cause to be so made or published a statement, advertisement, or sign, or to use a form of application for a real estate transaction, or to make a record or inquiry in connection with a prospective real estate transaction, which indicates, directly or indirectly, an intent to make a limitation, specification, or discrimination with respect thereto;

(h) To offer, solicit, accept, use, or retain a listing of real property with the understanding that a person may be discriminated against in a real estate transaction or in the furnishing of facilities or services in connection therewith;

(i) To expel a person from occupancy of real property;

(j) To discriminate in the course of negotiating, executing, or financing a real estate transaction whether by mortgage, deed of trust, contract, or other instrument imposing a lien or other security in real property, or in negotiating or executing any item or service related thereto including issuance of title insurance, mortgage insurance, loan guarantee, or other aspect of the transaction. Nothing in this section shall limit the effect of RCW 49.60.176 relating to unfair practices in credit transactions; or

(k) To attempt to do any of the unfair practices defined in this section.

(2) For the purposes of this chapter discrimination based on the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained guide dog or service dog by a blind, deaf, or physically disabled person includes:

(a) A refusal to permit, at the expense of the disabled person, reasonable modifications of existing premises occupied or to be occupied by such person if such modifications may be necessary to afford such person full enjoyment of the dwelling, except that, in the case of a rental, the landlord may, where it is reasonable to do so, condition permission for a modification on the renter agreeing to restore the interior of the dwelling to the condition that existed before the modification, reasonable wear and tear excepted;

(b) To refuse to make reasonable accommodation in rules, policies, practices, or services when such accommodations may be necessary to afford a person with the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability and/or the use of a trained guide dog or service dog by a blind, deaf, or physically disabled person equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling; or

(c) To fail to design and construct covered multifamily dwellings and premises in conformance with the federal fair housing amendments act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 3601 et seq.) and all other applicable laws or regulations pertaining to access by persons with any sensory, mental, or physical disability or use of a trained guide dog or service dog. Whenever the requirements of applicable laws or regulations differ, the requirements which require greater accessibility for persons with any sensory, mental, or physical disability shall govern.

Nothing in (a) or (b) of this subsection shall apply to: (i) A single-family house rented or leased by the owner if the owner does not own or have an interest in the proceeds of the rental or lease of more than three such single-family houses at one time, the rental or lease occurred without the use of a real estate broker or salesperson, as defined in RCW 18.85.010, and the rental or lease occurred without the publication, posting, or mailing of any advertisement, sign, or statement in violation of subsection (1)(g) of this section; or (ii) rooms or units in dwellings containing living quarters occupied or intended to be occupied by no more than four families living independently of each other if the owner maintains and occupies one of the rooms or units as his or her residence.

(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, it shall not be an unfair practice or a denial of civil rights for any public or private educational institution to separate the sexes or give preference to or limit use of dormitories, residence halls, or other student housing to persons of one

sex or to make distinctions on the basis of marital or families with children status.

(4) Except pursuant to subsection (2)(a) of this section, this section shall not be construed to require structural changes, modifications, or additions to make facilities accessible to a disabled person except as otherwise required by law. Nothing in this section affects the rights, responsibilities, and remedies of landlords and tenants pursuant to chapter 59.18 or 59.20 RCW, including the right to post and enforce reasonable rules of conduct and safety for all tenants and their guests, provided that chapters 59.18 and 59.20 RCW are only affected to the extent they are inconsistent with the nondiscrimination requirements of this chapter. Nothing in this section limits the applicability of any reasonable federal, state, or local restrictions regarding the maximum number of occupants permitted to occupy a dwelling.

(5) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, it shall not be an unfair practice for any public establishment providing for accommodations offered for the full enjoyment of transient guests as defined by RCW 9.91.010(1)(c) to make distinctions on the basis of families with children status. Nothing in this section shall limit the effect of RCW 49.60.215 relating to unfair practices in places of public accommodation.

(6) Nothing in this chapter prohibiting discrimination based on families with children status applies to housing for older persons as defined by the federal fair housing amendments act of 1988, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 3607(b)(1) through (3). Nothing in this chapter authorizes requirements for housing for older persons different than the requirements in the federal fair housing amendments act of 1988, 42 U.S.C. Sec. 3607(b)(1) through (3). [1995 c 259 § 3. Prior: 1993 c 510 § 17; 1993 c 69 § 5; 1989 c 61 § 1; 1979 c 127 § 8; 1975 1st ex.s. c 145 § 1; 1973 c 141 § 13; 1969 ex.s. c 167 § 4.]

**Effective date—1995 c 259:** See note following RCW 49.60.010.

**Severability—1993 c 510:** See note following RCW 49.60.010.

**Severability—1993 c 69:** See note following RCW 49.60.030.

**Severability—1969 ex.s. c 167:** See note following RCW 49.60.010.

**49.60.223 Unfair practice to induce sale or rental of real property by representations regarding entry into neighborhood of persons of particular race, disability, etc.** It is an unfair practice for any person, for profit, to induce or attempt to induce any person to sell or rent any real property by representations regarding the entry or prospective entry into the neighborhood of a person or persons of a particular race, creed, color, sex, national origin, families with children status, or with any sensory, mental, or physical disability and/or the use of a trained guide dog or service dog by a blind, deaf, or physically disabled person. [1993 c 510 § 18; 1993 c 69 § 6; 1979 c 127 § 9; 1969 ex.s. c 167 § 5.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1993 c 69 § 6 and by 1993 c 510 § 18, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section pursuant to RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Severability—1993 c 510:** See note following RCW 49.60.010.

**Severability—1993 c 69:** See note following RCW 49.60.030.

**Severability—1969 ex.s. c 167:** See note following RCW 49.60.010.

**49.60.2235 Unfair practice to coerce, intimidate, threaten, or interfere regarding secured real estate transaction rights.** It is an unlawful practice to coerce, intimidate, threaten, or interfere with any person in the exercise or enjoyment of, or on account of his or her having exercised or enjoyed, or on account of his or her having aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of, rights regarding real estate transactions secured by RCW 49.60.030, 49.60.040, and 49.60.222 through 49.60.224. [1993 c 69 § 7.]

**Severability—1993 c 69:** See note following RCW 49.60.030.

**49.60.224 Real property contract provisions restricting conveyance, encumbrance, occupancy, or use to persons of particular race, disability, etc., void—Unfair practice.** (1) Every provision in a written instrument relating to real property which purports to forbid or restrict the conveyance, encumbrance, occupancy, or lease thereof to individuals of a specified race, creed, color, sex, national origin, families with children status, or with any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained guide dog or service dog by a blind, deaf, or physically disabled person, and every condition, restriction, or prohibition, including a right of entry or possibility of reverter, which directly or indirectly limits the use or occupancy of real property on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, national origin, families with children status, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained guide dog or service dog by a blind, deaf, or physically disabled person is void.

(2) It is an unfair practice to insert in a written instrument relating to real property a provision that is void under this section or to honor or attempt to honor such a provision in the chain of title. [1993 c 69 § 8; 1979 c 127 § 10; 1969 ex.s. c 167 § 6.]

**Severability—1993 c 69:** See note following RCW 49.60.030.

**Severability—1969 ex.s. c 167:** See note following RCW 49.60.010.

**49.60.225 Relief for unfair practice in real estate transaction—Damages—Penalty.** (1) When a reasonable cause determination has been made under RCW 49.60.240 that an unfair practice in a real estate transaction has been committed and a finding has been made that the respondent has engaged in any unfair practice under RCW 49.60.250, the administrative law judge shall promptly issue an order for such relief suffered by the aggrieved person as may be appropriate, which may include actual damages as provided by the federal fair housing amendments act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 3601 et seq.), and injunctive or other equitable relief. Such order may, to further the public interest, assess a civil penalty against the respondent:

(a) In an amount up to ten thousand dollars if the respondent has not been determined to have committed any prior unfair practice in a real estate transaction;

(b) In an amount up to twenty-five thousand dollars if the respondent has been determined to have committed one other unfair practice in a real estate transaction during the five-year period ending on the date of the filing of this charge; or

(c) In an amount up to fifty thousand dollars if the respondent has been determined to have committed two or

more unfair practices in a real estate transaction during the seven-year period ending on the date of the filing of this charge, for loss of the right secured by RCW 49.60.010, 49.60.030, 49.60.040, and 49.60.222 through 49.60.224, as now or hereafter amended, to be free from discrimination in real property transactions because of sex, marital status, race, creed, color, national origin, families with children status, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained guide dog or service dog by a blind, deaf, or physically disabled person. Enforcement of the order and appeal therefrom by the complainant or respondent may be made as provided in RCW 49.60.260 and 49.60.270. If acts constituting the unfair practice in a real estate transaction that is the object of the charge are determined to have been committed by the same natural person who has been previously determined to have committed acts constituting an unfair practice in a real estate transaction, then the civil penalty of up to fifty thousand dollars may be imposed without regard to the period of time within which any subsequent unfair practice in a real estate transaction occurred. All civil penalties assessed under this section shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the general fund.

(2) Such order shall not affect any contract, sale, conveyance, encumbrance, or lease consummated before the issuance of an order that involves a bona fide purchaser, encumbrancer, or tenant who does not have actual notice of the charge filed under this chapter.

(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, persons awarded damages under this section may not receive additional damages pursuant to RCW 49.60.250. [1995 c 259 § 4. Prior: 1993 c 510 § 20; 1993 c 69 § 9; 1985 c 185 § 19; 1979 c 127 § 11; 1973 c 141 § 14; 1969 ex.s. c 167 § 7.]

**Effective date—1995 c 259:** See note following RCW 49.60.010.

**Severability—1993 c 510:** See note following RCW 49.60.010.

**Severability—1993 c 69:** See note following RCW 49.60.030.

**Severability—1969 ex.s. c 167:** See note following RCW 49.60.010.

**49.60.226 Cooperative agreements between units of government for processing complaints.** The commission and units of local government administering ordinances with provisions similar to the real estate provisions of the law against discrimination are authorized and directed to enter into cooperative agreements or arrangements for receiving and processing complaints so that duplication of functions shall be minimized and multiple hearings avoided. No complainant may secure relief from more than one instrumentality of state, or local government, nor shall any relief be granted by any state or local instrumentality if relief has been granted or proceedings are continuing in any federal agency, court, or instrumentality, unless such proceedings have been deferred pending state action. [1985 c 185 § 20; 1969 ex.s. c 167 § 8.]

**Severability—1969 ex.s. c 167:** See note following RCW 49.60.010.

**49.60.227 Declaratory judgment action to strike discriminatory provision of real property contract.** If a written instrument contains a provision that is void by reason of RCW 49.60.224, the owner, occupant, or tenant of the property which is subject to the provision may cause the

provision to be stricken from the public records by bringing an action in the superior court in the county in which the property is located. The action shall be an in rem, declaratory judgment action whose title shall be the description of the property. The necessary party to the action shall be the owner, occupant, or tenant of the property or any portion thereof. The person bringing the action shall pay a fee set under RCW 36.18.012.

If the court finds that any provisions of the written instrument are void under RCW 49.60.224, it shall enter an order striking the void provisions from the public records and eliminating the void provisions from the title or lease of the property described in the complaint. [1995 c 292 § 18; 1993 c 69 § 10; 1987 c 56 § 2.]

**Severability—1993 c 69:** See note following RCW 49.60.030.

**Intent—1987 c 56 § 2:** "The legislature finds that some real property deeds and other written instruments contain discriminatory covenants and restrictions that are contrary to public policy and are void. The continued existence of these covenants and restrictions is repugnant to many property owners and diminishes the free enjoyment of their property. It is the intent of RCW 49.60.227 to allow property owners to remove all remnants of discrimination from their deeds." [1987 c 56 § 1.]

**49.60.230 Complaint may be filed with commission.**

(1) Who may file a complaint:

(a) Any person claiming to be aggrieved by an alleged unfair practice may, personally or by his or her attorney, make, sign, and file with the commission a complaint in writing under oath or by declaration. The complaint shall state the name of the person alleged to have committed the unfair practice and the particulars thereof, and contain such other information as may be required by the commission.

(b) Whenever it has reason to believe that any person has been engaged or is engaging in an unfair practice, the commission may issue a complaint.

(c) Any employer or principal whose employees, or agents, or any of them, refuse or threaten to refuse to comply with the provisions of this chapter may file with the commission a written complaint under oath or by declaration asking for assistance by conciliation or other remedial action.

(2) Any complaint filed pursuant to this section must be so filed within six months after the alleged act of discrimination except that complaints alleging an unfair practice in a real estate transaction pursuant to RCW 49.60.222 through 49.60.225 must be so filed within one year after the alleged unfair practice in a real estate transaction has occurred or terminated. [1993 c 510 § 21; 1993 c 69 § 11; 1985 c 185 § 21; 1957 c 37 § 16; 1955 c 270 § 15. Prior: 1949 c 183 § 8, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7614-27, part.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1993 c 69 § 11 and by 1993 c 510 § 21, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section pursuant to RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Severability—1993 c 510:** See note following RCW 49.60.010.

**Severability—1993 c 69:** See note following RCW 49.60.030.

**49.60.240 Complaint investigated—Conference, conciliation—Agreement, findings—Rules.** After the filing of any complaint, the chairperson of the commission shall refer it to the appropriate section of the commission's staff for prompt investigation and ascertainment of the facts alleged in the complaint. The investigation shall be limited to the alleged facts contained in the complaint. The results

of the investigation shall be reduced to written findings of fact, and a finding shall be made that there is or that there is not reasonable cause for believing that an unfair practice has been or is being committed. A copy of said findings shall be provided to the complainant and to the person named in such complaint, hereinafter referred to as the respondent.

If the finding is made that there is reasonable cause for believing that an unfair practice has been or is being committed, the commission's staff shall immediately endeavor to eliminate the unfair practice by conference, conciliation, and persuasion.

If an agreement is reached for the elimination of such unfair practice as a result of such conference, conciliation, and persuasion, the agreement shall be reduced to writing and signed by the respondent, and an order shall be entered by the commission setting forth the terms of said agreement. No order shall be entered by the commission at this stage of the proceedings except upon such written agreement, except that during the period beginning with the filing of complaints alleging an unfair practice with respect to real estate transactions pursuant to RCW 49.60.222 through 49.60.225, and ending with the filing of a finding of reasonable cause or a dismissal by the commission, the commission staff shall, to the extent feasible, engage in conciliation with respect to such complaint. Any conciliation agreement arising out of conciliation efforts by the commission shall be an agreement between the respondent and the complainant and shall be subject to the approval of the commission. Each conciliation agreement shall be made public unless the complainant and respondent otherwise agree and the commission determines that disclosure is not required to further the purposes of this chapter.

If no such agreement can be reached, a finding to that effect shall be made and reduced to writing, with a copy thereof provided to the complainant and the respondent.

The commission may adopt rules, including procedural time requirements, for processing complaints alleging an unfair practice with respect to real estate transactions pursuant to RCW 49.60.222 through 49.60.225 and which may be consistent with the federal fair housing amendments act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 3601 et seq.), but which in no case shall exceed or be more restrictive than the requirements or standards of such act. [1995 c 259 § 5. Prior: 1993 c 510 § 22; 1993 c 69 § 12; 1985 c 185 § 22; 1981 c 259 § 1; 1957 c 37 § 17; 1955 c 270 § 16; prior: 1949 c 183 § 8, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7614-27, part.]

**Effective date—1995 c 259:** See note following RCW 49.60.010.

**Severability—1993 c 510:** See note following RCW 49.60.010.

**Severability—1993 c 69:** See note following RCW 49.60.030.

*RCW 49.60.240 through 49.60.280 applicable to complaints concerning unlawful use of refueling services for disabled: RCW 70.84.090.*

**49.60.250 Hearing of complaint by administrative law judge—Limitation of relief—Penalties—Order.** (1) In case of failure to reach an agreement for the elimination of such unfair practice, and upon the entry of findings to that effect, the entire file, including the complaint and any and all findings made, shall be certified to the chairperson of the commission. The chairperson of the commission shall thereupon request the appointment of an administrative law

judge under Title 34 RCW to hear the complaint and shall cause to be issued and served in the name of the commission a written notice, together with a copy of the complaint, as the same may have been amended, requiring the respondent to answer the charges of the complaint at a hearing before the administrative law judge, at a time and place to be specified in such notice.

(2) The place of any such hearing may be the office of the commission or another place designated by it. The case in support of the complaint shall be presented at the hearing by counsel for the commission: PROVIDED, That the complainant may retain independent counsel and submit testimony and be fully heard. No member or employee of the commission who previously made the investigation or caused the notice to be issued shall participate in the hearing except as a witness, nor shall the member or employee participate in the deliberations of the administrative law judge in such case. Any endeavors or negotiations for conciliation shall not be received in evidence.

(3) The respondent shall file a written answer to the complaint and appear at the hearing in person or otherwise, with or without counsel, and submit testimony and be fully heard. The respondent has the right to cross-examine the complainant.

(4) The administrative law judge conducting any hearing may permit reasonable amendment to any complaint or answer. Testimony taken at the hearing shall be under oath and recorded.

(5) If, upon all the evidence, the administrative law judge finds that the respondent has engaged in any unfair practice, the administrative law judge shall state findings of fact and shall issue and file with the commission and cause to be served on such respondent an order requiring such respondent to cease and desist from such unfair practice and to take such affirmative action, including, (but not limited to) hiring, reinstatement or upgrading of employees, with or without back pay, an admission or restoration to full membership rights in any respondent organization, or to take such other action as, in the judgment of the administrative law judge, will effectuate the purposes of this chapter, including action that could be ordered by a court, except that damages for humiliation and mental suffering shall not exceed ten thousand dollars, and including a requirement for report of the matter on compliance. Relief available for violations of RCW 49.60.222 through 49.60.224 shall be limited to the relief specified in RCW 49.60.225.

(6) If a determination is made that retaliatory action, as defined in RCW 42.40.050, has been taken against a whistleblower, as defined in RCW 42.40.020, the administrative law judge may, in addition to any other remedy, impose a civil penalty upon the retaliator of up to three thousand dollars and issue an order to the state employer to suspend the retaliator for up to thirty days without pay. At a minimum, the administrative law judge shall require that a letter of reprimand be placed in the retaliator's personnel file. All penalties recovered shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the general fund.

(7) The final order of the administrative law judge shall include a notice to the parties of the right to obtain judicial review of the order by appeal in accordance with the provisions of RCW 34.05.510 through 34.05.598, and that

such appeal must be served and filed within thirty days after the service of the order on the parties.

(8) If, upon all the evidence, the administrative law judge finds that the respondent has not engaged in any alleged unfair practice, the administrative law judge shall state findings of fact and shall similarly issue and file an order dismissing the complaint.

(9) An order dismissing a complaint may include an award of reasonable attorneys' fees in favor of the respondent if the administrative law judge concludes that the complaint was frivolous, unreasonable, or groundless.

(10) The commission shall establish rules of practice to govern, expedite, and effectuate the foregoing procedure. [1993 c 510 § 23; 1993 c 69 § 14; 1992 c 118 § 5; 1989 c 175 § 115; 1985 c 185 § 23; 1983 c 293 § 1; 1981 c 259 § 2; 1957 c 37 § 18; 1955 c 270 § 17. Prior: 1949 c 183 § 8, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7614-27, part.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1993 c 69 § 14 and by 1993 c 510 § 23, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section pursuant to RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Severability—1993 c 510:** See note following RCW 49.60.010.

**Severability—1993 c 69:** See note following RCW 49.60.030.

**Effective date—1989 c 175:** See note following RCW 34.05.010.

**Effective date—1981 c 259:** "Sections 2, 3, 4 and 5 of this 1981 act shall take effect upon the enactment of House Bill 101, 1981 Regular Session." [1981 c 259 § 7.] Sections 2, 3, 4, and 5 of 1981 c 259 consist of amendments to RCW 49.60.250, 49.60.260, and 49.60.270 and the enactment of RCW 49.60.330, respectively. House Bill 101 was enacted as chapter 67, Laws of 1981. It was signed by the governor on April 25, 1981. Since chapter 67, Laws of 1981 took effect on July 1, 1982, the apparent intent is for sections 2, 3, 4, and 5 of 1981 c 259 to take effect on that date. For effective date of 1981 c 67, see note following RCW 34.12.010.

*Assignment of administrative law judge for human rights commission proceedings:* RCW 34.12.037.

**49.60.260 Enforcement of orders of administrative law judge—Appellate review of court order.** (1) The commission or any person entitled to relief of a final order may petition the court within the county wherein any unfair practice occurred or wherein any person charged with an unfair practice resides or transacts business for the enforcement of any final order which is not complied with and is issued by the commission or an administrative law judge under the provisions of this chapter and for appropriate temporary relief or a restraining order, and shall certify and file in court the final order sought to be enforced. Within five days after filing such petition in court, the commission or any person entitled to relief of a final order shall cause a notice of the petition to be sent by certified mail to all parties or their representatives.

(2) If within sixty days after the date the administrative law judge's order concerning an unfair practice in a real estate transaction is entered, no petition has been filed under subsection (1) of this section and the commission has not sought enforcement of the final order under this section, any person entitled to relief under the final order may petition for a decree enforcing the order in the superior courts of the state of Washington for the county in which the unfair practice in a real estate transaction under RCW 49.60.222 through 49.60.224 is alleged to have occurred.

(3) From the time the petition is filed, the court shall have jurisdiction of the proceedings and of the questions

determined thereon, and shall have the power to grant such temporary relief or restraining order as it deems just and suitable.

(4) If the petition shows that there is a final order issued by the commission or administrative law judge under RCW 49.60.240 or 49.60.250 and that the order has not been complied with in whole or in part, the court shall issue an order directing the person who is alleged to have not complied with the administrative order to appear in court at a time designated in the order, not less than ten days from the date thereof, and show cause why the administrative order should not be enforced according to the terms. The commission or any person entitled to relief of any final order shall immediately serve the noncomplying party with a copy of the court order and the petition.

(5) The administrative order shall be enforced by the court if the person does not appear, or if the person appears and the court finds that:

(a) The order is regular on its face;

(b) The order has not been complied with; and

(c) The person's answer discloses no valid reason why the order should not be enforced, or that the reason given in the person's answer could have been raised by review under RCW 34.05.510 through 34.05.598, and the person has given no valid excuse for failing to use that remedy.

(6) The jurisdiction of the court shall be exclusive and its judgment and decree shall be final, except that the same shall be subject to appellate review by the supreme court or the court of appeals, on appeal, by either party, irrespective of the nature of the decree or judgment. The review shall be taken and prosecuted in the same manner and form and with the same effect as is provided in other cases. [1995 c 259 § 6; 1993 c 69 § 15; 1989 c 175 § 116; 1988 c 202 § 47; 1985 c 185 § 24; 1981 c 259 § 3; 1971 c 81 § 118; 1957 c 37 § 21. Prior: 1949 c 183 § 9, part; Rem Supp. 1949 § 7614-27A, part.]

**Rules of court:** Cf. RAP 2.2, 18.22.

**Effective date—1995 c 259:** See note following RCW 49.60.010.

**Severability—1993 c 69:** See note following RCW 49.60.030.

**Effective date—1989 c 175:** See note following RCW 34.05.010.

**Severability—1988 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.24.050.

**Effective date—1981 c 259:** See note following RCW 49.60.250.

**49.60.270 Appeal from orders of administrative law judge.** Any respondent or complainant, including the commission, aggrieved by a final order of an administrative law judge may obtain judicial review of such order as provided under the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW. From the time a petition for review is filed, the court has jurisdiction to grant to any party such temporary relief or restraining order as it deems just and suitable. If the court affirms the order, it shall enter a judgment and decree enforcing the order as affirmed. [1985 c 185 § 25; 1981 c 259 § 4; 1957 c 37 § 22. Prior: 1949 c 183 § 9, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7614-27A, part.]

**Effective date—1981 c 259:** See note following RCW 49.60.250.

**49.60.280 Court shall expeditiously hear and determine.** Petitions filed under RCW 49.60.260 and 49.60.270 shall be heard expeditiously and determined upon the transcript filed, without requirement of printing. Hear-

ings in the court under this chapter shall take precedence over all other matters, except matters of the same character. [1957 c 37 § 23. Prior: 1949 c 183 § 9, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7614-27A, part.]

**49.60.310 Misdemeanor to interfere with or resist commission.** Any person who wilfully resists, prevents, impedes, or interferes with the commission or any of its members or representatives in the performance of duty under this chapter, or who wilfully violates an order of the commission, is guilty of a misdemeanor; but procedure for the review of the order shall not be deemed to be such wilful conduct. [1985 c 185 § 26; 1961 c 100 § 4; 1957 c 37 § 26; 1949 c 183 § 10; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7614-28.]

**49.60.320 Governor may act on orders against state or political subdivisions.** In any case in which the commission shall issue an order against any political or civil subdivision of the state, or any agency, or instrumentality of the state or of the foregoing, or any officer or employee thereof, the commission shall transmit a copy of such order to the governor of the state. The governor shall take such action to secure compliance with such order as the governor deems necessary. [1985 c 185 § 27; 1949 c 183 § 11; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7614-29.]

**49.60.330 First class cities of over one hundred twenty-five thousand population—Administrative remedies authorized—Superior court jurisdiction.** Any county or any city classified as a first class city under RCW 35.01.010 with over one hundred twenty five thousand population may enact resolutions or ordinances consistent with this chapter to provide administrative and/or judicial remedies for any form of discrimination proscribed by this chapter. The imposition of such administrative remedies shall be subject to judicial review. The superior courts shall have jurisdiction to hear all matters relating to violation and enforcement of such resolutions or ordinances, including petitions for preliminary relief, the award of such remedies and civil penalties as are consistent with this chapter, and enforcement of any order of a county or city administrative law judge or hearing examiner pursuant to such resolution or ordinance. Any local resolution or ordinance not inconsistent with this chapter may provide, after a finding of reasonable cause to believe that discrimination has occurred, for the filing of an action in, or the removal of the matter to, the superior court. [1993 c 69 § 16; 1983 c 5 § 2; 1981 c 259 § 5.]

**Severability—1993 c 69:** See note following RCW 49.60.030.

**Effective date—1981 c 259:** See note following RCW 49.60.250.

**49.60.340 Election for civil action in lieu of hearing—Relief.** (1) Any complainant on whose behalf the reasonable cause finding was made, a respondent, or an aggrieved person may, with respect to real estate transactions pursuant to RCW 49.60.222 through 49.60.225, elect to have the claims on which reasonable cause was found decided in a civil action under RCW 49.60.030(2) in lieu of a hearing under RCW 49.60.250. This election must be made not later than twenty days after the service of the reasonable cause finding. The person making such election shall give notice

of doing so to the commission and to all other complainants and respondents to whom the charge relates. Any reasonable cause finding issued by the commission pursuant to the procedures contained in this chapter shall become final twenty days after service of the reasonable cause finding unless a written notice of election is received by the commission within the twenty-day period.

(2) If an election is made under subsection (1) of this section, the commission shall authorize not later than thirty days after the election is made, and the attorney general shall commence, a civil action on behalf of the aggrieved person in a superior court of the state of Washington seeking relief under this section.

(3) Any aggrieved person with respect to the issues to be determined in a civil action under this section may intervene as of right in that civil action.

(4) In a civil action under this section, if the court finds that an unfair practice in a real estate transaction has occurred or is about to occur, the court may grant any relief that a court could grant with respect to such an unfair practice in a real estate transaction in a civil action under RCW 49.60.030(2). If monetary relief is sought for the benefit of an aggrieved person who does not intervene in the civil action, the court shall not award such relief if that aggrieved person has not complied with discovery orders entered by the court.

(5) In any administrative proceeding under this section where the respondent is the prevailing party, a complainant who intervenes by filing a notice of independent appearance may be liable for reasonable attorneys' fees and costs only to the extent that the intervening participation in the administrative proceeding was frivolous or vexatious, or was for the purpose of harassment.

(6) In any administrative proceeding brought under RCW 49.60.225 or any court proceeding arising therefrom, or any civil action under this section, the administrative law judge or the court in its discretion may allow the prevailing party, other than the commission, reasonable attorneys' fees and costs. [1993 c 69 § 13.]

**Severability—1993 c 69:** See note following RCW 49.60.030.

**49.60.350 Temporary or preliminary relief—Superior court jurisdiction—Petition of commission.** (1) The superior courts of the state of Washington shall have jurisdiction upon petition of the commission, through the attorney general, to seek appropriate temporary or preliminary relief to enjoin any unfair practice in violation of RCW 49.60.222 through 49.60.225, from which prompt judicial action is necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(2) The commencement of a civil action under this section does not preclude the initiation or continuation of administrative proceedings under this chapter. [1993 c 69 § 2.]

**Severability—1993 c 69:** See note following RCW 49.60.030.

## Chapter 49.64

## EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS

## Sections

- 49.64.010 Duration of trusts for employee benefits.  
 49.64.020 Trusts exempted from limitation as to duration.  
 49.64.030 Employee benefit plans—Payment or refund as discharge—  
 Adverse claims.  
 49.64.040 Dental care assistance plans—Options required.

*Health care savings accounts authorized: Chapter 48.68 RCW.*

**49.64.010 Duration of trusts for employee benefits.**

Any trust heretofore or hereafter created for the purposes and of the type enumerated in RCW 49.64.020, whether in real or personal property or in real and personal property, may continue for such time as may be necessary to accomplish the purposes of the trust and shall not be invalid as violating any statute or rule of law against perpetuities, or against accumulations of earnings, or concerning the suspension of the power of alienation of the title to property, or otherwise limiting the duration of trusts. [1955 c 158 § 1.]

**49.64.020 Trusts exempted from limitation as to duration.** Trusts which are entitled to the exemption from limitation as to their duration provided for in RCW 49.64.010 must be:

(1) Created by an employer primarily for the benefit of some or all of the employees of such employer or the families or appointees of such employees, under any pension, profit-sharing, stock bonus, retirement, disability, death benefit or other similar types of employee-benefit plans; and

(2) Contributed to by the employer or employees or both; and

(3) Existing for the purpose of distributing to or for the benefit of some or all of such employees (either before or after their employment ceases), their families or appointees, the earnings or principal, or earnings and principal, of the trust. [1955 c 158 § 2.]

**49.64.030 Employee benefit plans—Payment or refund as discharge—Adverse claims.** Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 26.16.030, whenever payment or refund is made to an employee, former employee, or his beneficiary or estate pursuant to and in full compliance with a written retirement, death or other employee benefit plan or savings plan, such payment or refund shall fully discharge the employer and any trustee or insurance company making such payment or refund from all adverse claims thereto unless, before such payment or refund is made, the employer or former employer, where the payment is made by the employer or former employer, has received at its principal place of business within this state, written notice by or on behalf of some other person that such other person claims to be entitled to such payment or refund or some part thereof, or where a trustee or insurance company is making the payment, such notice has been received by the trustee or insurance company at its home office or its principal place of business within this state, and if none, such notice may be made on the secretary of state: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That nothing contained in this section shall affect any claim or right to any such payment or refund or part thereof as between all persons other than employer and the trustee or

insurance company making such payment or refund. [1953 c 45 § 1. Formerly RCW 49.52.065.]

*Employees' benefit deductions are trust funds: RCW 49.52.010.*

**49.64.040 Dental care assistance plans—Options required.** (1) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, in this section "dental care assistance plan" means any plan of dental insurance offered by an insurer as defined by chapter 48.01 RCW and any agreement for dental care benefits entered into or renewed after January 1, 1989, provided by a health care service contractor as defined by chapter 48.44 RCW.

(2) Each employer, public or private, that offers its employees a dental care assistance plan and each employee benefits fund that offers its members a dental care assistance plan limiting the provider of dental care to designated providers or group of providers, shall make available to and inform its employees or members of the option of enrolling in an alternative dental care assistance plan that permits the employees or members to obtain dental care services from any licensed dental care provider of their choice. The portion of the premium paid by the employer for the limiting plan shall be comparable to, but in no case greater than, the portion of the premium paid by the employer for the other plan. If employees are members of a bona fide bargaining unit covered by a labor-management collective bargaining agreement, the selection of the options required by this section may be specified in the agreement. The provisions of this section are not mandatory if the employees are covered by Taft-Hartley health care trust, except that the labor-management trustees may contract with a dental care assistance plan if a feasibility study determines it is to the advantage of the members: PROVIDED, That this section shall only apply to employers with greater than twenty-five employees under coverage. [1988 c 259 § 1.]

## Chapter 49.66

## HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES

## Sections

- 49.66.010 Purpose—Policy—Declaration.  
 49.66.020 Definitions.  
 49.66.030 Bargaining unit.  
 49.66.040 Unfair labor practice by health care activity.  
 49.66.050 Unfair labor practice by employee organization or agent.  
 49.66.060 Strike and picketing.  
 49.66.070 Relief from unfair labor practice—Actions—Remedial orders.  
 49.66.080 Rules and regulations—Procedures.  
 49.66.090 Board of arbitration—Members—Selection—Chairman.  
 49.66.100 Board of arbitration—Hearings—Findings.  
 49.66.110 Board of arbitration—Standards or guidelines.  
 49.66.120 Arbitrator—Compensation—Expenses.  
 49.66.900 Severability—1972 ex.s. c 156.

**49.66.010 Purpose—Policy—Declaration.** It is the public policy of the state to expedite the settlement of labor disputes arising in connection with health care activities, in order that there may be no lessening, however temporary, in the quality of the care given to patients. It is the legislative purpose by this chapter to promote collective bargaining between health care activities and their employees, to protect



the right of employees of health care activities to organize and select collective bargaining units of their own choosing.

It is further determined that any agreements involving union security including an all-union agreement or agency agreement must safeguard the rights of nonassociation of employees, based on bona fide religious tenets or teachings of a church or religious body of which such employee is a member. Such employee must pay an amount of money equivalent to regular union dues and initiation fees and assessments, if any, to a nonreligious charity or to another charitable organization mutually agreed upon by the employee affected and the representative of the labor organization to which such employee would otherwise pay dues. The employee shall furnish written proof that this has been done. If the employee and representative of the labor organization do not reach agreement on the matter, the department shall designate such organization. [1973 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 1; 1972 ex.s. c 156 § 1.]

**49.66.020 Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

(1) "Health care activity" includes any hospital, nursing home, institution, agency or establishment, exclusive of those operated by the state, its municipalities, or political subdivisions, having for one of its principal purposes the preservation of health or the care of sick, aged or infirm persons.

(2) "Bargaining unit" includes any group of employees of a health care activity having substantially common interests with respect to working conditions. The composition of a bargaining unit may be determined by common consent between an employer and its employees, or, in the event either party shall apply to the director of labor and industries for a determination of the composition of a bargaining unit, it shall be determined by the director of labor and industries or his delegated representative. No bargaining unit shall be found appropriate if it includes guards together with other employees.

(3) "Employee" includes any registered nurse or licensed practical nurse or service personnel performing services for wages for a health care activity. The term shall not apply to a member of a religious order assigned to a health care activity by the order as a part of his obligations to it; nor shall it apply to persons performing services in connection with healing by prayer or spiritual means alone in accordance with the tenets and practices of recognized church or religious denominations by adherents thereof; nor shall it apply to supervisors.

(4) "Employer" includes any person, agency, corporation, company or other organization engaged in the operation of a health care activity, whether for profitable or charitable purposes.

(5) "Supervisor" means any individual having authority, in the interest of the employer, to hire, transfer, suspend, lay off, recall, promote, discharge, assign, reward, or discipline other employees, or responsibly to direct them, or to adjust their grievances, or effectively to recommend such action, if in connection with the foregoing the exercise of such authority is not of a merely routine or clerical nature, but requires the use of independent judgment. Supervisor includes registered nurses only if administrative supervision is his or her primary duty and activity.

(6) "Guard" means any individual employed as a guard to enforce against employees and other persons rules to protect property of the employer or to protect the safety of persons on the employer's premises.

(7) "Director" means the director of the department of labor and industries.

(8) "Department" means the department of labor and industries. [1973 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 2; 1972 ex.s. c 156 § 2.]

**49.66.030 Bargaining unit.** An employee association shall be deemed the properly designated representative of a bargaining unit when it can show evidence that bargaining rights have been assigned to it by a majority of the employees in the bargaining unit. Should questions arise concerning the representative status of any employee organization claiming to represent a bargaining unit of employees, upon petition by such an organization, it shall be the duty of the director, acting by himself or through a designee to investigate and determine the composition of the organization. Any organization found authorized by not less than thirty percent of the employees of a bargaining unit shall be eligible to apply for an election to determine its rights to represent the unit. If more than one organization shall claim to represent any unit, the director, or his designee, may conduct an election by secret ballot to determine which organization shall be authorized to represent the unit. In order to be certified as a bargaining representative, an employee organization must receive, in a secret ballot election, votes from a majority of the employees who vote in the election, except that nothing in this section shall prohibit the voluntary recognition of a labor organization as a bargaining representative by an employer upon a showing of reasonable proof of majority. In any election held pursuant to this section, there shall be a choice on the ballot for employees to designate that they do not wish to be represented by any bargaining representative. No representation election shall be directed in any bargaining unit or any subdivision thereof within which, in the preceding twelve-month period, a valid election has been held. Thirty percent of the employees of an employer may file a petition for a secret ballot election to ascertain whether the employee organization which has been certified or is currently recognized by their employer as their bargaining representative is no longer their bargaining representative.

No employee organization shall be certified as the representative of employees in a bargaining unit of guards, if such organization admits to membership, or is affiliated directly or indirectly with an organization which admits to membership, employees other than guards. The determination shall be based upon a plurality of votes cast in such election, and shall remain in effect for a period of not less than one year. In determining appropriate bargaining units, the director shall limit such units to groups consisting of registered nurses, licensed practical nurses or service personnel: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That if a majority of each such classification desires inclusion within a single bargaining unit, they may combine into a single unit. [1973 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 3; 1972 ex.s. c 156 § 3.]

**49.66.040 Unfair labor practice by health care activity.** It shall be deemed an unfair labor practice, and unlawful, for any health care activity to:

(1) Interfere with, restrain or coerce employees in any manner in the exercise of their right of self-organization: PROVIDED, That the expressing of any views, argument, or opinion, or the dissemination thereof, whether in written, printed, graphic or visual form, shall not constitute or be evidence of an unfair labor practice under any of the provisions of this chapter, if such expression contains no threat of reprisal or force or promise of benefit;

(2) Initiate, create, dominate, contribute to or interfere with the formation or administration of any employee organization having bargaining as one of its functions;

(3) Discriminate in regard to hire, terms, or conditions of employment in order to discourage membership in any employee organization having collective bargaining as one of its functions;

(4) Refuse to meet and bargain in good faith with the duly designated representatives of an appropriate bargaining unit of employees; and it shall be a requirement of good faith bargaining that the parties be willing to reduce to writing, and have their representatives sign, any agreement arrived at through negotiation and discussion. [1972 ex.s. c 156 § 4.]

**49.66.050 Unfair labor practice by employee organization or agent.** It shall be an unfair labor practice and unlawful, for any employee organization or its agent to:

(1) Restrain or coerce (a) employees in the exercise of their right to refrain from self-organization, or (b) an employer in the selection of its representatives for purposes of collective bargaining or the adjustment of grievances;

(2) Cause or attempt to cause an employer to discriminate against an employee in violation of subsection (3) of RCW 49.66.040 or to discriminate against an employee with respect to whom membership in such organization has been denied or terminated on some ground other than his failure to tender the periodic dues and initiation fees uniformly required as a condition of acquiring or retaining membership;

(3) Refuse to meet and bargain in good faith with an employer, provided it is the duly designated representative of the employer's employees for purposes of collective bargaining;

(4) Require of employees covered by a union security agreement the payment, as a condition precedent to becoming a member of such organization, of a fee in an amount which the director finds excessive or discriminatory under all the circumstances. In making such a finding, the director shall consider, among other relevant factors, the practices and customs of labor organizations in the particular industry, and the wages currently paid to the employees affected;

(5) Cause or attempt to cause an employer to pay or deliver or agree to pay or deliver any money or other thing of value, in the nature of an exaction, for services which are not performed or not to be performed;

(6) Enter into any contract or agreement, express or implied, whereby an employer or other person ceases or refrains, or agrees to cease or refrain, from handling, using, selling, transporting or otherwise dealing in any of the products or services of any other employer or person, or to

cease doing business with any other employer or person, and any such contract or agreement shall be unenforceable and void; or

(7) Engage in, or induce or encourage any individual employed by any employer or to engage in, an activity prohibited by RCW 49.66.060. [1973 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 4; 1972 ex.s. c 156 § 5.]

**49.66.060 Strike and picketing.** No employee organization, bargaining representative, person or employee shall authorize, sanction, engage in, or participate in a strike (including but not limited to a concerted work stoppage of any kind, concerted slowdown or concerted refusal or failure to report for work or perform work) or picketing against an employer under any circumstances, whether arising out of a recognition dispute, bargaining impasse or otherwise: PROVIDED, That nothing in this section shall prohibit picketing or other publicity for the sole purpose of truthfully advising the public of the existence of a dispute with the employer, unless an effect of such picketing or other publicity is (a) to induce any employee of the employer or any other individual, in the course of his employment, not to pick up, deliver or transfer goods, not to enter the employer's premises, or not to perform services; or (b) to induce such an employee or individual to engage in a strike. [1972 ex.s. c 156 § 6.]

**49.66.070 Relief from unfair labor practice—Actions—Remedial orders.** The director or any employee organization qualified to apply for an election under RCW 49.66.030 as now or hereafter amended or any employer may maintain in its name or in the name of its members legal action in any county in which jurisdiction of the employer or employee organization may be obtained, to seek relief from the commission of an unfair labor practice: PROVIDED, That such employer or employee organization exhausts the administrative remedies under rules and regulations promulgated by the department prior to seeking such court action.

The department is empowered and directed to prevent any unfair labor practice and to issue appropriate remedial orders. Any party aggrieved by any remedial order is entitled to the judicial review thereof in accordance with the provisions of chapter 34.05 RCW. [1973 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 5; 1972 ex.s. c 156 § 7.]

**49.66.080 Rules and regulations—Procedures.** The director shall have the power to make such rules and regulations not inconsistent with this chapter, including the establishment of procedures for the hearing and determination of charges alleging unfair labor practices, and for a determination on application by either party when an impasse has arisen, and as he shall determine are necessary to effectuate its purpose and to enable him to carry out its provisions. [1973 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 6; 1972 ex.s. c 156 § 8.]

**49.66.090 Board of arbitration—Members—Selection—Chairman.** In the event that a health care activity and an employees' bargaining unit shall reach an impasse, the matters in dispute shall be submitted to a board of arbitration composed of three arbitrators for final and

binding resolution. The board shall be selected in the following manner: Within ten days, the employer shall appoint one arbitrator and the employees shall appoint one arbitrator. The two arbitrators so selected and named shall within ten days agree upon and select the name of a third arbitrator who shall act as chairman. If, upon the expiration of the period allowed therefor the arbitrators are unable to agree on the selection of a third arbitrator, such arbitrator shall be appointed at the request of either party in accordance with the provisions of RCW 7.04.050 and he shall act as chairman of the arbitration board. [1973 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 7; 1972 ex.s. c 156 § 9.]

**49.66.100 Board of arbitration—Hearings—Findings.** The arbitration board, acting through its chairman, shall call a hearing to be held within ten days after the date of the appointment of the chairman. The board shall conduct public or private hearings. Reasonable notice of such hearings shall be given to the parties who shall appear and be heard either in person or by counsel or other representative. Hearings shall be informal and the rules of evidence prevailing in judicial proceedings shall not be binding. A recording of the proceedings shall be taken. Any oral or documentary evidence and other data deemed relevant by the board may be received in evidence. The board shall have the power to administer oaths, require the attendance of witnesses, and the production of such books, papers, contracts, agreements and documents as may be deemed by the board material to a just determination of the issues in dispute and to issue subpoenas. If any person refuses to obey such subpoena or refuses to be sworn to testify, or any witness, party or attorney is guilty of any contempt while in attendance at any hearing held hereunder, the board may invoke the jurisdiction of any superior court and such court shall have jurisdiction to issue an appropriate order. A failure to obey such order may be punished by the court as a contempt thereof. The hearing conducted by the arbitrators shall be concluded within twenty days of the time of commencement and, within ten days after conclusion of the hearings, the arbitrator shall make written findings and a written opinion upon the issues presented, a copy of which shall be mailed or otherwise delivered to the employees' negotiating agent or its attorney or other designated representative and to the employer or the employer's attorney or designated representative. The determination of the dispute made by the board shall be final and binding upon both parties. [1972 ex.s. c 156 § 10.]

**49.66.110 Board of arbitration—Standards or guidelines.** In making its determination, the board of arbitrators shall be mindful of the legislative purpose enumerated in RCW 49.66.010 and as additional standards or guidelines to aid it in reaching a decision, it shall take into consideration the following factors:

- (1) Wage rates or other conditions of employment of the health care activity in question as compared with prevailing wage rates or other conditions of employment in the local operating area involved.
- (2) Wage rates or other working conditions as compared with wage rates or other working conditions maintained for the same or similar work of workers in the local area.

(3) The overall compensation of employees having regard not only to wages for time actually worked but also for time not actually worked, including vacations, holidays and other excused time and for all fringe benefits received.

(4) Interest and welfare of the public.

(5) Comparison of peculiarities of employment in regard to other comparable trades or professions, specifically:

- (a) Physical qualifications.
- (b) Educational qualifications.
- (c) Job training and skills.

(6) Efficiency of operation of the health care activity. [1972 ex.s. c 156 § 11.]

**49.66.120 Arbitrator—Compensation—Expenses.** The arbitrator so selected by the parties shall be paid at the daily rate or rates not to exceed the usual or customary rates paid to arbitrators in addition to travel expenses at the rates provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 as now existing or hereafter amended. Such sums together with all expenses of the hearing shall be borne equally by the parties to the arbitration proceedings. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34 § 147; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 8; 1972 ex.s. c 156 § 12.]

**Effective date—Severability—1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34:** See notes following RCW 2.08.115.

**49.66.900 Severability—1972 ex.s. c 156.** If any portion of this chapter, or its application to any particular health care activity or class of health care activity, should be held invalid, the remainder of the chapter, or its application to other health care activities, or other classes thereof, shall not be affected. [1972 ex.s. c 156 § 13.]

**Chapter 49.70**

**WORKER AND COMMUNITY RIGHT TO KNOW ACT**

Sections

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- 49.70.200 Adoption of rules.
- 49.70.210 Application of chapter to consumer products.
- 49.70.900 Short title.
- 49.70.905 Severability—1984 c 289.

**49.70.010 Legislative findings.** The legislature finds and declares that the proliferation of hazardous substances in the environment poses a growing threat to the public health, safety, and welfare; that the constantly increasing number and variety of hazardous substances, and the many routes of exposure to them make it difficult and expensive to monitor adequately and detect any adverse health effects attributable thereto; that individuals themselves are often able to detect and thus minimize effects of exposure to hazardous substances if they are aware of the identity of the substances and the early symptoms of unsafe exposure; and that individuals have an inherent right to know the full range of the risks they face so that they can make reasoned decisions and take informed action concerning their employment and their living conditions.

The legislature further declares that local health, fire, police, safety, and other government officials require detailed information about the identity, characteristics, and quantities of hazardous substances used and stored in communities within their jurisdictions, in order to plan adequately for, and respond to, emergencies, enforce compliance with applicable laws and regulations concerning these substances, and to compile records of exposures to hazardous substances over a period of time that will facilitate the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease.

The legislature further declares that the extent of the toxic contamination of the air, water, and land in this state has caused a high degree of concern among its residents and that much of this concern is needlessly aggravated by the unfamiliarity of these substances to residents.

The legislature therefore determines that while these substances have contributed to the high quality of life we enjoy in our state, it is in the public interest to establish a comprehensive program for the disclosure of information about hazardous substances in the workplace and the community, and to provide a procedure whereby residents of this state may gain access to this information. [1984 c 289 § 2.]

**49.70.020 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Department" means the department of labor and industries.

(2) "Employee" means an employee of an employer who is employed in the business of his or her employer whether by way of manual labor or otherwise and every person in this state who is engaged in the employment of or who is working under an independent contract the essence of which is personal labor for an employer under this chapter whether by way of manual labor or otherwise. However, for the purposes of this chapter, employee shall not mean immediate family members of the officers of any corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship or other business entity or officers of any closely held corporation engaged in agricultural production of crops or livestock.

(3) "Employer" means any person, firm, corporation, partnership, business trust, legal representative, or other business entity that engages in any business, industry, profession, or activity in this state and employs one or more employees or who contract with one or more persons, the

essence of which is the personal labor of such person or persons and includes the state, counties, cities, and all municipal corporations, public corporations, political subdivisions of the state, and charitable organizations. [1985 c 409 § 1.]

**49.70.100 Employee may request workplace survey or material safety data sheet.** An employee or employee representative may request, in writing, from the employer, a copy of a workplace survey or a material safety data sheet, filed pursuant to this chapter for the employee's work area. The employer shall supply this material within three working days of the request. This section shall not apply to employees of vessels while the employees are on the water. [1989 c 11 § 22; 1984 c 289 § 15.]

Severability—1989 c 11: See note following RCW 9A.56.220.

**49.70.105 Foreign language translation of written materials.** (1) The department shall prepare and make available to employers or the public, upon request, a translation in any of the five most common foreign languages used in the workplace, of a written hazard communication program, a material safety data sheet, or written materials prepared by the department to inform employees of their rights relating to hazard communication standards under this chapter and chapter 49.17 RCW.

(2) An employer employing employees who have trouble communicating in English shall make reasonable efforts to post any notices in the employees' native languages as provided by the department. [1985 c 409 § 2.]

**49.70.110 Discharge or discipline of employee prohibited—Application of discrimination statutes.** No employer may discharge, cause to be discharged, or otherwise discipline, penalize, or discriminate against any employee because the employee or the employee's representative has exercised any right established in this chapter. The discrimination provisions of chapter 49.17 RCW apply to this chapter. [1984 c 289 § 16.]

**49.70.115 Agricultural employees—Information and training on hazardous chemicals.** (1) An employer shall provide employees engaged in agricultural production of crops or livestock or agricultural services with information and training on hazardous chemicals in their workplace at the time of their initial assignment, and whenever a new hazard is introduced into their work area, such instruction shall be tailored to the types of hazards to which the employees will be exposed. Seasonal and temporary employees who are not exposed to hazardous chemicals in their work area need not be trained.

(2) Employers shall maintain any material safety data sheets that are received with incoming shipments of hazardous chemicals, and ensure that they are accessible to agricultural employees upon request.

(3) Employers shall ensure that labels on incoming containers of hazardous chemicals are not removed or defaced. [1985 c 409 § 3.]

**49.70.119 Agricultural employees—Pesticides—Records.** (1) An employer who applies pesticides in connection with the production of an agricultural crop, or who causes pesticides to be applied in connection with such production, shall keep records for each application, which shall include the following information:

(a) The location of the land where the pesticide was applied or site where the pesticide was stored;

(b) The year, month, day, and time the pesticide was applied;

(c) The product name used on the registered label and the United States environmental protection agency registration number, if applicable, of the pesticide that was applied or stored;

(d) The crop or site to which the pesticide was applied;

(e) The amount of pesticide applied per acre, or other appropriate measure;

(f) The concentration of pesticide that was applied;

(g) The number of acres, or other appropriate measure, to which pesticide was applied;

(h) If applicable, the licensed applicator's name, address, and telephone number and the name of the individual or individuals making the application;

(i) The direction and estimated velocity of the wind at the time the pesticide was applied: PROVIDED, That this subsection (i) shall not apply to applications of baits in bait stations and pesticide applications within structures; and

(j) Any other reasonable information required by the director.

(2) The records shall be updated on the same day that a pesticide is applied. If the employer has been provided a copy of a pesticide application record under RCW 17.21.100(2)(b), the copy may be used as the record of the pesticide application required under this section. The employer shall maintain and preserve the pesticide application records for no less than seven years from the date of the application of the pesticide to which the records refer.

(3) The pesticide application records shall be readily accessible to the employer's employees and their designated representatives in a central location in the workplace beginning on the day the application is made and for at least thirty days following the application. The employee or representative shall be entitled to view the pesticide application records and make his or her own record from the information contained in the application records. New or newly assigned employees shall be made aware of the accessibility of the application records before working with pesticides or in a work area containing pesticides.

(4)(a) An employer subject to this section who stores pesticides shall at least once in each calendar year perform an inventory of the pesticides stored in any work area. The pesticide inventory records shall include the following information:

(i) The location of the site where the pesticide is stored;

(ii) The year, month, day, and time the pesticide was first stored;

(iii) The product name used on the registered label and the United States environmental protection agency registration number, if applicable, of the pesticide that is stored; and

(iv) The amount of pesticide in storage at the time of the inventory.

The inventory records shall be maintained and preserved for no less than seven years.

(b) In addition to performing the annual pesticide inventory required under this subsection, an employer shall maintain a record of pesticide purchases made between the annual inventory dates. In lieu of this purchase record, an employer may obtain from distributors from whom pesticides are purchased a statement obligating the distributor to maintain the purchase records on behalf of the employer and in satisfaction of the employer's obligations under this subsection. The director may require the submission of all purchase records from employers or distributors, covering the purchases during a specified period of time or in a specified geographical area.

(5) If activities for which the records are maintained cease, the records shall be filed with the department. If an employer subject to this section is succeeded or replaced in that function by another person, the person who succeeds or replaces the employer shall retain the records as required by this section but is not liable for violations committed by the former employer under this chapter or rules adopted under this chapter, including violations relating to the retention and preservation of records.

(6)(a) The records required under this section shall be readily accessible to the department for inspection. Copies of the records shall be provided, on request, to: An employee or the employee's designated representative in the case of an industrial insurance claim filed under Title 51 RCW with the department of labor and industries, treating health care personnel, the pesticide incident reporting and tracking review panel, or department representative. The designated representative or treating health care personnel are not required to identify the employee represented or treated. The department shall keep the name of any affected employee confidential in accordance with RCW 49.17.080(1). When a request for records is made under this subsection by treating health care personnel and the record is required for determining treatment, copies of the record shall be provided immediately. For all other requests, copies of the records shall be provided within seventy-two hours.

(b) Copies of records provided to any person or entity under this subsection (6) shall, if so requested, be provided or made available on a form adopted under subsection (10) of this section. Information for treating health care personnel shall be made immediately available by telephone, if requested, with a copy of the records provided within twenty-four hours.

(c) If an employer has reason to suspect that an employee is ill or injured because of an exposure to one or more pesticides, the employer shall immediately provide the employee a copy of the relevant pesticide application records.

(7) If a request for a copy of a record is made under this section and the employer refuses to provide a copy, the requester may notify the department of the request and the employer's refusal. Within seven working days, the department shall request that the employer provide the department with all pertinent copies of the records, except that in a medical emergency the request shall be made within two working days. The employer shall provide copies of the records to the department within twenty-four hours after the department's request.

(8) The department shall include inspection of the records required under this section as part of any on-site inspection of a workplace conducted under this chapter or chapter 49.17 RCW. The inspection shall determine whether the records are readily transferable to a form adopted by the department, and readily accessible to employees. However, no employer subject to a department inspection may be inspected under this subsection (8) more than once in any calendar year, unless a previous inspection has found recordkeeping violations. If recordkeeping violations are found, the department may conduct reasonable multiple inspections, pursuant to rules adopted by the department. Nothing in this subsection (8) limits the department's inspection of records pertaining to pesticide-related injuries, illnesses, fatalities, accidents, or complaints.

(9) If an employer has failed to maintain and preserve the records or provide access to or copies of the records as required under this section, the employer shall be subject to penalties authorized under RCW 49.17.180.

(10) The department of labor and industries and the department of agriculture shall jointly adopt, by rule, forms that satisfy the information requirements of this section and RCW 17.21.100. [1992 c 173 § 3; 1989 c 380 § 77.]

**Effective dates—1992 c 173:** See note following RCW 17.21.100.

**Severability—1989 c 380:** See RCW 15.58.942.

**49.70.140 Educational brochures and public service announcements.** The department shall produce educational brochures and public service announcements detailing information available to citizens under this chapter. These educational materials shall be sent to each county health department. As necessary, the department shall provide information needed to update these educational materials. [1984 c 289 § 20.]

**49.70.150 Civil action authorized.** A person may bring a civil action on his or her own behalf against a manufacturer, supplier, employer, or user to compel compliance with the provisions of this chapter or any rule promulgated under this chapter subject to the provisions of Title 51 RCW. The superior court shall have jurisdiction over these actions. The court may award costs of litigation to the prevailing party, including reasonable attorney and expert witness fees. [1984 c 289 § 21.]

**49.70.160 Request for additional information—Confidentiality.** The department may request from an employer submitting surveys to it further information concerning the surveys, and the employer shall provide the additional information upon the request. The employer may require the department to provide reasons why further information is needed and to sign an agreement protecting the confidentiality of any additional information provided under this section. [1984 c 289 § 23.]

**49.70.165 Trade secret exemptions.** (1) The department shall adopt rules in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW establishing criteria for evaluating the validity of trade secret claims and procedures for issuing a trade secret exemption. Manufacturers or importers that make a trade secret claim to the department must notify direct purchasers

if a trade secret claim has been made on a product being offered for sale.

(2) If a trade secret claim exists, a manufacturer, importer, or employer may require a written statement of need or confidentiality agreement before the specific chemical identity of a hazardous substance is released. However, if a treating physician or nurse determines that a medical emergency exists and the specific chemical identity of a hazardous substance is necessary for emergency or first aid treatment, the manufacturer, importer, or employer shall immediately disclose the specific chemical identity to that treating physician or nurse, regardless of the existence of a written statement of need or a confidentiality agreement. The chemical manufacturer, importer, or employer may require a written statement of need and confidentiality agreement, as defined by rule, as soon as circumstances permit.

(3) Any challenge to the denial of a trade secret claim shall be heard by an administrative law judge in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW. [1985 c 409 § 4.]

**49.70.170 Worker and community right to know fund—Employer assessments—Audits—Appeal of assessment.** (1) The worker and community right to know fund is hereby established in the custody of the state treasurer. The department shall deposit all moneys received under this chapter in the fund. Moneys in the fund may be spent only for the purposes of this chapter following legislative appropriation. Disbursements from the fund shall be on authorization of the director or the director's designee. The fund is subject to the allotment procedure provided under chapter 43.88 RCW.

(2) The department shall assess each employer who reported ten thousand four hundred or more worker hours in the prior calendar year an annual fee to provide for the implementation of this chapter. The department shall promulgate rules establishing a fee schedule for all employers who reported ten thousand four hundred or more worker hours in the prior calendar year and are engaged in business operations having a standard industrial classification, as designated in the standard industrial classification manual prepared by the federal office of management and budget, within major group numbers 01 through 08 (agriculture and forestry industries), numbers 10 through 14 (mining industries), numbers 15 through 17 (construction industries), numbers 20 through 39 (manufacturing industries), numbers 41, 42, and 44 through 49 (transportation, communications, electric, gas, and sanitary services), number 75 (automotive repair, services, and garages), number 76 (miscellaneous repair services), number 80 (health services), and number 82 (educational services). The department shall establish the annual fee for each employer who reported ten thousand four hundred or more worker hours in the prior calendar year in industries identified by this section, provided that fees assessed shall not be more than two dollars and fifty cents per full time equivalent employee. The annual fee shall not exceed fifty thousand dollars. The fees shall be collected solely from employers whose industries have been identified by rule under this chapter. The department shall promulgate rules allowing employers who do not have hazardous substances at their workplace to request an exemption from

the assessment and shall establish penalties for fraudulent exemption requests. All fees collected by the department pursuant to this section shall be collected in a cost-efficient manner and shall be deposited in the fund.

(3) Records required by this chapter shall at all times be open to the inspection of the director, or his designee including, the traveling auditors, agents or assistants of the department provided for in RCW 51.16.070 and 51.48.040. The information obtained from employer records under the provisions of this section shall be subject to the same confidentiality requirements as set forth in RCW 51.16.070.

(4) An employer may appeal the assessment of the fee or penalties pursuant to the procedures set forth in Title 51 RCW and accompanying rules except that the employer shall not have the right of appeal to superior court as provided in Title 51 RCW. The employer from whom the fee or penalty is demanded or enforced, may however, within thirty days of the board of industrial insurance appeal's final order, pay the fee or penalty under written protest setting forth all the grounds upon which such fee or penalty is claimed to be unlawful, excessive or otherwise improper and thereafter bring an action in superior court against the department to recover such fee or penalty or any portion of the fee or penalty which was paid under protest.

(5) Repayment shall be made to the general fund of any moneys appropriated by law in order to implement this chapter. [1986 c 310 § 1; 1984 c 289 § 24.]

**49.70.175 Worker and community right to know fund—Expenditure—Disbursements.** Funds in the worker and community right to know fund established under RCW 49.70.170 may be spent by the department of ecology to implement RCW 70.102.020 (1) through (3) following legislative appropriation. Disbursements from the fund shall be on authorization of the director of the department of ecology. [1985 c 410 § 5.]

**49.70.177 Penalties for late payment of fees—Collection of fees and penalties.** If payment of any fee assessed under RCW 49.70.170 is not received by the department by the due date, there shall be assessed a penalty of five percent of the amount of the fee. If the fee is not received within thirty days after the due date, there shall be assessed a total penalty of ten percent of the amount of the fee. If the fee is not received within sixty days after the due date, there shall be assessed a total penalty of twenty percent of the amount of the fee. No penalty added may be less than ten dollars. If a warrant is issued by the department for the collection of fees, penalties, and interest, there shall be an additional penalty of five percent of the amount of the fee, but not less than five dollars nor more than one hundred dollars. Warrants shall earn interest at the rate of one percent per month, or fraction thereof, from and after the date of entry of the warrant. The department may utilize the procedures for collection of fees, penalties, and interest set forth in Title 51 RCW. [1986 c 310 § 2.]

**49.70.180 Application of enforcement and administrative procedures of Washington industrial safety and health act.** Unless reference is specifically made to another chapter, this chapter shall be implemented and enforced

including penalties, violations, citations, and other administrative procedures pursuant to chapter 49.17 RCW. [1984 c 289 § 25.]

**49.70.190 Compliance with chapter—Notice—Fines—Injunctive relief.** If a manufacturer, supplier, employer, or user refuses or fails to provide the department with any data sheets, workplace surveys, or other papers, documents, or information required by this chapter, the department may give written notice to the manufacturer, supplier, employer, or user demanding immediate compliance. If the manufacturer, supplier, employer, or user fails to begin to comply with the terms of the notice within fourteen days of receipt, the department may levy a fine of up to fifty dollars per affected employee per day, not to exceed five thousand dollars per day from the final date for compliance allowed by this section or by the department. In any case where the noncompliance continues for more than fifteen days or where the department determines the failure to comply creates a potential health or safety hazard to employees or hinders the department's performance of its duties under this chapter, the department may, in lieu of levying a fine or further fines, petition the superior court of Thurston county or the county where the manufacturer, supplier, employer, or user is located for an order enjoining the manufacturer, employer, supplier, or user from further noncompliance and granting any other remedies that may be appropriate. The court may award the department costs of litigation, including attorney's fees, if the department is the prevailing party. [1984 c 289 § 26.]

**49.70.200 Adoption of rules.** Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the department, after consultation with the department of agriculture, shall adopt any rules necessary to carry out its responsibilities under this chapter. [1984 c 289 § 27.]

**49.70.210 Application of chapter to consumer products.** (1) It is the intent of the legislature that this chapter shall not apply to products that are generally made available to the noncommercial consumer: PROVIDED, That such "consumer" products used by employees in the workplace are used in substantially the same manner, form, and concentration as they are used by noncommercial consumers, and that the product exposure is not substantially greater to the employee than to the noncommercial consumer during normal and accepted use of that product.

(2) The department shall adopt rules in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW to implement this section. This section shall not affect the department's authority to implement and enforce the Washington industrial safety and health act, chapter 49.17 RCW, at least as effectively as the federal occupational safety and health act. [1987 c 365 § 1.]

**49.70.900 Short title.** This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "worker and community right to know act." [1984 c 289 § 1.]

**49.70.905 Severability—1984 c 289.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of

the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1984 c 289 § 30.]

### Chapter 49.74

#### AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

##### Sections

- 49.74.005 Legislative findings—Purpose.
- 49.74.010 Commission.
- 49.74.020 Affirmative action rules—Noncompliance—Notification—Hearing.
- 49.74.030 Noncompliance—Conciliation—Order.
- 49.74.040 Failure to reach conciliation agreement—Administrative hearing—Appeal.
- 49.74.050 Superior court—Remedies.

**49.74.005 Legislative findings—Purpose.** Discrimination because of race, creed, color, national origin, age, sex, marital status, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical handicap is contrary to the findings of the legislature and public policy. The legislature finds and declares that racial minorities, women, persons in protected age groups, persons with disabilities, Vietnam-era veterans, and disabled veterans are underrepresented in Washington state government employment.

The purpose of this chapter is to provide for enforcement measures for affirmative action within Washington state government employment and institutions of higher education in order to eliminate such underrepresentation. [1985 c 365 § 7.]

**49.74.010 Commission.** As used in this chapter, "commission" means the Washington state human rights commission. [1985 c 365 § 8.]

**49.74.020 Affirmative action rules—Noncompliance—Notification—Hearing.** If the commission reasonably believes that a state agency, an institution of higher education, or the state patrol has failed to comply with an affirmative action rule adopted under RCW 41.06.150 or 43.43.340, the commission shall notify the director of the state agency, president of the institution of higher education, or chief of the Washington state patrol of the noncompliance, as well as the director of personnel. The commission shall give the director of the state agency, president of the institution of higher education, or chief of the Washington state patrol an opportunity to be heard on the failure to comply. [1993 c 281 § 57; 1985 c 365 § 9.]

**Effective date—1993 c 281:** See note following RCW 41.06.022.

**49.74.030 Noncompliance—Conciliation—Order.** The commission in conjunction with the department of personnel or the state patrol, whichever is appropriate, shall attempt to resolve the noncompliance through conciliation. If an agreement is reached for the elimination of noncompliance, the agreement shall be reduced to writing and an order shall be issued by the commission setting forth the terms of the agreement. The noncomplying state agency, institution of higher education, or state patrol shall make a good faith effort to conciliate and make a full commitment to correct the noncompliance with any action that may be necessary to

achieve compliance, provided such action is not inconsistent with the rules adopted under RCW 41.06.150(21) and 43.43.340(5), whichever is appropriate. [1993 c 281 § 58; 1985 c 365 § 10.]

**Effective date—1993 c 281:** See note following RCW 41.06.022.

**49.74.040 Failure to reach conciliation agreement—Administrative hearing—Appeal.** If no agreement can be reached under RCW 49.74.030, the commission may refer the matter to the administrative law judge for hearing pursuant to RCW 49.60.250. If the administrative law judge finds that the state agency, institution of higher education, or state patrol has not made a good faith effort to correct the noncompliance, the administrative law judge shall order the state agency, institution of higher education, or state patrol to comply with this chapter. The administrative law judge may order any action that may be necessary to achieve compliance, provided such action is not inconsistent with the rules adopted under RCW \*28B.16.100(20), 41.06.150(21), and 43.43.340(5), whichever is appropriate.

An order by the administrative law judge may be appealed to superior court. [1985 c 365 § 11.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 28B.16.100 was repealed by 1993 c 281 § 68, effective July 1, 1993.

**49.74.050 Superior court—Remedies.** If the superior court finds that the state agency, institution of higher education, or state patrol has not made a good faith effort to correct the noncompliance, the court, in addition to any other penalties and sanctions prescribed by law, shall order the state agency, institution of higher education, or state patrol to comply with this chapter. The court may require any action deemed appropriate by the court which is consistent with the intent of this chapter. [1985 c 365 § 12.]

### Chapter 49.78

#### FAMILY LEAVE

##### Sections

- 49.78.010 Legislative findings.
- 49.78.020 Definitions.
- 49.78.030 Requirements—Limitation.
- 49.78.040 Notice to employer.
- 49.78.050 Requirements for confirmation—Second opinion.
- 49.78.060 Both parents with same employer.
- 49.78.070 Employee employment rights—Limitations.
- 49.78.080 Employee benefits.
- 49.78.090 Administration.
- 49.78.100 Additional rights—Remedies.
- 49.78.110 Collective bargaining agreements—Obligations and rights not diminished.
- 49.78.120 Collective bargaining agreements—Application of chapter—Grievance procedures.
- 49.78.130 Discrimination prohibited.
- 49.78.140 Complaint—Contents—Notice—Investigation.
- 49.78.150 Notice of infraction—Contents.
- 49.78.160 Notice of infraction—Service.
- 49.78.170 Notice of infraction—State agencies.
- 49.78.180 Appeal—Hearings—Decisions—Review—Appeal of final decision.
- 49.78.190 Penalties.
- 49.78.200 Poster required.
- 49.78.900 Severability—1989 1st ex.s. c 11.
- 49.78.901 Effective date—1989 1st ex.s. c 11.



**49.78.010 Legislative findings.** The legislature finds that the demands of the workplace and of families need to be balanced to promote family stability and economic security. Changes in workplace leave policies are desirable to accommodate changes in the work force such as rising numbers of dual-career couples and working single parents. In addition, given the mobility of American society, many people no longer have available community or family support networks and therefore need additional flexibility in the workplace. The legislature declares it to be in the public interest to provide reasonable family leave upon the birth or adoption of a child and to care for a child under eighteen years old with a terminal health condition. [1989 1st ex.s. c 11 § 1.]

**49.78.020 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Child" means a biological or adopted child, or a stepchild, living with the employee.

(2) "Department" means the department of labor and industries.

(3) "Employee" means a person other than an independent contractor employed by an employer on a continuous basis for the previous fifty-two weeks for at least thirty-five hours per week.

(4) "Employer" means: (a) Any person, firm, corporation, partnership, business trust, legal representative, or other business entity which engages in any business, industry, profession, or activity in this state and includes any unit of local government including, but not limited to, a county, city, town, municipal corporation, quasi-municipal corporation, or political subdivision, which (i) employed a daily average of one hundred or more employees during the last calendar quarter at the place where the employee requesting leave reports for work, or (ii) employed a daily average of one hundred or more employees during the last calendar quarter within a twenty mile radius of the place where the employee requesting leave reports for work, where the employer maintains a central hiring location and customarily transfers employees among workplaces; and (b) the state, state institutions, and state agencies.

(5) "Family leave" means leave from employment to care for a newborn or newly adopted child under the age of six or a child under eighteen years old with a terminal health condition, as provided in RCW 49.78.030.

(6) "Health care provider" means a person licensed as a physician under chapter 18.71 RCW or an osteopathic physician and surgeon under chapter 18.57 RCW.

(7) "Parent" means a biological or adoptive parent, or a stepparent.

(8) "Reduced leave schedule" means leave scheduled for fewer than an employee's usual number of hours or days per workweek.

(9) "Terminal health condition" means a condition caused by injury, disease, or illness, that, within reasonable medical judgment, is incurable and will produce death within the period of leave to which the employee is entitled. [1996 c 178 § 14; 1989 1st ex.s. c 11 § 2.]

**Effective date—1996 c 178:** See note following RCW 18.35.110.

**49.78.030 Requirements—Limitation.** (1) An employee is entitled to twelve workweeks of family leave during any twenty-four month period to: (a) Care for a newborn child or adopted child of the employee who is under the age of six at the time of placement for adoption, or, (b) care for a child under eighteen years old of the employee who has a terminal health condition. Leave under subsection (1)(a) of this section shall be completed within twelve months after the birth or placement for adoption, as applicable. An employee is entitled to leave under subsection (1)(b) of this section only once for any given child.

(2) Family leave may be taken on a reduced leave schedule subject to the approval of the employer.

(3) The leave required by this section may be unpaid. If an employer provides paid family leave for fewer than twelve workweeks, the additional workweeks of leave added to attain the twelve-workweek total may be unpaid. An employer may require an employee to first use up the employee's total accumulation of leave to which the employee is otherwise entitled before going on family leave; however, except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, nothing in this section requires more than twelve total workweeks of leave during any twenty-four month period. An employer is not required to allow an employee to use the employee's other leave in place of the leave provided under this chapter.

(4) The leave required by this section is in addition to any leave for sickness or temporary disability because of pregnancy or childbirth.

(5) An employer may limit or deny family leave to either: (a) Up to ten percent of the employer's workforce in the state designated as key personnel by the employer. Any designation made under this section shall take effect thirty days after it is issued and may be changed no more than once in any twelve-month period. An employer shall not designate key personnel on the basis of age or gender or for the purpose of evading the requirements of this chapter. No employee may be designated as key personnel after giving notice of intent to take leave pursuant to RCW 49.78.040. The designation shall be in writing and shall be displayed in a conspicuous place; or (b) if the employer does not designate key personnel, the highest paid ten percent of the employer's employees in the state. [1989 1st ex.s. c 11 § 3.]

**49.78.040 Notice to employer.** (1) An employee planning to take family leave under RCW 49.78.030(1)(a) shall provide the employer with written notice at least thirty days in advance of the anticipated date of delivery or placement for adoption, stating the dates during which the employee intends to take family leave. The employee shall adhere to the dates stated in the notice unless:

(a) The birth is premature;

(b) The mother is incapacitated due to birth such that she is unable to care for the child;

(c) The employee takes physical custody of the newly adopted child at an unanticipated time and is unable to give notice thirty days in advance; or

(d) The employer and employee agree to alter the dates of family leave stated in the notice.

(2) In cases of premature birth, incapacity, or unanticipated placement for adoption referred to in subsection (1) of

this section, the employee must give notice of revised dates of family leave as soon as possible but at least within one working day of the birth or placement for adoption or incapacitation of the mother.

(3) If family leave under RCW 49.78.030(1)(b) is foreseeable, the employee shall provide the employer with written notice at least fourteen days in advance of the expected leave and shall make a reasonable effort to schedule the leave so as not to unduly disrupt the operations of the employer. If family leave under RCW 49.78.030(1)(b) is not foreseeable fourteen or more days before the leave is to take place, the employee shall notify the employer of the expected leave as soon as possible, but at least within one working day of the beginning of the leave.

(4) If the employee fails to give the notice required by this section, the employer may reduce or increase the family leave required by this chapter by three weeks. [1989 1st ex.s. c 11 § 4.]

**49.78.050 Requirements for confirmation—Second opinion.** (1) In the event of any dispute under this chapter regarding premature birth, incapacitation of the mother, maternity disability, or terminal condition of a child, an employer may require confirmation by a health care provider of: (a) The date of the birth; (b) the date on which incapacity because of childbirth or disability because of pregnancy or childbirth commenced or will probably commence, and its probable duration; or (c) for family leave under RCW 49.78.030(1)(b), the fact that the child has a terminal health condition.

(2) An employer may require, at the employer's expense, that the employee obtain the opinion of a second health care provider selected by the employer concerning any information required under subsection (1) of this section. If the health care providers disagree on any factor which is determinative of the employee's eligibility for family leave, the two health care providers shall select a third health care provider, whose opinion, obtained at the employer's expense, shall be conclusive. [1989 1st ex.s. c 11 § 5.]

**49.78.060 Both parents with same employer.** If both parents of a child are employed by the same employer, they shall together be entitled to a total of twelve workweeks of family leave during any twenty-four month period, and leave need be granted to only one parent at a time. [1989 1st ex.s. c 11 § 6.]

**49.78.070 Employee employment rights—Limitations.** (1) Subject to subsection (2) of this section, an employee who exercises any right provided under RCW 49.78.030 shall be entitled, upon return from leave or during any reduced leave schedule:

(a) To the same position held by the employee when the leave commenced; or

(b) To a position with equivalent benefits and pay at a workplace within twenty miles of the employee's workplace when leave commenced; or

(c) If the employer's circumstances have so changed that the employee cannot be reinstated to the same position, or a position of equivalent pay and benefits, the employee

shall be reinstated in any other position which is vacant and for which the employee is qualified.

(2) The entitlement under subsection (1) of this section is subject to bona fide changes in compensation or work duties, and does not apply if:

(a) The employee's position is eliminated by a bona fide restructuring, or reduction-in-force;

(b) The employee's workplace is permanently or temporarily shut down for at least thirty days;

(c) The employee's workplace is moved to a location at least sixty miles from the location of the workplace when leave commenced;

(d) An employee on family leave takes another job; or

(e) The employee fails to provide timely notice of family leave as required under RCW 49.78.040, or fails to return on the established ending date of leave. [1989 1st ex.s. c 11 § 7.]

**49.78.080 Employee benefits.** (1) The taking of leave under this chapter shall not result in the loss of any benefit, including seniority or pension rights, accrued before the date on which the leave commenced.

(2) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require the employer to grant benefits, including seniority or pension rights, during any period of leave.

(3) All policies applied during the period of leave to the classification of employees to which the employee on leave belongs shall apply to the employee on leave.

(4) During any period of leave taken under RCW 49.78.030, if the employee is not eligible for any employer contribution to medical or dental benefits under an applicable collective bargaining agreement or employer policy during any period of leave, an employer shall allow the employee to continue, at his or her own expense, medical or dental insurance coverage, including any spouse and dependent coverage, in accordance with state or federal law. The premium to be paid by the employee shall not exceed one hundred two percent of the applicable premium for the leave period. [1989 1st ex.s. c 11 § 8.]

**49.78.090 Administration.** The department of labor and industries shall administer the provisions of this chapter. [1989 1st ex.s. c 11 § 9.]

**49.78.100 Additional rights—Remedies.** (1) Except as provided in this chapter, the rights under this chapter are in addition to any other rights provided by law. The remedies under this chapter shall be exclusive.

(2) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to discourage employers from adopting policies which provide greater leave rights to employees than those required by this chapter. [1989 1st ex.s. c 11 § 10.]

**49.78.110 Collective bargaining agreements—Obligations and rights not diminished.** (1) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to diminish an employer's obligation to comply with any collective bargaining agreement or any employment benefit program or plan which provides greater leave rights to employees than the rights provided under this chapter.

(2) The rights provided to employees under this chapter may not be diminished by any collective bargaining agreement or any employment benefit program or plan entered into or renewed after September 1, 1989. [1989 1st ex.s. c 11 § 11.]

**49.78.120 Collective bargaining agreements—Application of chapter—Grievance procedures.** (1) In the case of employees covered by an unexpired collective bargaining agreement that expires on or after September 1, 1989, or by an employee benefit program or plan with a stated year ending on or after September 1, 1989, the effective date of this chapter shall be the later of: (a) The first day following expiration of the collective bargaining agreement; or (b) the first day of the next plan year.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 49.78.140 through \*49.78.210, where this chapter has been incorporated into a collective bargaining agreement, the grievance procedures contained in the respective collective bargaining agreement shall be used to resolve complaints related to this chapter. [1989 1st ex.s. c 11 § 12.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 49.78.210 was repealed by 1993 c 450 § 1.

**49.78.130 Discrimination prohibited.** No employer, employment agency, labor union, or other person shall discharge, expel, or otherwise discriminate against any person because he or she has opposed any practices forbidden by this chapter, or because he or she has filed a complaint, testified, or assisted in any proceeding under this chapter. [1989 1st ex.s. c 11 § 13.]

**49.78.140 Complaint—Contents—Notice—Investigation.** (1) An employee who believes that his or her employer has violated any provision of this chapter may file a complaint with the department within ninety days of the alleged violation. The complaint shall contain the following:

- (a) The name and address of the employee making the complaint;
- (b) The name, address, and telephone number of the employer against whom the complaint is made;
- (c) A statement of the specific facts which constitute the alleged violation, including the date(s) on which the alleged violation occurred.

(2) Upon receipt of a complaint, the department shall forward written notice of the complaint to the employer.

(3) The department may investigate any complaint filed within the required time frame. If the department determines that a violation of this chapter has occurred, it may issue a notice of infraction. [1989 1st ex.s. c 11 § 14.]

**49.78.150 Notice of infraction—Contents.** The department may issue a notice of infraction to an employer who violates this chapter. The employment standards supervisor shall direct that notices of infraction contain the following when issued:

(1) A statement that the notice represents a determination that the infraction has been committed by the employer named in the notice and that the determination shall be final unless contested;

(2) A statement that the infraction is a noncriminal offense for which imprisonment shall not be imposed as a sanction;

(3) A statement of the specific violation which necessitated issuance of the infraction;

(4) A statement of the penalty involved if the infraction is established;

(5) A statement informing the employer of the right to a hearing conducted pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW if requested within twenty days of issuance of the infraction;

(6) A statement that at any hearing to contest the notice of infraction the state has the burden of proving, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the infraction was committed, and that the employer may subpoena witnesses including the agent that issued the notice of infraction;

(7) If a notice of infraction is personally served upon a supervisory or managerial employee of a firm or corporation, the department shall within seventy-two hours of service send a copy of the notice by certified mail to the employer;

(8) Constructive service may be made by certified mail directed to the employer named in the notice of infraction. [1989 1st ex.s. c 11 § 15.]

**49.78.160 Notice of infraction—Service.** (1) If an employer is a corporation or a partnership, the department need not serve the employer personally. In such a case, if no officer or partner of a violating employer is present, the department may issue a notice of infraction to any managerial employee.

(2) If the department serves a notice of infraction on a managerial employee, and not on an officer, or partner of the employer, the department shall mail by certified mail a copy of the notice of infraction to the employer. The department shall mail a second copy by ordinary mail. [1989 1st ex.s. c 11 § 16.]

**49.78.170 Notice of infraction—State agencies.** In any case in which the department shall issue an order against any political or civil subdivision of the state, or any agency, or instrumentality of the state or of the foregoing, or any officer or employee thereof, the department shall transmit a copy of such order to the governor of the state. The governor shall take such action to secure compliance with such order as the governor deems necessary. [1989 1st ex.s. c 11 § 17.]

**49.78.180 Appeal—Hearings—Decisions—Review—Appeal of final decision.** (1) If an employer desires to contest the notice of infraction issued, the employer shall file two copies of a notice of appeal with the department at the office designated on the notice of infraction, within twenty days of issuance of the infraction.

(2) The department shall conduct a hearing in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW.

(3) Employers may appear before the administrative law judge through counsel, or may represent themselves. The department shall be represented by the attorney general.

(4) Admission of evidence is subject to RCW 34.05.452 and 34.05.446.

(5) The administrative law judge shall issue a proposed decision that includes findings of fact, conclusions of law,

and if appropriate, any legal penalty. The proposed decision shall be served by certified mail or personally on the employer and the department. The employer or department may appeal to the director within thirty days after the date of issuance of the proposed decision. If none of the parties appeals within thirty days, the proposed decision may not be appealed either to the director or the courts.

(6) An appellant must file with the director an original and four copies of its notice of appeal. The notice of appeal must specify which findings and conclusions are erroneous. The appellant must attach to the notice the written arguments supporting its appeal.

The appellant must serve a copy of the notice of appeal and the arguments on the other parties. The respondent parties must file with the director their written arguments within thirty days after the date the notice of appeal and the arguments were served upon them.

(7) The director shall review the proposed decision in accordance with the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW. The director may: Allow the parties to present oral arguments as well as the written arguments; require the parties to specify the portions of the record on which the parties rely; require the parties to submit additional information by affidavit or certificate; remand the matter to the administrative law judge for further proceedings; and require a departmental employee to prepare a summary of the record for the director to review. The director shall issue a final decision that can affirm, modify, or reverse the proposed decision.

(8) The director shall serve the final decision on all parties. Any aggrieved party may appeal the final decision to superior court pursuant to RCW 34.05.570 unless the final decision affirms an unappealed proposed decision. If no party appeals within the period set by RCW 34.05.570, the director's decision is conclusive and binding on all parties. [1989 1st ex.s. c 11 § 18.]

**49.78.190 Penalties.** An employer found to have committed an infraction under this chapter may be subject to a fine of up to two hundred dollars for the first infraction. An employer that continues to violate the statute may be subject to a fine of up to one thousand dollars for each infraction. An employer found to have failed to reinstate an employee as required under RCW 49.78.070 may also be ordered to reinstate the employee, with or without back pay. [1989 1st ex.s. c 11 § 19.]

**49.78.200 Poster required.** The department shall develop and furnish to each employer a poster which describes an employer's obligations and an employee's rights under this chapter. The poster must include notice about any state law, rule, or regulation governing maternity disability leave and indicate that federal or local ordinances, laws, rules or regulations may also apply. The poster must also include a telephone number and an address of the department to enable employees to obtain more information regarding this chapter. Each employer must display this poster in a conspicuous place. Nothing in this section shall be construed to create a right to continued employment. [1989 1st ex.s. c 11 § 20.]

**49.78.900 Severability—1989 1st ex.s. c 11.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1989 1st ex.s. c 11 § 25.]

**49.78.901 Effective date—1989 1st ex.s. c 11.** This act shall take effect September 1, 1989. [1989 1st ex.s. c 11 § 27.]

## Chapter 49.82

### DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE PROGRAMS

#### Sections

49.82.010	Intent.
49.82.020	Definitions.
49.82.030	Workers' compensation premium discount.
49.82.040	Workers' compensation premium discounts—Limitation.
49.82.050	Drug-free workplace program—Requirements.
49.82.060	Substance abuse policy—Requirements—Notice.
49.82.070	Substance abuse testing—Requirements.
49.82.080	Employee assistance program—Notice.
49.82.090	Employee assistance program—Last chance agreement—Treatment—Termination of employment.
49.82.100	Education program on substance abuse.
49.82.110	Supervisor training.
49.82.120	Confidentiality standards.
49.82.130	Certification of employers—Rules—Fee.
49.82.140	Department of labor and industries rules—Penalties—Report to legislature.
49.82.150	Evaluation—Report to legislature.
49.82.900	Application and construction of chapter—Enforcement.
49.82.901	Expiration date—1996 c 127.

**49.82.010 Intent.** (*Expires January 1, 2001.*) It is the intent of the legislature to promote drug-free workplaces to improve the safety of the workplace, protect the health of workers, and afford employers in this state the opportunity to maximize their levels of productivity, enhance their competitive positions in the marketplace, and reach their desired levels of success without experiencing the costs, delays, and tragedies associated with work-related accidents resulting from substance abuse by employees. [1996 c 127 § 1.]

**49.82.020 Definitions.** (*Expires January 1, 2001.*) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Alcohol" means ethyl alcohol, hydrated oxide of ethyl, or spirits of wine, from whatever source or by whatever process produced.

(2) "Alcohol test" means a chemical, biological, or physical instrumental analysis administered for the purpose of determining the presence or absence of alcohol within an individual's body systems.

(3) "Chain of custody" means the methodology of tracking specimens for the purpose of maintaining control and accountability from initial collection to final disposition for all specimens and providing for accountability at each stage in handling, testing, and storing specimens and reporting test results.

(4) "Collection site" means a place where individuals present themselves for the purpose of providing a urine,

breath, or other specimen to be analyzed for the presence of drugs or alcohol.

(5) "Confirmation test" or "confirmed test" means a second analytical procedure used to identify the presence of a specific drug or metabolic in a specimen. Drug tests must be confirmed as specified in RCW 49.82.070(5). Alcohol tests must be confirmed by a second breath test or as specified for drug tests.

(6) "Department" means the department of social and health services.

(7) "Drug" means amphetamines, cannabinoids, cocaine, phencyclidine (PCP), methadone, methaqualone, opiates, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, propoxyphene, or a metabolite of any such substances.

(8) "Drug test" means a chemical, biological, or physical instrumental analysis administered on a specimen sample for the purpose of determining the presence or absence of a drug or its metabolites within the sample.

(9) "Employee" means a person who is employed for salary, wages, or other remuneration by an employer.

(10) "Employee assistance program" means a program designed to assist in the identification and resolution of job performance problems associated with employees impaired by personal concerns. A minimum level of core services must include: Consultation and professional, confidential, appropriate, and timely problem assessment services; short-term problem resolution; referrals for appropriate diagnosis, treatment, and assistance; follow-up and monitoring; employee education; and supervisory training.

(11) "Employer" means an employer subject to Title 51 RCW but does not include the state or any department, agency, or instrumentality of the state; any county; any city; any school district or educational service district; or any municipal corporation.

(12) "Initial test" means a sensitive, rapid, and reliable procedure to identify negative and presumptive positive specimens. An initial drug test must use an immunoassay procedure or an equivalent procedure or must use a more accurate scientifically accepted method approved by the national institute on drug abuse as more accurate technology becomes available in a cost-effective form.

(13) "Injury" means a sudden and tangible happening, of a traumatic nature, producing an immediate or prompt result and occurring from without, and such physical conditions as result therefrom.

(14) "Job applicant" means a person who has applied for employment with an employer and has been offered employment conditioned upon successfully passing a drug test and may have begun work pending the results of the drug test.

(15) "Last-chance agreement" means a notice to an employee who is referred to the employee assistance program due to a verified positive alcohol or drug test or for violating an alcohol or drug-related employer rule that states the terms and conditions of continued employment with which the employee must comply.

(16) "Medical review officer" means a licensed physician trained in the field of drug testing who provides medical assessment of positive test results, requests reanalysis if necessary, and makes a determination whether or not drug misuse has occurred.

(17) "Nonprescription medication" means a drug or medication authorized under federal or state law for general

distribution and use without a prescription in the treatment of human disease, ailments, or injuries.

(18) "Prescription medication" means a drug or medication lawfully prescribed by a physician, or other health care provider licensed to prescribe medication, for an individual and taken in accordance with the prescription.

(19) "Rehabilitation program" means a program approved by the department that is capable of providing expert identification, assessment, and resolution of employee drug or alcohol abuse in a confidential and timely service. Any rehabilitation program under this chapter must contain a two-year continuing care component.

(20) "Specimen" means breath or urine. "Specimen" may include other products of the human body capable of revealing the presence of drugs or their metabolites or of alcohol, if approved by the United States department of health and human services and permitted by rules adopted under RCW 49.82.130.

(21) "Substance" means drugs or alcohol.

(22) "Substance abuse test" or "test" means a chemical, biological, or physical instrumental analysis administered on a specimen sample for the purpose of determining the presence or absence of a drug or its metabolites or of alcohol within the sample.

(23) "Threshold detection level" means the level at which the presence of a drug or alcohol can be reasonably expected to be detected by an initial and confirmation test performed by a laboratory meeting the standards specified in this chapter. The threshold detection level indicates the level at which a valid conclusion can be drawn that the drug or alcohol is present in the employee's specimen.

(24) "Verified positive test result" means a confirmed positive test result obtained by a laboratory meeting the standards specified in this chapter that has been reviewed and verified by a medical review officer in accordance with medical review officer guidelines promulgated by the United States department of health and human services.

(25) "Workers' compensation premium" means the medical aid fund premium and the accident fund premium under Title 51 RCW. [1996 c 127 § 2.]

**49.82.030 Workers' compensation premium discount. (*Expires January 1, 2001.*)** (1) An employer, except an employer that is self-insured for the purposes of Title 51 RCW, implementing a drug-free workplace program in accordance with RCW 49.82.050 shall qualify for a five percent workers' compensation premium discount under Title 51 RCW if the employer:

(a) Is certified by the division of alcohol and substance abuse of the department as provided in RCW 49.82.130. The employer must maintain an alcohol and drug-free workplace program in accordance with the standards, procedures, and rules established in or under this chapter. If the employer fails to maintain the program as required, the employer shall not qualify for the premium discount provided under this section;

(b) Is in good standing and remains in good standing with the department of labor and industries with respect to the employer's workers' compensation premium obligations and any other premiums and assessments under Title 51 RCW; and

(c) Has medical insurance available to its full-time employees through an employer, union, or jointly sponsored medical plan.

(2) The premium discount must remain in effect as long as the employer is certified under RCW 49.82.130, up to a maximum of three years from the date of initial certification.

(3) A certified employer may discontinue operating a drug-free workplace program at any time. The qualification for a premium discount shall expire in accordance with decertification rules adopted by the department under RCW 49.82.130.

(4) An employer whose substance abuse testing program reasonably meets, as of July 1, 1996, the requirements for the premium discount provided in this section is not eligible for certification.

(5) Nothing in this chapter creates or alters an obligation on the part of an employer seeking to participate in this program to bargain with a collective bargaining representative of its employees.

(6) An employer may not receive premium discounts from the department of labor and industries under more than one premium discount program. An employer participating in and meeting all of the requirements for the discount provided in this section and also participating in another premium discount program offered by the department of labor and industries is only entitled to the premium discount that is the highest.

(7) The department of labor and industries will notify self-insured employers of the value of drug-free workplace programs and encourage them to implement programs that are in accord with RCW 49.82.050. [1996 c 127 § 3.]

**49.82.040 Workers' compensation premium discounts—Limitation.** (*Expires January 1, 2001.*) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, the total premium discounts available under RCW 49.82.030 shall not exceed five million dollars during any fiscal year. [1996 c 127 § 16.]

**49.82.050 Drug-free workplace program—Requirements.** (*Expires January 1, 2001.*) (1) A drug-free workplace program established under this chapter must contain all of the following elements:

(a) A written policy statement in compliance with RCW 49.82.060;

(b) Substance abuse testing in compliance with RCW 49.82.070;

(c) An employee assistance program in compliance with RCW 49.82.080;

(d) Employee education in compliance with RCW 49.82.100; and

(e) Supervisor training in compliance with RCW 49.82.110.

(2) In addition to the requirements of subsection (1) of this section, a drug-free workplace program established under this chapter must be implemented in compliance with the confidentiality standards provided in RCW 49.82.120. [1996 c 127 § 4.]

**49.82.060 Substance abuse policy—Requirements—Notice.** (*Expires January 1, 2001.*) (1) An alcohol and

drug-free workplace program established under this chapter must contain a written substance abuse policy statement in order to qualify for the premium discount provided under RCW 49.82.030. The policy must:

(a) Notify employees that the use or being under any influence of alcohol during working hours is prohibited;

(b) Notify employees that the use, purchase, possession, or transfer of drugs or having illegal drugs in their system is prohibited and that prescription or nonprescription medications are not prohibited when taken in accordance with a lawful prescription or consistent with standard dosage recommendations;

(c) Identify the types of testing an employee or job applicant may be required to submit to or other basis used to determine when such a test will be required;

(d) Identify the actions the employer may take against an employee or job applicant on the basis of a verified positive test result;

(e) Contain a statement advising an employee or job applicant of the existence of this chapter;

(f) Contain a general statement concerning confidentiality;

(g) Identify the consequences of refusing to submit to a drug test;

(h) Contain a statement advising an employee of the employer assistance program;

(i) Contain a statement that an employee or job applicant who receives a verified positive test result may contest or explain the result to the employer within five working days after receiving written notification of the positive test result;

(j) Contain a statement informing an employee of the provisions of the federal drug-free workplace act, if applicable to the employer; and

(k) Notify employees that the employer may discipline an employee for failure to report an injury in the workplace.

(2) An employer not having a substance abuse testing program in effect on July 1, 1996, shall ensure that at least sixty days elapse between a general one-time notice to all employees that a substance abuse testing program is being implemented and the beginning of the actual testing. An employer having a substance abuse testing program in place before July 1, 1996, is not required to provide a sixty-day notice period.

(3) An employer shall include notice of substance abuse testing to all job applicants. A notice of the employer's substance abuse testing policy must also be posted in an appropriate and conspicuous location on the employer's premises, and copies of the policy must be made available for inspection by the employees or job applicants of the employer during regular business hours in the employer's personnel office or other suitable locations. An employer with employees or job applicants who have trouble communicating in English shall make reasonable efforts to help the employees understand the policy statement. [1996 c 127 § 5.]

**49.82.070 Substance abuse testing—Requirements.** (*Expires January 1, 2001.*) (1) In conducting substance abuse testing under this chapter, the employer must comply with the standards and procedures established in this chapter

and all applicable rules adopted by the department under this chapter and must:

(a) Require job applicants to submit to a drug test after extending an offer of employment. The employer may use a refusal to submit to a drug test or a verified positive test as a basis for not hiring the job applicant;

(b) Investigate each workplace injury that results in a worker needing off-site medical attention and require an employee to submit to drug and alcohol tests if the employer reasonably believes the employee has caused or contributed to an injury which resulted in the need for off-site medical attention. An employer need not require that an employee submit to drug and alcohol tests if a supervisor, trained in accordance with RCW 49.82.110, reasonably believes that the injury was due to the inexperience of the employee or due to a defective or unsafe product or working condition, or other circumstances beyond the control of the employee. Under this chapter, a first-time verified positive test result may not be used as a basis to terminate an employee's employment. However, nothing in this section prohibits an employee from being terminated for reasons other than the positive test result;

(c) If the employee in the course of employment is referred to the employee assistance program by the employer as a result of a verified positive drug or alcohol test or an alcohol or drug-related incident in violation of employer rules, require the employee to submit to drug and alcohol testing in conjunction with any recommended rehabilitation program. If the employee assistance program determines that the employee does not require treatment services, the employee must still be required to participate in follow-up testing. However, if an employee voluntarily enters an employee assistance program, without a verified positive drug or alcohol test or a violation of any drug or alcohol related employer rule, follow-up testing is not required. If follow-up testing is conducted, the frequency of the testing shall be at least four times a year for a two-year period after completion of the rehabilitation program and advance notice of the testing date may not be given. A verified positive follow-up test result shall normally require termination of employment.

(2) This section does not prohibit an employer from conducting other drug or alcohol testing, such as upon reasonable suspicion or a random basis.

(3) Specimen collection and substance abuse testing under this section must be performed in accordance with regulations and procedures approved by the United States department of health and human services and the United States department of transportation regulations for alcohol and drug testing and must include testing for marijuana, cocaine, amphetamines, opiates, and phencyclidine. Employers may test for any drug listed in RCW 49.82.020(7).

(a) A specimen must be collected with due regard to the privacy of the individual providing the specimen and in a manner reasonably calculated to prevent substitution or contamination of the specimen.

(b) Specimen collection and analysis must be documented. The documentation procedures must include:

(i) Labeling of specimen containers so as to reasonably preclude the likelihood of erroneous identification of test results; and

(ii) An opportunity for the employee or job applicant to provide to a medical review officer information the employee or applicant considers relevant to the drug test, including identification of currently or recently used prescription or nonprescription medication or other relevant medical information.

(c) Specimen collection, storage, and transportation to the testing site must be performed in a manner that reasonably precludes specimen contamination or adulteration.

(d) An initial and confirmation test conducted under this section, not including the taking or collecting of a specimen to be tested, must be conducted by a laboratory as described in subsection (4) of this section.

(e) A specimen for a test may be taken or collected by any of the following persons:

(i) A physician, a physician's assistant, a registered professional nurse, a licensed practical nurse, a nurse practitioner, or a certified paramedic who is present at the scene of an accident for the purpose of rendering emergency medical service or treatment;

(ii) A qualified person certified or employed by a laboratory certified by the substance abuse and mental health administration or the college of American pathologists; or

(iii) A qualified person certified or employed by a collection company using collection procedures adopted by the United States department of health and human services and the United States department of transportation for alcohol collection.

(f) Within five working days after receipt of a verified positive test result from the laboratory, an employer shall inform an employee or job applicant in writing of the positive test result, the consequences of the result, and the options available to the employee or job applicant.

(g) The employer shall provide to the employee or job applicant, upon request, a copy of the test results.

(h) An initial test having a positive result must be verified by a confirmation test.

(i) An employer who performs drug testing or specimen collection shall use chain of custody procedures to ensure proper recordkeeping, handling, labeling, and identification of all specimens to be tested.

(j) An employer shall pay the cost of all drug or alcohol tests, initial and confirmation, that the employer requires of employees.

(k) An employee or job applicant shall pay the cost of additional tests not required by the employer.

(4)(a) A laboratory may not analyze initial or confirmation drug specimens unless:

(i) The laboratory is approved by the substance abuse and mental health administration or the college of American pathologists;

(ii) The laboratory has written procedures to ensure the chain of custody; and

(iii) The laboratory follows proper quality control procedures including, but not limited to:

(A) The use of internal quality controls including the use of samples of known concentrations that are used to check the performance and calibration of testing equipment, and periodic use of blind samples for overall accuracy;

(B) An internal review and certification process for test results, conducted by a person qualified to perform that function in the testing laboratory;

(C) Security measures implemented by the testing laboratory to preclude adulteration of specimens and test results; and

(D) Other necessary and proper actions taken to ensure reliable and accurate drug test results.

(b) A laboratory shall disclose to the employer a written test result report within seven working days after receipt of the sample. A laboratory report of a substance abuse test result must, at a minimum, state:

(i) The name and address of the laboratory that performed the test and the positive identification of the person tested;

(ii) Positive results on confirmation tests only, or negative results, as applicable;

(iii) A list of the drugs for which the drug analyses were conducted; and

(iv) The type of tests conducted for both initial and confirmation tests and the threshold detection levels of the tests.

A report may not disclose the presence or absence of a drug other than a specific drug and its metabolites listed under this chapter.

(c) A laboratory shall provide technical assistance through the use of a medical review officer to the employer, employee, or job applicant for the purpose of interpreting a positive confirmed drug test result that could have been caused by prescription or nonprescription medication taken by the employee or job applicant. The medical review officer shall interpret and evaluate the laboratory's positive drug test result and eliminate test results that could have been caused by prescription medication or other medically documented sources in accordance with the United States department of health and human services medical review officer manual.

(5) A positive initial drug test must be confirmed using the gas chromatography/mass spectrometry method or an equivalent or more accurate scientifically accepted method approved by the substance abuse and mental health administration as the technology becomes available in a cost-effective form. [1996 c 127 § 6.]

**49.82.080 Employee assistance program—Notice.** (*Expires January 1, 2001.*) (1) The employee assistance program required under this chapter shall provide the employer with a system for dealing with employees whose job performances are declining due to unresolved problems, including alcohol or other drug-related problems, marital problems, or legal or financial problems.

(2) To ensure appropriate assessment and referral to treatment:

(a) The employer must notify the employees of the benefits and services of the employee assistance program;

(b) The employer shall publish notice of the employee assistance program in conspicuous places and explore alternative routine and reinforcing means of publicizing the services; and

(c) The employer shall provide the employee with notice of the policies and procedures regarding access to and use of the employee assistance program.

(3) A list of approved employee assistance programs must be provided by the department according to recognized program standards. [1996 c 127 § 7.]

**49.82.090 Employee assistance program—Last chance agreement—Treatment—Termination of employment.** (*Expires January 1, 2001.*) (1)(a) Rehabilitation of employees suffering from either or both alcohol or drug addiction shall be a primary focus of an employee assistance program.

(b) Under any program under this chapter, the employer may not use a first-time verified positive drug or alcohol test as the basis for termination of an employee. After a first-time verified positive test result, the employee must be given an opportunity to keep his or her job through the use of a last-chance agreement. The last-chance agreement shall require an employee to:

(i) Submit to an employee assistance program evaluation for chemical dependency;

(ii) Comply with any treatment recommendations;

(iii) Be subject to follow-up drug and alcohol testing for two years;

(iv) Meet the same standards of performance and conduct that are set for other employees; and

(v) Authorize the employer to receive all relevant information regarding the employee's progress in treatment, if applicable.

Failure to comply with all the terms of this agreement normally will result in termination of employment.

(2) When substance abuse treatment is necessary, employees must use treatment services approved by the department, which include a continuing care component lasting for two years.

(a) The employee assistance program shall monitor the employee's progress while in treatment, including the two-year continuing care component, and notify the employer when an employee is not complying with the program's treatment recommendations.

(b) The employer shall monitor job performance and conduct follow-up testing.

(3) An employer may terminate an employee for the following reasons:

(a) Refusal to submit to a drug or alcohol test;

(b) Refusal to agree to or failure to comply with the conditions of a last-chance agreement;

(c) A second verified positive drug or alcohol test result; or

(d) After the first verified positive drug or alcohol test, any violation of employer rules pertaining to alcohol and drugs.

(4) Nothing in this chapter limits the right of any employer who participates in the worker's compensation premium discount program under this chapter to terminate employment for any other reason. [1996 c 127 § 8.]

**49.82.100 Education program on substance abuse.** (*Expires January 1, 2001.*) As part of a program established under this chapter, an employer shall provide all employees with an annual education program on substance abuse, in general, and its effects on the workplace, specifically. An employer with employees who have difficulty



communicating in English shall make reasonable efforts to help the employees understand the substance of the education program. An education program for a minimum of one hour should include but is not limited to the following information:

- (1) The explanation of the disease model of addiction for alcohol and drugs;
- (2) The effects and dangers of the commonly abused substances in the workplace; and
- (3) The employer's policies and procedures regarding substance abuse in the workplace and how employees who wish to obtain substance abuse treatment can do so. [1996 c 127 § 9.]

**49.82.110 Supervisor training.** (*Expires January 1, 2001.*) In addition to the education program provided in RCW 49.82.100, an employer shall provide all supervisory personnel with a minimum of two hours of supervisor training, that should include but is not limited to the following information:

- (1) How to recognize signs of employee substance abuse;
- (2) How to document and collaborate signs of employee substance abuse;
- (3) How to refer employees to the employee assistance program or proper treatment providers; and
- (4) Circumstances and procedures for postinjury testing. [1996 c 127 § 10.]

**49.82.120 Confidentiality standards.** (*Expires January 1, 2001.*) Confidentiality standards that apply to substance abuse testing programs implemented under this chapter include the following:

(1) Information, interviews, reports, statements, memoranda, and test results, written or otherwise, received through a substance abuse testing program are confidential communications, and may not be used or received in evidence, obtained in discovery, or disclosed in a civil or administrative proceeding, except as provided in subsection (5) of this section.

(2) An employer, laboratory, medical review officer, employee assistance program, drug or alcohol rehabilitation program, and their agents who receive or have access to information concerning test results shall keep the information confidential, except as provided in subsection (5) of this section.

(3) Any release of the information must be pursuant to a written consent form that complies with RCW 70.02.030 and is signed voluntarily by the person tested, unless the release is compelled by the division of alcohol and substance abuse of the department or a court of competent jurisdiction in accordance with state and federal confidentiality laws, or unless required by a professional or occupational licensing board in a related disciplinary proceeding. Any disclosure by any agency approved by the department must be in accordance with RCW 70.96A.150. The consent form must contain at a minimum:

- (a) The name of the person who is authorized to obtain the information;
- (b) The purpose of the disclosure;
- (c) The precise information to be disclosed;

(d) The duration of the consent; and

(e) The signature of the person authorizing release of the information.

(4) Information on test results may not be released or used in a criminal proceeding against the employee or job applicant. Information released contrary to this subsection is inadmissible as evidence in a criminal proceeding.

(5) Nothing in this chapter prohibits:

(a) An employer from using information concerning an employee or job applicant's substance abuse test results in a lawful manner with respect to that employee or applicant; or

(b) An entity that obtains the information from disclosing or using the information in a lawful manner as part of a matter relating to the substance abuse test, the test result, or an employer action with respect to the job applicant or employee. [1996 c 127 § 12.]

**49.82.130 Certification of employers—Rules—Fee.** (*Expires January 1, 2001.*) The department shall adopt by rule procedures and forms for the certification of employers who establish and maintain a drug-free workplace that complies with this chapter. The department shall adopt by rule procedures for the decertification of employers formally certified for the workers' compensation premium discount provided under this chapter. The department may charge a fee for the certification of a drug-free workplace program in an amount that must approximate its administrative costs related to the certification. Certification of an employer is required for each year in which a premium discount is granted. The department may adopt any other rules necessary for the implementation of this chapter. [1996 c 127 § 13.]

**49.82.140 Department of labor and industries rules—Penalties—Report to legislature.** (*Expires January 1, 2001.*) (1) The department of labor and industries may adopt rules necessary for the implementation of this chapter including but not limited to provisions for penalties and repayment of premium discounts by employers that are decertified by the department of social and health services under RCW 49.82.130.

(2) The department of labor and industries shall conduct an evaluation of the effect of the premium discount provided for under RCW 49.82.030 on workplace safety and the state of Washington industrial insurance fund. The department of labor and industries shall report its preliminary findings to the appropriate committees of the legislature on September 1 of 1997 and 1998 and shall issue a comprehensive final report on December 1, 1999. [1996 c 127 § 14.]

**49.82.150 Evaluation—Report to legislature.** (*Expires January 1, 2001.*)—The department shall conduct an evaluation to determine the costs and benefits of the program under this chapter. If the department contracts for the performance of any or all of the evaluation, no more than ten percent of the contract amount may be used to cover indirect expenses. The department shall report its preliminary findings to the legislature on September 1 of 1997 and 1998 and shall issue a comprehensive final report on December 1, 1999. [1996 c 127 § 15.]

**49.82.900 Application and construction of chapter—Enforcement.** (*Expires January 1, 2001.*) (1) A physician-patient relationship is not created between an employee or job applicant and an employer, medical review officer, or person performing or evaluating a drug or alcohol test solely by the establishment, implementation, or administration of a drug or alcohol testing program.

(2) This chapter may not be construed to prevent an employer from establishing reasonable work rules related to employee possession, use, sale, or solicitation of drugs, including convictions for drug-related offenses, and taking action based upon a violation of any of those rules.

(3) This chapter may not be construed to operate retroactively. This chapter does not abrogate the right of an employer under state or federal law to conduct drug or alcohol tests or implement employee drug or alcohol testing programs. However, only those programs that meet the criteria outlined in this chapter qualify for workers' compensation insurance premiums discounts.

(4) This chapter may not be construed to prohibit an employer from conducting medical screening or other tests required, permitted, or not disallowed by a statute or rule for the purpose of monitoring exposure of employees to toxic or other unhealthy materials in the workplace or in the performance of job responsibilities. The screening or tests must be limited to testing for the specific material expressly identified in the statute or rule, unless prior written consent of the employee is obtained for other tests.

(5) This chapter does not establish a legal duty for employers to conduct alcohol or drug tests of employees or job applicants. A cause of action may not arise in favor of a person based upon the failure of an employer to establish or conduct a program or policy for substance abuse testing or to conduct a program or policy in conformance with the standards and procedures established in this chapter. This chapter does not create individual rights of action and may be enforced only by the department by denial of the workers' compensation premium discount provided in RCW 49.82.030. [1996 c 127 § 11.]

**49.82.901 Expiration date—1996 c 127.** Sections 1 through 16 of this act shall expire January 1, 2001. [1996 c 127 § 18.]

# Title 50

## UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

### Chapters

- 50.01 General provisions.
- 50.04 Definitions.
- 50.06 Temporary total disability.
- 50.08 Establishment of department.
- 50.12 Administration.
- 50.13 Records and information—Privacy and confidentiality.
- 50.16 Funds.
- 50.20 Benefits and claims.
- 50.22 Extended benefits.
- 50.24 Contributions by employers.
- 50.29 Employer experience rating.
- 50.32 Review, hearings and appeals.
- 50.36 Penalties.
- 50.38 Labor market information and economic analysis.
- 50.40 Miscellaneous provisions.
- 50.44 Special coverage provisions.
- 50.60 Shared work compensation plans—Benefits.
- 50.62 Special employment assistance.
- 50.65 Washington service corps.
- 50.67 Washington state job training coordinating council.
- 50.70 Programs for dislocated forest products workers.
- 50.72 Youthbuild program.
- 50.98 Construction.

*Bringing in out-of-state persons to replace employees involved in labor dispute: RCW 49.44.100, 49.44.110.*

*Displaced homemaker act: Chapter 28B.04 RCW.*

*Industrial insurance: Title 51 RCW.*

*Job skills training program: RCW 28C.04.400 through 28C.04.480.*

*Unfair practices of employment agencies: RCW 49.60.200.*

### Chapter 50.01 GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### Sections

- 50.01.005 Short title.
- 50.01.010 Preamble.

**50.01.005 Short title.** This title shall be known and may be cited as the "Employment Security Act." [1953 ex.s. c 8 § 24; 1945 c 35 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-140.]

**50.01.010 Preamble.** Whereas, economic insecurity due to unemployment is a serious menace to the health, morals and welfare of the people of this state; involuntary unemployment is, therefore, a subject of general interest and concern which requires appropriate action by the legislature to prevent its spread and to lighten its burden which now so

often falls with crushing force upon the unemployed worker and his family. Social security requires protection against this greatest hazard of our economic life. This can be provided only by application of the insurance principle of sharing the risks, and by the systematic accumulation of funds during periods of employment to provide benefits for periods of unemployment, thus maintaining purchasing powers and limiting the serious social consequences of relief assistance. The state of Washington, therefore, exercising herein its police and sovereign power endeavors by this title to remedy any widespread unemployment situation which may occur and to set up safeguards to prevent its recurrence in the years to come. The legislature, therefore, declares that in its considered judgment the public good, and the general welfare of the citizens of this state require the enactment of this measure, under the police powers of the state, for the compulsory setting aside of unemployment reserves to be used for the benefit of persons unemployed through no fault of their own, and that this title shall be liberally construed for the purpose of reducing involuntary unemployment and the suffering caused thereby to the minimum. [1945 c 35 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-141. Prior: 1937 c 162 § 2.]

### Chapter 50.04 DEFINITIONS

#### Sections

- 50.04.020 Base year—Alternative base year.
- 50.04.030 Benefit year.
- 50.04.040 Benefits.
- 50.04.050 Calendar quarter.
- 50.04.060 Commissioner.
- 50.04.070 Contributions.
- 50.04.072 Contributions—"Contributions" and "payments in lieu of contributions" as money payments and taxes due state.
- 50.04.073 Contributions—As including "payments in lieu of contributions"—Scope.
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- 50.04.100 Employment.
- 50.04.110 Employment—Situs of service.
- 50.04.115 Employment—Out-of-state service, election.
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- 50.04.120 Employment—Localized service.
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- 50.04.140 Employment—Exception tests.
- 50.04.145 Employment—Services performed for contractor, when excluded.
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- 50.04.160 Employment—Domestic service.
- 50.04.165 Employment—Corporate officers—Election of coverage.
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- 50.04.180 Family employment.
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- 50.04.206 Employment—Nonresident alien.
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- 50.04.223 Employment—Massage practitioner.
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- 50.04.230 Employment—Services of insurance agent, broker, or solicitor, real estate broker or real estate salesman, and investment company agent or solicitor.
- 50.04.232 Employment—Travel services.
- 50.04.235 Employment—Outside salesman paid by commission.
- 50.04.240 Employment—Newsboy's service.
- 50.04.245 Employment—Services performed for temporary services agency, employee leasing agency, or services referral agency.
- 50.04.255 Employment—Appraisal practitioner services.
- 50.04.270 Employment—Casual labor.
- 50.04.280 Employment—"Pay period" determination.
- 50.04.290 Employment office.
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- 50.04.310 Unemployed individual—Individual deemed not "unemployed."
- 50.04.320 Wages, remuneration.
- 50.04.323 Wages, remuneration—Government or private retirement pension plan payments—Effect upon eligibility—Reduction in benefits.
- 50.04.330 Wages, remuneration—Retirement and disability payments excepted.
- 50.04.340 Wages, remuneration—Death benefits excepted.
- 50.04.350 Wages, remuneration—Excepted payments.
- 50.04.355 Wages, remuneration—Average annual wage—Average weekly wage—Average annual wage for contributions purposes.
- 50.04.360 Week.

"Application for initial determination" defined: RCW 50.20.140.

"Claim for benefits" defined: RCW 50.20.140.

"Claim for waiting period" defined: RCW 50.20.140.

**50.04.020 Base year—Alternative base year.** "Base year" with respect to each individual, shall mean either the first four of the last five completed calendar quarters or the last four completed calendar quarters immediately preceding the first day of the individual's benefit year.

For the purposes of establishing a benefit year, the department shall initially use the first four of the last five completed calendar quarters as the base year. If a benefit year is not established using the first four of the last five calendar quarters as the base year, the department shall use the last four completed calendar quarters as the base year.

Computations using the last four completed calendar quarters shall be based on available wage items processed as of the close of business on the day preceding the date of application. The department shall promptly contact employers to request assistance in obtaining wage information for the last completed calendar quarter if it has not been reported at the time of initial application. [1994 c 3 § 1; 1987 c 278 § 1; 1970 ex.s. c 2 § 1; 1945 c 35 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-142. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 13; 1939 c 214 § 19; 1937 c 162 § 19.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—1994 c 3:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal

requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal unemployment tax credits to employers in this state." [1994 c 3 § 4.]

**Severability—1994 c 3:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1994 c 3 § 5.]

**Effective dates—1994 c 3:** "(1) Section 1 of this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect April 3, 1994.

(2) Section 2 of this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect April 1, 1994.

(3) Section 3 of this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately [February 26, 1994]." [1994 c 3 § 6.]

**Effective date—1970 ex.s. c 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 April 5, 1970: PROVIDED, That sections 3 and 8 of this 1970 amendatory act shall not take effect until January 1, 1971." [1970 ex.s. c 2 § 25.]

**50.04.030 Benefit year.** "Benefit year" with respect to each individual, means the fifty-two consecutive week period beginning with the first day of the calendar week in which the individual files an application for an initial determination and thereafter the fifty-two consecutive week period beginning with the first day of the calendar week in which the individual next files an application for an initial determination after the expiration of the individual's last preceding benefit year: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That the foregoing limitation shall not be deemed to preclude the establishment of a new benefit year under the laws of another state pursuant to any agreement providing for the interstate combining of employment and wages and the interstate payment of benefits nor shall this limitation be deemed to preclude the commissioner from backdating an initial application at the request of the claimant either for the convenience of the department of employment security or for any other reason deemed by the commissioner to be good cause.

An individual's benefit year shall be extended to be fifty-three weeks when at the expiration of fifty-two weeks the establishment of a new benefit year would result in the use of a quarter of wages in the new base year that had been included in the individual's prior base year.

No benefit year will be established unless it is determined that the individual earned wages in "employment" in not less than six hundred eighty hours of the individual's base year: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That a benefit year cannot be established if the base year wages include wages earned prior to the establishment of a prior benefit year unless the individual worked and earned wages since the last separation from employment immediately before the application for initial determination in the previous benefit year if the applicant was an unemployed individual at the time of application, or since the initial separation in the previous benefit year if the applicant was not an unemployed individual at the time of filing an application for initial determination for the previous benefit year, of not less than six times the weekly benefit amount computed for the individual's new benefit year.

If an individual's prior benefit year was based on the last four completed calendar quarters, a new benefit year shall not be established until the new base year does not include any hours used in the establishment of the prior benefit year.

If the wages of an individual are not based upon a fixed duration of time or if the individual's wages are paid at irregular intervals or in such manner as not to extend regularly over the period of employment, the wages for any week shall be determined in such manner as the commissioner may by regulation prescribe. Such regulation shall, so far as possible, secure results reasonably similar to those which would prevail if the individual were paid his or her wages at regular intervals. [1991 c 117 § 1; 1990 c 245 § 1. Prior: 1987 c 278 § 2; 1987 c 256 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 33 § 1; 1973 c 73 § 1; 1970 ex.s. c 2 § 2; 1949 c 214 § 1; 1945 c 35 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9998-143; prior: 1943 c 127 § 13; 1939 c 214 § 19; 1937 c 162 § 19.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—1991 c 117:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements which are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements which are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal unemployment tax credits to employers in this state." [1991 c 117 § 5.]

**Severability—1991 c 117:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1991 c 117 § 6.]

**Effective dates—1991 c 117:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and sections 1 and 4 [of this act] shall take effect July 1, 1991, and section 3 [of this act] shall take effect July 7, 1991, for new claims filed on or after July 7, 1991." [1991 c 117 § 7.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—1990 c 245:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal unemployment tax credits to employers in this state." [1990 c 245 § 11.]

**Effective dates—1990 c 245:** "(1) Section 1 of this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately [March 28, 1990].

(2) Sections 2, 3, and 6 through 9 of this act shall take effect on July 1, 1990." [1990 c 245 § 12.]

**Effective dates—Construction—1977 ex.s. c 33:** "The provisions of this 1977 amendatory act are 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 ninety days after adjournment sine die of the 1977 Extraordinary Session (forty-fifth legislature) of the Washington State Legislature: PROVIDED, That the first paragraph of section 1 of this 1977 amendatory act shall take effect immediately and the remaining portion of section 1 of this 1977 amendatory act and all of section 2 of this 1977 amendatory act shall take effect commencing with benefit years beginning on and after October 1, 1978; section 7 of this 1977 amendatory act shall take effect commencing with benefit years beginning on and after July 3, 1977." [1977 ex.s. c 33 § 11.] For codification of 1977 ex.s. c 33, see Codification Tables, Volume 0.

**Effective dates—1973 c 73:** "Sections 7, 8, 10, 11, and 12 of this 1973 amendatory act are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, the support of the state government and its (1996 Ed.)

existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately. Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 9 of this 1973 amendatory act shall take effect on July 1, 1973." [1973 c 73 § 13.] The effective date of sections 7, 8, 10, 11, and 12 was March 8, 1973. The effective date of sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 9 was July 1, 1973. Section 5 referred to above was vetoed.

**Effective date—1970 ex.s. c 2:** See note following RCW 50.04.020.

**50.04.040 Benefits.** "Benefits" means the compensation payable to an individual, as provided in this title, with respect to his unemployment. [1945 c 35 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-144. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 13; 1941 c 253 § 14; 1939 c 219 § 19; 1937 c 162 § 19.]

**50.04.050 Calendar quarter.** "Calendar quarter" means the period of three consecutive calendar months ending on March 31st, June 30th, September 30th, or December 31st. [1945 c 35 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-145. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 13; 1939 c 214 § 19; 1937 c 162 § 19.]

**50.04.060 Commissioner.** "Commissioner" means the administrative head of the state employment security department referred to in this title. [1947 c 215 § 1; 1945 c 35 § 7; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 9998-146. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 13; 1941 c 253 § 14; 1939 c 214 § 19; 1937 c 162 § 19.]

**50.04.070 Contributions.** "Contributions" means the money payments due to the state unemployment compensation fund as provided in RCW 50.24.010, to the federal interest payment fund under RCW 50.16.070, or to the special account in the administrative contingency fund under RCW 50.24.014. [1985 ex.s. c 5 § 4; 1983 1st ex.s. c 13 § 9; 1971 c 3 § 1; 1951 c 215 § 1; 1945 c 35 § 8; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-147. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 13; 1941 c 253 § 14; 1939 c 214 § 19; 1937 c 162 § 19.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—1985 ex.s. c 5:** See notes following RCW 50.62.010.

**Conflict with federal requirements—1983 1st ex.s. c 13:** See note following RCW 50.16.010.

**Construction—Compliance with federal act—1971 c 3:** See RCW 50.44.080.

**50.04.072 Contributions—"Contributions" and "payments in lieu of contributions" as money payments and taxes due state.** The terms "contributions" and "payments in lieu of contributions" used in this title, whether singular or plural, designate the money payments to be made to the state unemployment compensation fund, to the federal interest payment fund under RCW 50.16.070, or to the special account in the administrative contingency fund under RCW 50.24.014 and are deemed to be taxes due to the state of Washington. [1985 ex.s. c 5 § 5; 1983 1st ex.s. c 13 § 10; 1971 c 3 § 3; 1959 c 266 § 8.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—1985 ex.s. c 5:** See notes following RCW 50.62.010.

**Conflict with federal requirements—1983 1st ex.s. c 13:** See note following RCW 50.16.010.

**Construction—Compliance with federal act—1971 c 3:** See RCW 50.44.080.

**Construction—1959 c 266:** "The provisions of section 8 of this amendatory act shall be construed as a restatement and continuation of existing law, and not as a new enactment. It shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under its provisions nor as affecting

any proceeding instituted thereunder." [1959 c 266 § 9.] This applies to RCW 50.04.072.

**50.04.073 Contributions—As including "payments in lieu of contributions"—Scope.** The term "contributions" as used in this title shall be deemed to include "payments in lieu of contributions" to the extent that such usage is consistent with the purposes of this title. Such construction shall include but not be limited to those portions of this title dealing with assessments, interest, penalties, liens, collection procedures and remedies, administrative and judicial review, and the imposition of administrative, civil and criminal sanctions. [1983 1st ex.s. c 23 § 1; 1971 c 3 § 4.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—1983 1st ex.s. c 23:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements which are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements which are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal unemployment tax credits to employers in this state." [1983 1st ex.s. c 23 § 26.]

**Effective dates—Construction—1983 1st ex.s. c 23:** "(1) Sections 6, 8, 17, 18, 19, and 25 of this act are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, the support of the state government and its existing institutions, and shall take effect as follows:

(a) Sections 17, 18, 19, and 25 of this act shall take effect on June 30, 1983;

(b) Sections 6 and 8 of this act shall take effect on July 3, 1983, and shall be effective for benefit years commencing on or after that date.

(2) Sections 4 and 13 of this act shall take effect on October 1, 1983. Sections 7, 11, and 12 of this act shall also take effect on October 1, 1983, and shall be effective for all weeks of benefits paid on or after that date." [1983 1st ex.s. c 23 § 27.] Sections 6, 8, 17, 18, 19, and 25 of this act consist of the 1983 1st ex.s. c 23 amendments to RCW 50.04.320, 50.12.070, 50.29.010, 50.29.060, 50.29.070, and 50.04.145. Sections 4 and 13 of this act consist of the amendments to RCW 50.04.165 and 50.22.040. Sections 7, 11, and 12 of this act consist of the amendments to RCW 50.04.323, 50.20.120, and 50.20.130.

**Construction—Compliance with federal act—1971 c 3:** See RCW 50.44.080.

**50.04.075 Dislocated worker.** "Dislocated worker" means any individual who:

(1) Has been terminated or received a notice of termination from employment;

(2) Is eligible for or has exhausted entitlement to unemployment compensation benefits; and

(3) Is unlikely to return to employment in the individual's principal occupation or previous industry because of a diminishing demand for their skills in that occupation or industry. [1984 c 181 § 1.]

*Dislocated worker's eligibility for benefits: RCW 50.20.043.*

**50.04.080 Employer.** "Employer" means any individual or type of organization, including any partnership, association, trust, estate, joint stock company, insurance company, or corporation, whether domestic or foreign, or the receiver, trustee in bankruptcy, trustee, or the legal representative of a deceased person, having any person in employment or, having become an employer, has not ceased to be an employer as provided in this title. [1985 c 41 § 1; 1971 c 3 § 5; 1949 c 214 § 2; 1945 c 35 § 9; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9998-148. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 13; 1941 c 253 § 14; 1939 c 214 § 19; 1937 c 162 § 19.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—1985 c 41:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements which are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements which are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal unemployment tax credits to employers in this state." [1985 c 41 § 2.]

**Severability—1985 c 41:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1985 c 41 § 3.]

**Construction—Compliance with federal act—1971 c 3:** See RCW 50.44.080.

**50.04.090 Employing unit.** "Employing unit" means any individual or any type of organization, including any partnership, association, trust, estate, joint stock company, insurance company, or corporation, whether domestic or foreign, or the receiver, trustee in bankruptcy, trustee or successor thereof, or the legal representative of a deceased person, which has or subsequent to January 1, 1937, had in its employ or in its "employment" one or more individuals performing services within this state. The state and its political subdivisions shall be deemed employing units as to any transactions occurring on or after September 21, 1977 which would render an employing unit liable for contributions, interest, or penalties under RCW 50.24.130. [1983 1st ex.s. c 23 § 2; 1977 ex.s. c 73 § 1; 1947 c 215 § 2; 1945 c 35 § 10; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 9998-149. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 13; 1941 c 253 § 14; 1939 c 214 § 19; 1937 c 162 § 19.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective dates—Construction—1983 1st ex.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 50.04.073.

**50.04.100 Employment.** "Employment", subject only to the other provisions of this title, means personal service, of whatever nature, unlimited by the relationship of master and servant as known to the common law or any other legal relationship, including service in interstate commerce, performed for wages or under any contract calling for the performance of personal services, written or oral, express or implied.

Except as provided by RCW 50.04.145, personal services performed for an employing unit by one or more contractors or subcontractors acting individually or as a partnership, which do not meet the provisions of RCW 50.04.140, shall be considered employment of the employing unit: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That such contractor or subcontractor shall be an employer under the provisions of this title in respect to personal services performed by individuals for such contractor or subcontractor. [1982 1st ex.s. c 18 § 14; 1945 c 35 § 11; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-150. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 13; 1941 c 253 § 14; 1939 c 214 § 19; 1937 c 162 § 19.]

**Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1982 1st ex.s. c 18:** See notes following RCW 50.12.200.

**50.04.110 Employment—Situs of service.** The term "employment" shall include an individual's entire service performed within or without or both within and without this state, if

(1) The service is localized in this state; or

(2) The service is not localized in any state, but some of the service is performed in this state, and

(a) the base of operations, or if there is no base of operations, then the place from which such service is directed or controlled is in this state; or

(b) the base of operations or place from which such service is directed or controlled is not in any state in which some part of the service is performed, but the individual's residence is in this state; or

(3) The service is performed within the United States, the Virgin Islands or Canada, if

(a) such service is not covered under the unemployment compensation law of any other state, the Virgin Islands or Canada, and

(b) the place from which the service is directed or controlled is in this state. [1971 c 3 § 6; 1945 c 35 § 12; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-151. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 13; 1941 c 253 § 14; 1939 c 214 § 19; 1937 c 162 § 19.]

**Construction—Compliance with federal act—1971 c 3:** See RCW 50.44.080.

**50.04.115 Employment—Out-of-state service, election.** Services not covered under RCW 50.04.110 or 50.04.116 which are performed entirely without this state, with respect to no part of which contributions, interest, or penalties are required and paid under an unemployment compensation law of any other state or of the federal government, shall be deemed to be employment subject to this title if the individual performing such services is a resident of this state and the commissioner approves the election of the employing unit for whom such services are performed that the entire service of such individual shall be deemed to be employment subject to this title. [1983 1st ex.s. c 23 § 3; 1971 c 3 § 8; 1945 c 35 § 13; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-152. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 13; 1941 c 253 § 14; 1937 c 162 § 19. Formerly RCW 50.04.130.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective dates—Construction—1983 1st ex.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 50.04.073.

**Construction—Compliance with federal act—1971 c 3:** See RCW 50.44.080.

**50.04.116 Employment—Out-of-state service, when included—"American employer" defined.** The term "employment" shall include the service of an individual who is a citizen of the United States, performed outside the United States (except in Canada, and in the case of the Virgin Islands after December 31, 1971 and prior to January 1 of the year following the year in which the United States secretary of labor approves the unemployment compensation law of the Virgin Islands under section 3304(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954) in the employ of an American employer (other than service which is deemed "employment" under the provisions of RCW 50.04.110 or 50.04.120 or the parallel provisions of another state's law), if:

(1) The employer's principal place of business in the United States is located in this state; or

(2) The employer has no place of business in the United States but:

(a) The employer is an individual who is a resident of this state; or

(b) The employer is a corporation which is organized under the laws of this state; or

(c) The employer is a partnership or a trust and the number of the partners or trustees who are residents of this state is greater than the number who are residents of any one other state; or

(3) None of the criteria in subsections (1) and (2) of this section is met but the employer has elected coverage in this state, or the employer having failed to elect coverage in any state, the individual has filed a claim for benefits, based on such service, under the laws of this state.

(4) An "American employer", for the purposes of this section, means a person who is:

(a) An individual who is a resident of the United States; or

(b) A partnership if two-thirds or more of the partners are residents of the United States; or

(c) A trust, if all of the trustees are residents of the United States; or

(d) A corporation organized under the laws of the United States or of any state. [1977 ex.s. c 292 § 1; 1971 c 3 § 7.]

**Effective dates—1977 ex.s. c 292:** "This 1977 amendatory 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: PROVIDED, That sections 6, 12, 14, 15, 16, and 18 of this 1977 amendatory act shall take effect on January 1, 1978." [1977 ex.s. c 292 § 28.] For codification of all sections of 1977 ex.s. c 292, see Codification Tables, Volume 0.

**Construction—Compliance with federal act—1971 c 3:** See RCW 50.44.080.

**50.04.120 Employment—Localized service.** Service shall be deemed to be localized within a state, if

(1) the service is performed entirely within the state; or

(2) the service is performed both within and without the state, but the service performed without the state is incidental to the individual's service within the state; for example, is temporary or transitory in nature or consists of isolated transactions. [1945 c 35 § 14; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-153. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 13; 1941 c 253 § 14; 1939 c 214 § 16; 1937 c 162 § 19.]

**50.04.125 Employment—Foreign degree-granting institutions—Employee services localized in country of domicile.** The services of employees of a foreign degree-granting institution who are nonimmigrant aliens under the immigration laws of the United States, shall, for the purposes of RCW 50.04.120, be considered to be localized or principally localized, in the country of domicile of the foreign degree-granting institution as defined in RCW 28B.90.010 in those instances where the income of those employees would be exempt from taxation by virtue of the terms and provisions of any treaty between the United States and the country of domicile of the foreign degree-granting institution. However, a foreign degree-granting institution is not precluded from otherwise establishing that a nonimmigrant employee's services are, for the purpose of such statutes, principally located in its country of domicile. [1993 c 181 § 8.]

**50.04.140 Employment—Exception tests.** Services performed by an individual for remuneration shall be deemed to be employment subject to this title unless and until it is shown to the satisfaction of the commissioner that:

(1)(a) Such individual has been and will continue to be free from control or direction over the performance of such service, both under his or her contract of service and in fact; and

(b) Such service is either outside the usual course of business for which such service is performed, or that such service is performed outside of all the places of business of the enterprises for which such service is performed; and

(c) Such individual is customarily engaged in an independently established trade, occupation, profession, or business, of the same nature as that involved in the contract of service.

(2) Or as a separate alternative, it shall not constitute employment subject to this title if it is shown that:

(a) Such individual has been and will continue to be free from control or direction over the performance of such service, both under his or her contract of service and in fact; and

(b) Such service is either outside the usual course of business for which such service is performed, or that such service is performed outside of all the places of business of the enterprises for which such service is performed, or the individual is responsible, both under the contract and in fact, for the costs of the principal place of business from which the service is performed; and

(c) Such individual is customarily engaged in an independently established trade, occupation, profession, or business, of the same nature as that involved in the contract of service, or such individual has a principal place of business for the work the individual is conducting that is eligible for a business deduction for federal income tax purposes; and

(d) On the effective date of the contract of service, such individual is responsible for filing at the next applicable filing period, both under the contract of service and in fact, a schedule of expenses with the internal revenue service for the type of business the individual is conducting; and

(e) On the effective date of the contract of service, or within a reasonable period after the effective date of the contract, such individual has established an account with the department of revenue, and other state agencies as required by the particular case, for the business the individual is conducting for the payment of all state taxes normally paid by employers and businesses and has registered for and received a unified business identifier number from the state of Washington; and

(f) On the effective date of the contract of service, such individual is maintaining a separate set of books or records that reflect all items of income and expenses of the business which the individual is conducting. [1991 c 246 § 6; 1945 c 35 § 15; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-154. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 13; 1941 c 253 § 14; 1939 c 214 § 16; 1937 c 162 § 19.]

**Effective date—Conflict with federal requirements—1991 c 246:** See notes following RCW 51.08.195.

**50.04.145 Employment—Services performed for contractor, when excluded.** The term "employment" shall not include services rendered by any person, firm, or

corporation currently engaging in a business which is registered under chapter 18.27 RCW or licensed under chapter 19.28 RCW when:

(1) Contracting to perform work for any contractor registered under chapter 18.27 RCW or licensed under chapter 19.28 RCW;

(2) The person, firm, or corporation has a principal place of business which would be eligible for a business deduction for internal revenue service tax purposes other than that furnished by the contractor for which the business has contracted to furnish services;

(3) The person, firm, or corporation maintains a separate set of books or records that reflect all items of income and expenses of the business;

(4) The work which the person, firm, or corporation has contracted to perform is:

(a) The work of a contractor as defined in RCW 18.27.010; or

(b) The work of installing wires or equipment to convey electric current or installing apparatus to be operated by such current as it pertains to the electrical industry as described in chapter 19.28 RCW; and

(5) A contractor registered under chapter 18.27 RCW or licensed under chapter 19.28 RCW does not supervise or control in the means by which the result is accomplished or the manner in which the work is performed. [1983 1st ex.s. c 23 § 25; 1982 1st ex.s. c 18 § 13.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective dates—Construction—1983 1st ex.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 50.04.073.

**Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1982 1st ex.s. c 18:** See notes following RCW 50.12.200.

**50.04.148 Employment—Services performed by musician or entertainer.** (1) The term "employment" shall not include services performed by a musician or entertainer under a written contract with a purchaser of the services for a specific engagement or engagements when such musician or entertainer performs no other duties for the purchaser and is not regularly and continuously employed by the purchaser. The contract shall designate the leader of the music or entertainment group. A music or entertainment business or a leader of a music or entertainment group shall be considered an employer and not a purchaser of music or entertainment services.

(2) Any musician or entertainer who performs for a music or entertainment business or as a member of a music or entertainment group is deemed an employee of the business or group and the business or the leader of the group shall be required to register as an employer with the department.

(3) Purchasers of services under subsection (1) of this section shall not be subject to RCW 50.24.130 relating to a principal's liability for unpaid contributions if the services are purchased from a business or group registered as an employer with the department.

(4) The term "music or entertainment business" or "group" as used in this section means an employer whose principal business activity is music or entertainment. The term does not include those entities who provide music or entertainment for members or patrons incidental to their principal business activity, and does not include an individu-



al employing musicians or entertainers on a casual basis. [1985 c 47 § 1.]

**Effective date—1985 c 47:** "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 July 1, 1985." [1985 c 47 § 2.]

**50.04.150 Employment—Agricultural labor.** Except as otherwise provided in RCW 50.04.155, the term "employment" shall not include service performed in agricultural labor by individuals who are enrolled as students and regularly attending classes, or are between two successive academic years or terms, at an elementary school, a secondary school, or an institution of higher education as defined in RCW 50.44.037 and in the case of corporate farms not covered under RCW 50.04.155, the provisions regarding family employment in RCW 50.04.180 shall apply.

Agricultural labor is defined as services performed:

(1) On a farm, in the employ of any person, in connection with the cultivation of the soil, or in connection with raising or harvesting any agricultural or horticultural commodity, including raising, shearing, feeding, caring for, training, and management of livestock, bees, poultry, and furbearing animals and wild life, or in the employ of the owner or tenant or other operator of a farm in connection with the operation, management, conservation, improvement, or maintenance of such farm and its tools and equipment; or

(2) In packing, packaging, grading, storing, or delivering to storage, or to market or to a carrier for transportation to market, any agricultural or horticultural commodity; but only if such service is performed as an incident to ordinary farming operations. The exclusions from the term "employment" provided in this paragraph shall not be deemed to be applicable with respect to commercial packing houses, commercial storage establishments, commercial canning, commercial freezing, or any other commercial processing or with respect to services performed in connection with the cultivation, raising, harvesting and processing of oysters or raising and harvesting of mushrooms or in connection with any agricultural or horticultural commodity after its delivery to a terminal market for distribution for consumption. [1989 c 380 § 78; 1977 ex.s. c 292 § 2; 1957 c 264 § 1; 1947 c 215 § 3; 1945 c 35 § 16; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-155. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 13; 1941 c 253 § 14; 1939 c 214 § 16; 1937 c 162 § 19.]

**Effective date—1989 c 380 §§ 78 through 81:** "Sections 78 through 81 of this act shall take effect on January 1, 1990." [1989 c 380 § 91.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—1989 c 380:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements which are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements which are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal unemployment tax credits to employers in this state." [1989 c 380 § 89.]

**Severability—1989 c 380:** See RCW 15.58.942.

**Effective dates—1977 ex.s. c 292:** See note following RCW 50.04.116.

**50.04.155 Service performed in agricultural labor for farm operator or crew leader.** (1) Service performed in agricultural labor on and after January 1, 1978, for a farm

operator or crew leader will be deemed services in employment if the farm operator or crew leader:

(a) Paid twenty thousand dollars or more as remuneration to individuals employed in agricultural labor during any calendar quarter in the current or preceding calendar year; or

(b) Employed ten or more individuals in agricultural labor for some portion of the day in each of twenty different calendar weeks in either the current or preceding calendar year regardless of whether they were employed at the same moment of time or whether or not the weeks were consecutive.

(2) A farm operator is the owner or tenant of the farmlands who stands to gain or lose economically from the operations of the farm. Employment will be considered employment by the farm operator unless it is established to the satisfaction of the commissioner that the services were performed in the employ of a crew leader. The risk of nonpersuasion is upon the farm operator. The operator will nonetheless be liable for contributions under RCW 50.24.130 even though services performed on the operator's farmlands would not be sufficient to bring the services under the term employment if services performed on the operator's land in the employ of a crew leader would be covered and the crew leader has failed to pay contributions on the services. For the purposes of the preceding sentence and RCW 50.24.130, all moneys paid or payable to the crew leader by the farm operator shall be deemed paid for services unless there is a written contract clearly specifying the amounts of money to be attributed to items other than services of the crew leader or the crew leader's employees.

(3) For the purposes of this section, a crew leader is a person who furnishes individuals to perform services in agricultural labor for the benefit of any other person, who pays for the services performed in agricultural labor (either on his or her own behalf or on behalf of the other person), and who has not made a written agreement making himself or herself an employee of the other person: PROVIDED, That no person shall be deemed a crew leader unless he or she is established independently of the person for whom the services are performed and either has a valid certificate of registration under the farm labor contractor registration act of 1963 or substantially all the members of his or her crew operate or maintain tractors, mechanized harvesting or crop dusting equipment, or any other mechanized equipment which is provided by the crew leader. [1977 ex.s. c 292 § 3.]

**Effective dates—1977 ex.s. c 292:** See note following RCW 50.04.116.

**50.04.160 Employment—Domestic service.** Services performed in domestic service in a private home, local college club, or local chapter of a college fraternity or sorority shall not be considered services in employment unless the services are performed after December 31, 1977, for a person who paid remuneration of one thousand dollars or more to individuals employed in this domestic service in any calendar quarter in the current or the preceding calendar year. The terms local college club and local chapter of a college fraternity or sorority shall not be deemed to include alumni clubs or chapters. [1977 ex.s. c 292 § 4; 1947 c 215 § 4; 1945 c 35 § 17; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 9998-156. Prior:

1943 c 127 § 13; 1941 c 253 § 14; 1939 c 214 § 16; 1937 c 162 § 19.]

**Effective dates—1977 ex.s. c 292:** See note following RCW 50.04.116.

**50.04.165 Employment—Corporate officers—Election of coverage.** Services performed by a person appointed as an officer of a corporation under RCW 23B.08.400, other than those covered by chapter 50.44 RCW, shall not be considered services in employment. However, a corporation may elect to cover not less than all of its corporate officers under RCW 50.24.160. If an employer does not elect to cover its corporate officers under RCW 50.24.160, the employer must notify its corporate officers in writing that they are ineligible for unemployment benefits. If the employer fails to notify any corporate officer, then that person shall not be considered to be a corporate officer for the purposes of this section. [1993 c 290 § 2; 1993 c 58 § 1; 1991 c 72 § 57; 1986 c 110 § 1; 1983 1st ex.s. c 23 § 4; 1981 c 35 § 13.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—1993 c 58:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements which are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements which are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal unemployment tax credits to employers in this state." [1993 c 58 § 4.]

**Severability—1993 c 58:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1993 c 58 § 5.]

**Effective date—1993 c 58:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect March 6, 1993." [1993 c 58 § 6.] 1993 c 58 was signed by the governor on April 19, 1993.

**Conflict with federal requirements—1986 c 110:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements which are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements which are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal unemployment tax credits to employers in this state." [1986 c 110 § 2.]

**Severability—1986 c 110:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1986 c 110 § 3.]

**Effective date—1986 c 110:** "This act shall take effect July 1, 1986." [1986 c 110 § 4.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective dates—Construction—1983 1st ex.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 50.04.073.

**Severability—1981 c 35:** See note following RCW 50.22.030.

**50.04.170 Employment—Maritime service.** The term "employment" shall include an individual's entire service as an officer or member of a crew of an American vessel wherever performed and whether in intrastate or interstate or foreign commerce, if the employer maintains within this state at the beginning of the pay period an operating office from which the operations of the vessel are ordinarily

and regularly supervised, managed, directed and controlled. The term "employment" shall not include services performed as an officer or member of the crew of a vessel not an American vessel and services on or in connection with an American vessel under a contract of service which is not entered into within the United States and during the performance of which the vessel does not touch at a port of the United States.

"American vessel", means any vessel documented or numbered under the laws of the United States; and includes any vessel which is neither documented or numbered under the laws of the United States nor documented under the laws of any foreign country if its crew is employed solely by one or more citizens or residents of the United States or corporations organized under the laws of the United States or of any state. [1949 c 214 § 3; 1947 c 215 § 5; 1945 c 35 § 18; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9998-157. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 13; 1941 c 253 § 14; 1939 c 214 § 16; 1937 c 162 § 19.]

**50.04.180 Family employment.** The term "employment" shall not include service performed by an individual in the employ of his or her spouse, nor shall it include service performed by an unmarried individual under the age of eighteen years in the employ of his or her parent or step-parent. [1973 c 73 § 2; 1951 c 265 § 6; 1945 c 35 § 19; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-158. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 13; 1941 c 253 § 14; 1939 c 214 § 16; 1937 c 162 § 19.]

**Effective dates—1973 c 73:** See note following RCW 50.04.030.

**Severability—1951 c 265:** See note following RCW 50.98.070.

**50.04.205 Services performed by aliens.** Except as provided in RCW 50.04.206, services performed by aliens legally or illegally admitted to the United States shall be considered services in employment subject to the payment of contributions to the extent that services by citizens are covered. [1990 c 245 § 2; 1977 ex.s. c 292 § 5.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective dates—1990 c 245:** See notes following RCW 50.04.030.

**Effective dates—1977 ex.s. c 292:** See note following RCW 50.04.116.

**50.04.206 Employment—Nonresident alien.** The term "employment" shall not include service that is performed by a nonresident alien for the period he or she is temporarily present in the United States as a nonimmigrant under subparagraph (F), (H)(iii), or (J) of section 101(a)(15) of the federal immigration and naturalization act, as amended, and that is performed to carry out the purpose specified in the applicable subparagraph of the federal immigration and naturalization act. [1990 c 245 § 3.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective dates—1990 c 245:** See notes following RCW 50.04.030.

**50.04.210 Employment—Foreign governmental service.** The term "employment" shall not include service performed in the employ of any other state or its political subdivisions, or of the United States government, or of any instrumentality of any other state or states or their political subdivisions, or the United States; except that if the congress of the United States shall permit states to require any instrumentality of the United States to make payments into

an unemployment fund under a state unemployment compensation act, then, to the extent permitted by congress, and from and after the date when such permission becomes effective all the provisions of this title shall be applicable to such instrumentalities and to services performed for such instrumentalities in the same manner, to the same extent and on the same terms as to all other employers, employing units, individuals and services: PROVIDED, That if this state should not be certified by the social security board under section 903 of the social security act, as amended, for any year, then the payment required of such instrumentalities with respect to such year shall be deemed to be erroneously collected and shall be refunded by the commissioner from the fund in accordance with the provisions of this title relating to adjustments and refunds of contributions, interest, or penalties which have been paid. [1983 1st ex.s. c 23 § 5; 1945 c 35 § 22; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-161. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 13; 1941 c 253 § 14; 1939 c 214 § 16; 1937 c 162 § 19.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective dates—Construction—1983 1st ex.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 50.04.073.

**50.04.220 Employment—Service covered by federal act.** The term "employment" shall not include service with respect to which unemployment compensation is payable under an unemployment compensation system established by an act of congress: PROVIDED, That the commissioner is hereby authorized to enter into agreements with the proper agencies under such act of congress, which agreements shall become effective ten days after publication thereof in the manner provided in this title for publication of general rules, to provide reciprocal treatment to individuals who have, after acquiring potential rights to benefits under this title, acquired right to unemployment compensation under such act of congress, or who have, after acquiring potential rights to unemployment compensation under such act of congress, acquired rights to benefits under this title. [1945 c 35 § 23; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-162. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 13; 1941 c 253 § 14; 1939 c 214 § 16; 1937 c 162 § 19.]

**50.04.223 Employment—Massage practitioner.** The term "employment" does not include services performed by a massage practitioner licensed under chapter 18.108 RCW in a massage business if the use of the business facilities is contingent upon compensation to the owner of the business facilities and the person receives no compensation from the owner for the services performed.

This exemption does not include services performed by a massage practitioner for an employer under chapter 50.44 RCW. [1994 c 3 § 2; 1993 c 167 § 1.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Effective dates—1994 c 3:** See notes following RCW 50.04.020.

**Effective date—1993 c 167:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect July 1, 1993." [1993 c 167 § 2.]

**50.04.225 Employment—Barber and cosmetology services.** The term "employment" does not include services performed in a barber shop or cosmetology shop by persons licensed under chapter 18.16 RCW if the person is a booth

renter as defined in RCW 18.16.020. [1991 c 324 § 17; 1985 c 7 § 117; 1982 1st ex.s. c 18 § 20.]

**Severability—1991 c 324:** See RCW 18.16.910.

**Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1982 1st ex.s. c 18:** See notes following RCW 50.12.200.

**50.04.230 Employment—Services of insurance agent, broker, or solicitor, real estate broker or real estate salesman, and investment company agent or solicitor.** The term "employment" shall not include service performed by an insurance agent, insurance broker, or insurance solicitor or a real estate broker or a real estate salesman to the extent he or she is compensated by commission and service performed by an investment company agent or solicitor to the extent he or she is compensated by commission. The term "investment company", as used in this section is to be construed as meaning an investment company as defined in the act of congress entitled "Investment Company Act of 1940." [1991 c 246 § 7; 1947 c 5 § 24; 1945 c 35 § 24; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 9998-162a.]

**Effective date—Conflict with federal requirements—1991 c 246:** See notes following RCW 51.08.195.

**50.04.232 Employment—Travel services.** The term "employment" shall not include service performed by an outside agent who sells or arranges for travel services that are provided to a travel agent as defined and registered under RCW 19.138.021, to the extent the outside agent is compensated by commission. [1995 c 242 § 1.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—1995 c 242:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal unemployment tax credits to employers in this state." [1995 c 242 § 2.]

**50.04.235 Employment—Outside salesman paid by commission.** The term "employment" shall not include services as an outside salesman of merchandise paid solely by way of commission; and such services must have been performed outside of all the places of business of the enterprises for which such services are performed only. [1957 c 181 § 1.]

**50.04.240 Employment—Newsboy's service.** The term "employment" shall not include service as a newsboy selling or distributing newspapers on the street or from house to house. [1945 c 35 § 25; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-163. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 13; 1941 c 253 § 14; 1939 c 214 § 16; 1937 c 162 § 19.]

**50.04.245 Employment—Services performed for temporary services agency, employee leasing agency, or services referral agency.** (1) Subject to the other provisions of this title, personal services performed for, or for the benefit of, a third party pursuant to a contract with a temporary services agency, employee leasing agency, services referral agency, or other entity shall be deemed to

be employment for the temporary services agency, employee leasing agency, services referral agency, or other entity when the agency is responsible, under contract or in fact, for the payment of wages in remuneration for the services performed.

(2) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Temporary services agency" means an individual or entity that is engaged in the business of furnishing individuals to perform services on a part-time or temporary basis for a third party.

(b) "Employee leasing agency" means an individual or entity that for a fee places the employees of a client onto its payroll and leases such employees back to the client.

(c) "Services referral agency" means an individual or entity that is engaged in the business of offering the services of an individual to perform specific tasks for a third party. [1995 c 120 § 1.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—1995 c 120:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal unemployment tax credits to employers in this state." [1995 c 120 § 2.]

**50.04.255 Employment—Appraisal practitioner services.** The term "employment" does not include services performed by an appraisal practitioner certified or licensed under chapter 18.140 RCW in an appraisal business if the use of the business facilities is contingent upon compensation to the owner of the business facilities and the person receives no compensation from the owner for the services performed. This exemption does not include services performed by an appraisal practitioner certified or licensed under chapter 18.140 RCW for an employer under chapter 50.44 RCW. [1996 c 182 § 14.]

**Effective dates—1996 c 182:** See note following RCW 18.140.005.

**50.04.270 Employment—Casual labor.** The term "employment" shall not include casual labor not in the course of the employer's trade or business (labor which does not promote or advance the trade or business of the employer). Temporary labor in the usual course of an employer's trade or business or domestic services as defined in RCW 50.04.160 shall not be deemed to be casual labor. [1977 ex.s. c 292 § 7; 1945 c 35 § 28; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-166. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 13; 1941 c 253 § 14; 1939 c 214 § 16; 1937 c 162 § 19.]

**Effective dates—1977 ex.s. c 292:** See note following RCW 50.04.116.

**50.04.280 Employment—"Pay period" determination.** If the services performed during one-half or more of any pay period by an individual for an employing unit constitute employment, all of the services of such individual for such period shall be deemed to be employment, but if the services performed during more than one-half of any such pay period by an individual for an employing unit do not constitute employment, then none of the services of such individual on behalf of such employing unit for such period

shall be deemed to be employment. As used in this paragraph, the term "pay period" means a period of not more than thirty-one consecutive days for which a payment of remuneration is ordinarily made to an individual by the employing unit. [1945 c 35 § 29; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-167. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 13; 1941 c 253 § 14; 1939 c 214 § 16; 1937 c 162 § 19.]

**50.04.290 Employment office.** "Employment office" means a free public employment office, or branch thereof, operated by this or any other state as a part of a state controlled system of public employment offices, or by a federal agency or any agency of a foreign government charged with the administration of an unemployment compensation program or free public employment offices. All claims for unemployment compensation benefits, registrations for employment, and all job or placement referrals received or made by any of the employment offices as above defined and pursuant to regulation of the commissioner subsequent to December 31, 1941, are hereby declared in all respects to be valid. The commissioner is authorized to make such investigation, secure and transmit such information, make available such services and facilities and exercise such of the other powers provided herein with respect to the administration of this title as he deems necessary or appropriate to facilitate the administration of any state or federal unemployment compensation or public employment service law and in like manner to accept and utilize information, services and facilities made available to the state by the agency charged with the administration of any such unemployment compensation or public employment service law. Any such action taken by the commissioner subsequent to December 31, 1941, is hereby declared to be in all respects valid. [1945 c 35 § 30; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-168. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 13; 1941 c 253 § 14.]

**50.04.293 Misconduct.** "Misconduct" means an employee's act or failure to act in willful disregard of his or her employer's interest where the effect of the employee's act or failure to act is to harm the employer's business. [1993 c 483 § 1.]

**Effective dates—Applicability—1993 c 483:** "(1) Sections 1 and 8 through 11 of this act are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect July 3, 1993, and shall be effective as to separations occurring after July 3, 1993.

(2) Section 2 of this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect July 3, 1993, and is effective as to weeks claimed after July 3, 1993.

(3) Section 12 of this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately [May 17, 1993], and is effective as to new claims filed after July 3, 1993.

(4) Section 19 of this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect July 3, 1993, and is effective as to requests for relief of charges received after July 3, 1993.

(5) Sections 15, 17, and 18 of this act shall be effective as to new extended benefit claims filed after October 2, 1993.

(6) Sections 13 and 14 of this act shall take effect January 1, 1994.

(7) Sections 3, 4, and 5 of this act shall take effect January 2, 1994.

(8) Sections 20 and 21 of this act shall take effect for tax year 1994.

(9) Section 16 of this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and

its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately [May 17, 1993]. [1993 c 483 § 23.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—1993 c 483:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal unemployment tax credits to employers in this state." [1993 c 483 § 24.]

**Severability—1993 c 483:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1993 c 483 § 25.]

#### 50.04.295 Payments in lieu of contributions.

"Payments in lieu of contributions" means money payments due to the state unemployment compensation fund as provided in RCW 50.44.060. [1971 c 3 § 2.]

**Construction—Compliance with federal act—1971 c 3:** See RCW 50.44.080.

**50.04.300 State.** "State" includes, in addition to the states of the United States of America, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. [1977 ex.s. c 292 § 8; 1971 c 3 § 10; 1945 c 35 § 31; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-169. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 13; 1941 c 253 § 14; 1939 c 214 § 16; 1937 c 162 § 19.]

**Effective dates—1977 ex.s. c 292:** See note following RCW 50.04.116.

**Construction—Compliance with federal act—1971 c 3:** See RCW 50.44.080.

**50.04.310 Unemployed individual—Individual deemed not "unemployed."** (1) An individual shall be deemed to be "unemployed" in any week during which the individual performs no services and with respect to which no remuneration is payable to the individual, or in any week of less than full time work, if the remuneration payable to the individual with respect to such week is less than one and one-third times the individual's weekly benefit amount plus five dollars. The commissioner shall prescribe regulations applicable to unemployed individuals making such distinctions in the procedures as to such types of unemployment as the commissioner deems necessary.

(2) An individual shall be deemed not to be "unemployed" during any week which falls totally within a period during which the individual, pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement or individual employment contract, is employed full time in accordance with a definition of full time contained in the agreement or contract, and for which compensation for full time work is payable. This subsection may not be applied retroactively to an individual who had no guarantee of work at the start of such period and subsequently is provided additional work by the employer. [1984 c 134 § 1; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 7 § 1; 1945 c 35 § 32; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-170. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 13; 1941 c 253 § 14; 1939 c 214 § 16; 1937 c 162 § 19.]

**Application—1973 2nd ex.s. c 7:** "This act shall apply to weeks of unemployment commencing on or after January 6, 1974." [1973 2nd ex.s. c 7 § 4.]

**50.04.320 Wages, remuneration.** (1) For the purpose of payment of contributions, "wages" means the remuneration paid by one employer during any calendar year to an individual in its employment under this title or the unemployment compensation law of any other state in the amount specified in RCW 50.24.010. If an employer (hereinafter referred to as a successor employer) during any calendar year acquires substantially all the operating assets of another employer (hereinafter referred to as a predecessor employer) or assets used in a separate unit of a trade or business of a predecessor employer, and immediately after the acquisition employs in the individual's trade or business an individual who immediately before the acquisition was employed in the trade or business of the predecessor employer, then, for the purposes of determining the amount of remuneration paid by the successor employer to the individual during the calendar year which is subject to contributions, any remuneration paid to the individual by the predecessor employer during that calendar year and before the acquisition shall be considered as having been paid by the successor employer.

(2) For the purpose of payment of benefits, "wages" means the remuneration paid by one or more employers to an individual for employment under this title during his base year: PROVIDED, That at the request of a claimant, wages may be calculated on the basis of remuneration payable. The department shall notify each claimant that wages are calculated on the basis of remuneration paid, but at the claimant's request a redetermination may be performed and based on remuneration payable.

(3) For the purpose of payment of benefits and payment of contributions, the term "wages" includes tips which are received after January 1, 1987, while performing services which constitute employment, and which are reported to the employer for federal income tax purposes.

(4)(a) "Remuneration" means all compensation paid for personal services including commissions and bonuses and the cash value of all compensation paid in any medium other than cash. The reasonable cash value of compensation paid in any medium other than cash and the reasonable value of gratuities shall be estimated and determined in accordance with rules prescribed by the commissioner. Remuneration does not include payments to members of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States, including the organized militia of the state of Washington, for the performance of duty for periods not exceeding seventy-two hours at a time.

(b) Previously accrued compensation, other than severance pay or payments received pursuant to plant closure agreements, when assigned to a specific period of time by virtue of a collective bargaining agreement, individual employment contract, customary trade practice, or request of the individual compensated, shall be considered remuneration for the period to which it is assigned. Assignment clearly occurs when the compensation serves to make the individual eligible for all regular fringe benefits for the period to which the compensation is assigned.

(c) Settlements or other proceeds received by an individual as a result of a negotiated settlement for termination of an employment contract with a public agency prior to its expiration date shall be considered remuneration. The proceeds shall be deemed assigned in the same intervals and

in the same amount for each interval as compensation was allowed under the contract.

(d) Except as provided in (c) of this subsection, the provisions of this subsection (4) pertaining to the assignment of previously accrued compensation shall not apply to individuals subject to RCW 50.44.050. [1995 c 296 § 1; 1986 c 21 § 1; 1984 c 134 § 2; 1983 1st ex.s. c 23 § 6; 1983 c 67 § 1; 1970 ex.s. c 2 § 3; 1953 ex.s. c 8 § 2; 1951 c 265 § 3; 1949 c 214 § 4; 1947 c 215 § 6; 1945 c 35 § 33; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9998-171. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 13; 1941 c 253 § 14; 1939 c 214 § 16; 1937 c 162 § 19.]

**Severability—1995 c 296:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1995 c 296 § 5.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—1995 c 296:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal unemployment tax credits to employers in this state." [1995 c 296 § 6.]

**Effective date—1995 c 296:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately [May 9, 1995]." [1995 c 296 § 7.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—1986 c 21:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements which are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements which are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal unemployment tax credits to employers in this state." [1986 c 21 § 2.]

**Severability—1986 c 21:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1986 c 21 § 3.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective dates—Construction—1983 1st ex.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 50.04.073.

**Effective date—1970 ex.s. c 2:** See note following RCW 50.04.020.

**Severability—1951 c 265:** See note following RCW 50.98.070.

**50.04.323 Wages, remuneration—Government or private retirement pension plan payments—Effect upon eligibility—Reduction in benefits.** (1) The amount of benefits payable to an individual for any week which begins after October 3, 1980, and which begins in a period with respect to which such individual is receiving a governmental or other pension, retirement or retired pay, annuity, or any other similar periodic payment which is based on the previous work of such individual shall be reduced (but not below zero) by an amount equal to the amount of such pension, retirement or retired pay, annuity, or other payment, which is reasonably attributable to such week. However:

(a) The requirements of this subsection shall apply to any pension, retirement or retired pay, annuity, or other similar periodic payment only if—

(i) Such pension, retirement or retired pay, annuity, or similar payment is under a plan maintained (or contributed to) by a base period employer; and

(ii) In the case of such a payment not made under the Social Security Act or the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 (or corresponding provisions of prior law), services performed for such employer by the individual after the beginning of the base period (or remuneration for such services) affect eligibility for, or increase the amount of, such pension, retirement or retired pay, annuity, or similar payment;

(b) The amount of any such a reduction shall take into account contributions made by the individual for the pension, retirement or retired pay, annuity, or other similar periodic payment, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the commissioner; and

(c) No deduction shall be made from the amount of benefits payable for a week for individuals receiving federal social security pensions to take into account the individuals' contributions to the pension program.

(2) In the event that a retroactive pension or retirement payment covers a period in which an individual received benefits under the provisions of this title, the amount in excess of the amount to which such individual would have been entitled had such retirement or pension payment been considered as provided in this section shall be recoverable under RCW 50.20.190.

(3) A lump sum payment accumulated in a plan described in this section paid to an individual eligible for such payment shall be prorated over the life expectancy of the individual computed in accordance with the commissioner's regulation.

(4) The resulting weekly benefit amount payable after reduction under this section, if not a multiple of one dollar, shall be reduced to the next lower multiple of one dollar.

(5) Any ambiguity in subsection (1) of this section should be construed in a manner consistent with 26 U.S.C. Sec. 3304 (a)(15) as last amended by P.L. 96-364. [1993 c 483 § 2; 1983 1st ex.s. c 23 § 7; 1981 c 35 § 1; 1980 c 74 § 1; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 7 § 2; 1973 1st ex.s. c 167 § 1; 1970 ex.s. c 2 § 19.]

**Effective dates, applicability—Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—1993 c 483:** See notes following RCW 50.04.293.

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective dates—Construction—1983 1st ex.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 50.04.073.

**Effective dates—Severability—1981 c 35:** See notes following RCW 50.22.030.

**Severability—1980 c 74:** "If any provision of this amendatory act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1980 c 74 § 6.]

**Effective dates—1980 c 74 §§ 1, 2, and 3:** "Sections 1 and 2 of this amendatory act are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, and the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect with weeks of unemployment beginning after March 31, 1980. Section 3 of this amendatory act shall take effect with benefit years beginning after June 30, 1980." [1980 c 74 § 7.] This applies to the amendments to RCW 50.04.323, 50.44.050, and 50.20.120, respectively.

**Application—1973 2nd ex.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 50.04.310.

**Effective date—1970 ex.s. c 2:** See note following RCW 50.04.020.

**50.04.330 Wages, remuneration—Retirement and disability payments excepted.** Prior to January 1, 1951, the term "wages" shall not include the amount of any payment by an employing unit for or on behalf of an individual in its

employ under a plan or system established by such employing unit which makes provision for individuals in its employ generally, or for a class or classes of such individuals (including any amount paid by an employing unit for insurance or annuities or into a fund to provide for any payment) on account of retirement, sickness or accident disability, or medical and hospitalization expenses in connection with sickness or accident disability. After December 31, 1950, the term "wages" shall not include:

(1) The amount of any payment made (including any amount paid by an employing unit for insurance or annuities, or into a fund to provide for any such payment), to, or on behalf of, an individual or any of his dependents under a plan or system established by an employing unit which makes provision generally for individuals performing service for it (or for such individuals generally and their dependents) or for a class or classes of such individuals (or for a class or classes of such individuals and their dependents), on account of (a) retirement, or (b) sickness or accident disability, or (c) medical or hospitalization expenses in connection with sickness or accident disability or (d) death;

(2) the amount of any payment by an employing unit to an individual performing service for it (including any amount paid by an employing unit for insurance or annuities, or into a fund, to provide for any such payment) on account of retirement;

(3) the amount of any payment on account of sickness or accident disability, or medical or hospitalization expenses in connection with sickness or accident disability, made by an employing unit to, or on behalf of, an individual performing services for it after the expiration of six calendar months following the last calendar month in which the individual performed services for such employing unit;

(4) the amount of any payment made by an employing unit to, or on behalf of, an individual performing services for it or his beneficiary (a) from or to a trust exempt from tax under section 165(a) of the federal internal revenue code at the time of such payment unless such payment is made to an individual performing services for the trust as remuneration for such services and not as a beneficiary of the trust, or (b) under or to an annuity plan which, at the time of such payments, meets the requirements of section 165(a)(3), (4), (5), and (6) of the federal internal revenue code; or

(5) the amount of any payment (other than vacation or sick pay) made to an individual after the month in which he attains the age of sixty-five, if he did not perform services for the employing unit in the period for which such payment is made. [1951 c 265 § 4; 1949 c 214 § 5; 1945 c 35 § 34; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9998-173. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 13; 1941 c 253 § 14; 1939 c 214 § 16; 1937 c 162 § 19.]

**Severability—1951 c 265:** See note following RCW 50.98.070.

**50.04.340 Wages, remuneration—Death benefits excepted.** Prior to January 1, 1951, the term "wages" shall not include the amount of any payment by an employing unit for or on behalf of an individual in its employ under a plan or system established by such employing unit which makes provision for individuals in its employ generally, or for a class or classes of such individuals (including any amount paid by an employing unit for insurance or annuities or into

a fund to provide for any payment) on account of death, provided the individual in its employ

(1) has not the option to receive instead of provisions for such death benefits, any part of such payment, or, if such death benefit is insured, any part of the premium (or contributions to premiums) paid by his employing unit; and

(2) has not the right under the provisions of the plan or system or policy of insurance providing for such death benefits to assign such benefits or to receive a cash consideration in lieu of such benefits, either upon his withdrawal from the plan or system providing for such benefits or upon termination of such plan or system or policy of insurance or of his services with such employing unit. [1951 c 265 § 5; 1949 c 214 § 6; 1945 c 35 § 35; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9998-173. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 13; 1941 c 253 § 14.]

**Severability—1951 c 265:** See note following RCW 50.98.070.

**50.04.350 Wages, remuneration—Excepted payments.** The term "wages" shall not include the payment by an employing unit (without deduction from the remuneration of the individual in its employ) of the tax imposed upon an individual in employment under section 1400 of the federal internal revenue code, as amended, or any amount paid to a person in the military service for any pay period during which he performs no service for the employer: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That prior to January 1, 1952, the term "wages" shall not include dismissal payments which an employing unit is not legally required to make. [1951 c 265 § 2; 1945 c 35 § 36; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-174. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 13; 1941 c 253 § 14.]

**Severability—1951 c 265:** See note following RCW 50.98.070.

**50.04.355 Wages, remuneration—Average annual wage—Average weekly wage—Average annual wage for contributions purposes.** On or before the fifteenth day of June of each year an "average annual wage", an "average weekly wage", and an "average annual wage for contributions purposes" shall be computed from information for the preceding calendar year including corrections thereof reported within three months after the close of that year by all employers as defined in RCW 50.04.080. The "average annual wage" is the quotient derived by dividing total remuneration reported by all employers by the average number of workers reported for all months and if the result is not a multiple of one dollar, rounding the result to the next lower multiple of one dollar. The "average annual wage" thus obtained shall be divided by fifty-two and if the result is not a multiple of one dollar, rounding the result to the next lower multiple of one dollar to determine the "average weekly wage". The "average annual wage" for contribution purposes is the quotient derived by dividing total remuneration reported by all employers subject to contributions by the average number of workers reported for all months by these same employers and if the result is not a multiple of one dollar, rounding the result to the next lower multiple of one dollar. [1977 ex.s. c 33 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 228 § 1; 1973 c 73 § 3; 1970 ex.s. c 2 § 6.]

**Effective dates—Construction—1977 ex.s. c 33:** See notes following RCW 50.04.030.

**Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 228:** "All sections of this 1975 amendatory act are 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 on the first Sunday following signature by the governor [June 29, 1975]." [1975 1st ex.s. c 228 § 19.]

**Effective dates—1973 c 73:** See note following RCW 50.04.030.

**Effective date—1970 ex.s. c 2:** See note following RCW 50.04.020.

**50.04.360 Week.** "Week" means any period of seven consecutive calendar days ending at midnight as the commissioner may by regulation prescribe. [1945 c 35 § 37; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-175. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 13; 1941 c 253 § 14; 1939 c 214 § 16; 1937 c 162 § 19.]

## Chapter 50.06

### TEMPORARY TOTAL DISABILITY

#### Sections

- 50.06.010 Purpose.
- 50.06.020 Allowable beneficiaries.
- 50.06.030 Application for initial determination of disability—Special base year—Alternative special base year—Special individual benefit year.
- 50.06.040 Laws and regulations governing amounts payable and right to benefits.
- 50.06.050 Use of wages and time worked for prior claims—Effect.
- 50.06.900 Application of chapter—Recipients of industrial insurance or crime victims compensation.
- 50.06.910 Partial invalidity of chapter.

**50.06.010 Purpose.** This chapter is enacted for the purpose of providing the protection of the unemployment compensation system to persons who have suffered a temporary total disability and is a recognition by this legislature of the economic hardship confronting those persons who have not been promptly reemployed after a prolonged period of temporary total disability. [1993 c 483 § 3; 1984 c 65 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 228 § 7.]

**Effective dates, applicability—Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—1993 c 483:** See notes following RCW 50.04.293.

**Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 228:** See note following RCW 50.04.355.

**50.06.020 Allowable beneficiaries.** The benefits of this chapter shall be allowed only to:

(1) Individuals who have suffered a temporary total disability and have received compensation under the industrial insurance or crime victims compensation laws of this state, any other state or the United States for a period of not less than thirteen consecutive calendar weeks by reason of such temporary total disability; or

(2) Individuals who are reentering the work force after an absence of not less than thirteen consecutive calendar weeks resulting from temporary total physical disability because of a nonwork-related injury or illness: **PROVIDED**, That individuals authorized to receive benefits under this subsection are required to meet other eligibility requirements under Title 50 RCW. [1993 c 483 § 4; 1984 c 65 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 228 § 8.]

**Effective dates, applicability—Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—1993 c 483:** See notes following RCW 50.04.293.

**Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 228:** See note following RCW 50.04.355.

**50.06.030 Application for initial determination of disability—Special base year—Alternative special base year—Special individual benefit year.** (1) In the case of individuals eligible under RCW 50.06.020(1), an application for initial determination made pursuant to this chapter, to be considered timely, must be filed in writing with the employment security department within twenty-six weeks following the week in which the period of temporary total disability commenced. Notice from the department of labor and industries shall satisfy this requirement. The records of the agency supervising the award of compensation shall be conclusive evidence of the fact of temporary disability and the beginning date of such disability.

(2) In the case of individuals eligible under RCW 50.06.020(2), an application for initial determination must be filed in writing with the employment security department within twenty-six weeks following the week in which the period of temporary total physical disability commenced. This filing requirement is satisfied by filing a signed statement from the attending physician stating the date that the disability commenced and stating that the individual was unable to reenter the work force during the time of the disability. The department may examine any medical information related to the disability. If the claim is appealed, a base year employer may examine the medical information related to the disability and require, at the employer's expense, that the individual obtain the opinion of a second health care provider selected by the employer concerning any information related to the disability.

(3) The employment security department shall process and issue an initial determination of entitlement or nonentitlement as the case may be.

(4) For the purpose of this chapter, a special base year is established for an individual consisting of either the first four of the last five completed calendar quarters or the last four completed calendar quarters immediately prior to the first day of the calendar week in which the individual's temporary total disability commenced, and a special individual benefit year is established consisting of the entire period of disability and a fifty-two consecutive week period commencing with the first day of the calendar week immediately following the week or part thereof with respect to which the individual received his final temporary total disability compensation under the applicable industrial insurance or crime victims compensation laws, or the week in which the individual reentered the work force after an absence under subsection (2) of this section, as applicable, except that no special benefit year shall have a duration in excess of three hundred twelve calendar weeks: **PROVIDED HOWEVER**, That such special benefit year will not be established unless the criteria contained in RCW 50.04.030 has been met, except that an individual meeting the eligibility requirements of this chapter and who has an unexpired benefit year established which would overlap the special benefit year provided by this chapter, notwithstanding the provisions in RCW 50.04.030 relating to the establishment of a subsequent benefit year and RCW 50.40.010 relating to waiver of rights, may elect to establish a special benefit year under this chapter: **PROVIDED FURTHER**, that the unexpired benefit year shall be terminated with the beginning of the special benefit year if the individual elects to establish such special benefit year.



(5) For the purposes of establishing a benefit year, the department shall initially use the first four of the last five completed calendar quarters as the base year. If a benefit year is not established using the first four of the last five calendar quarters as the base year, the department shall use the last four completed calendar quarters as the base year. [1993 c 483 § 5; 1987 c 278 § 3; 1984 c 65 § 3; 1975 1st ex.s. c 228 § 9.]

**Effective dates, applicability—Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—1993 c 483:** See notes following RCW 50.04.293.

**Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 228:** See note following RCW 50.04.355.

**50.06.040 Laws and regulations governing amounts payable and right to benefits.** The individual's weekly benefit amount and maximum amount payable during the special benefit year shall be governed by the provision contained in RCW 50.20.120. The individual's basic and continuing right to benefits shall be governed by the general laws and regulations relating to the payment of unemployment compensation benefits to the extent that they are not in conflict with the provisions of this chapter. [1975 1st ex.s. c 228 § 10.]

**Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 228:** See note following RCW 50.04.355.

**50.06.050 Use of wages and time worked for prior claims—Effect.** The fact that wages, hours or weeks worked during the special base year may have been used in the computation of a prior valid claim for unemployment compensation shall not affect a claim for benefits made pursuant to the provisions of this chapter; however, wages, hours and weeks worked used in computing entitlement on a claim filed pursuant to this chapter shall not be available or used for establishing entitlement or amount of benefits in any succeeding benefit year. [1975 1st ex.s. c 228 § 11.]

**Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 228:** See note following RCW 50.04.355.

**50.06.900 Application of chapter—Recipients of industrial insurance or crime victims compensation.** (1) This chapter shall be available to individuals who suffer a temporary total disability, compensable by an industrial insurance program, after the effective date of this chapter.

(2) This chapter shall also be available to individuals who suffer a temporary total disability compensable under crime victims compensation laws, after June 7, 1984. [1984 c 65 § 4; 1975 1st ex.s. c 228 § 12.]

**\*Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 228:** See note following RCW 50.04.355.

**50.06.910 Partial invalidity of chapter.** Should any part of this chapter be declared unconstitutional by the final decision of any court or declared out of conformity by the United States secretary of labor, the commissioner shall immediately discontinue the payment of benefits based on this chapter, declare it inoperative and report that fact to the governor and the legislature. [1975 1st ex.s. c 228 § 13.]

**Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 228:** See note following RCW 50.04.355.

## Chapter 50.08

### ESTABLISHMENT OF DEPARTMENT

#### Sections

50.08.010 Employment security department established.

50.08.020 Divisions established.

50.08.030 Administration of family services and programs.

*Displaced homemaker act, departmental participation:* RCW 28B.04.080.

*Labor market information and economic analysis—Duties and authority:* Chapter 50.38 RCW.

*Public bodies may retain collection agencies to collect public debts:* RCW 19.16.500.

**50.08.010 Employment security department established.** There is established the employment security department for the state, to be administered by a commissioner. The commissioner shall be appointed by the governor with the consent of the senate, and shall hold office at the pleasure of, and receive such compensation for his services as may be fixed by, the governor. [1953 ex.s. c 8 § 3; 1947 c 215 § 8; 1945 c 35 § 38; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 9998-176. Prior: 1939 c 19 § 1; 1937 c 162 § 12.]

**50.08.020 Divisions established.** There are hereby established in the employment security department two coordinate divisions to be known as the unemployment compensation division, and the Washington state employment service division, each of which shall be administered by a full time salaried supervisor who shall be an assistant to the commissioner and shall be appointed by him. Each division shall be responsible to the commissioner for the dispatch of its distinctive functions. Each division shall be a separate administrative unit with respect to personnel, budget, and duties, except insofar as the commissioner may find that such separation is impracticable.

It is hereby further provided that the governor in his discretion may delegate any or all of the organization, administration and functions of the said Washington state employment service division to any federal agency. [1973 1st ex.s. c 158 § 1; 1947 c 215 § 9; 1945 c 35 § 39; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 9998-177. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 9; 1939 c 214 § 7; 1937 c 162 § 9.]

**Effective date—1973 1st ex.s. c 158:** "This 1973 amendatory 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 on July 1, 1973." [1973 1st ex.s. c 158 § 21.] For codification of 1973 1st ex.s. c 158, see Codification Tables, Volume 0.

**50.08.030 Administration of family services and programs.** The commissioner shall administer family services and programs to promote the state's policy as provided in RCW 74.14A.025. [1992 c 198 § 10.]

**Severability—Effective date—1992 c 198:** See RCW 70.190.910 and 70.190.920.

**Chapter 50.12**  
**ADMINISTRATION**

## Sections

- 50.12.010 Commissioner's duties and powers.
- 50.12.020 Personnel appointed by commissioner.
- 50.12.031 Personnel board—Travel expenses of board.
- 50.12.040 Rule-making authority.
- 50.12.050 Reciprocal benefit arrangements.
- 50.12.060 Reciprocal coverage arrangements.
- 50.12.070 Employing unit records and reports.
- 50.12.080 Arbitrary reports.
- 50.12.090 Interstate use of employing unit records.
- 50.12.100 Compulsory production of records and information.
- 50.12.120 Protection against self-incrimination.
- 50.12.130 Oaths and witnesses.
- 50.12.140 Destruction of office records.
- 50.12.150 Representation by attorney general.
- 50.12.160 Publication of title, rules and regulations, etc.
- 50.12.170 Services and fees of sheriffs.
- 50.12.180 State-federal cooperation.
- 50.12.190 Employment stabilization.
- 50.12.200 State advisory council—Committees and councils.
- 50.12.210 Employment services for handicapped—Report to legislative committees.
- 50.12.220 Penalties for late reports or contributions—Assessment—Appeal.
- 50.12.230 Job skills training program—Department's duties.
- 50.12.235 Washington conservation corps—Department's duties.
- 50.12.240 On-the-job training—Employer qualifications established by rule.
- 50.12.245 Cooperation with work force training and education coordinating board.
- 50.12.250 Information clearinghouse to assist in employment of persons of disability.
- 50.12.252 Information clearinghouse—Consultation on establishment.
- 50.12.261 Work force employment and training—Reports.
- 50.12.270 Rural natural resources impact areas—Training and services program—Survey—Definition.

*Administration of OASI plans for members of teachers' retirement and state employees' retirement systems: Chapters 41.33, 41.41 RCW.*

*Merit system: Chapter 41.06 RCW.*

**50.12.010 Commissioner's duties and powers.** The commissioner shall administer this title. He shall have the power and authority to adopt, amend, or rescind such rules and regulations, to employ such persons, make such expenditures, require such reports, make such investigations, and take such other action as he deems necessary or suitable to that end. Such rules and regulations shall be effective upon publication and in the manner, not inconsistent with the provisions of this title, which the commissioner shall prescribe. The commissioner, in accordance with the provisions of this title, shall determine the organization and methods of procedure of the divisions referred to in this title, and shall have an official seal which shall be judicially noticed. The commissioner shall submit to the governor a report covering the administration and operation of this title during the preceding fiscal year, July 1 through June 30, and shall make such recommendations for amendments to this title as he deems proper. Such report shall include a balance sheet of the moneys in the fund in which there shall be provided, if possible, a reserve against the liability in future years to pay benefits in excess of the then current contributions, which reserve shall be set up by the commissioner in accordance with accepted actuarial principles on the basis of statistics of employment, business activity, and other relevant factors for the longest possible period. Whenever the

commissioner believes that a change in contribution or benefit rates will become necessary to protect the solvency of the fund, he shall promptly so inform the governor and legislature and make recommendations with respect thereto. [1977 c 75 § 75; 1955 c 286 § 1; 1949 c 214 § 7; 1945 c 35 § 40; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9998-178. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 8; 1941 c 253 § 8; 1939 c 12 § 2.]

**50.12.020 Personnel appointed by commissioner.** The commissioner is authorized to appoint and fix the compensation of such officers, accountants, experts, and other personnel as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this title: PROVIDED, That such appointment shall be made on a nonpartisan merit basis in accordance with the provisions of this title relating to the selection of personnel. The commissioner may delegate to any person appointed such power and authority as the commissioner deems reasonable and proper for the effective administration of this title, including the right to decide matters placed in the commissioner's discretion under this title, and may in his or her discretion bond any person handling moneys or signing checks hereunder. [1985 c 96 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 158 § 2; 1945 c 35 § 41; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-179. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 8; 1941 c 253 § 8; 1939 c 214 § 9; 1937 c 162 § 11.]

**Effective date—1973 1st ex.s. c 158:** See note following RCW 50.08.020.

**50.12.031 Personnel board—Travel expenses of board.** Members of the board shall be allowed travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 as now existing or hereafter amended while traveling to and from and attending regularly called meetings. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34 § 148; 1959 c 127 § 2.]

**Effective date—Severability—1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34:** See notes following RCW 2.08.115.

**50.12.040 Rule-making authority.** Permanent and emergency rules shall be adopted, amended, or repealed by the commissioner in accordance with the provisions of Title 34 RCW and the rules adopted pursuant thereto: PROVIDED, That the commissioner may not adopt rules after July 23, 1995, that are based solely on a section of law stating a statute's intent or purpose, on the enabling provisions of the statute establishing the agency, or on any combination of such provisions, for statutory authority to adopt any rule. [1995 c 403 § 109; 1973 1st ex.s. c 158 § 3; 1945 c 35 § 43; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-181. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 8; 1941 c 253 § 8; 1939 c 214 § 9; 1937 c 162 § 11.]

**Findings—Short title—Intent—1995 c 403:** See note following RCW 34.05.328.

**Part headings not law—Severability—1995 c 403:** See RCW 43.05.903 and 43.05.904.

**Effective date—1973 1st ex.s. c 158:** See note following RCW 50.08.020.

**50.12.050 Reciprocal benefit arrangements.** As used in this section the terms "other state" and "another state" shall be deemed to include any state or territory of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and any foreign government and, where

applicable, shall also be deemed to include the federal government or provisions of a law of the federal government, as the case may be.

As used in this section the term "claim" shall be deemed to include whichever of the following terms is applicable, to wit: "Application for initial determination", "claim for waiting period credit", or "claim for benefits".

The commissioner shall enter into an agreement with any other state whereby in the event an individual files a claim in another state against wages earned in employment in this state, or against wage credits earned in this state and in any other state or who files a claim in this state against wage credits earned in employment in any other state, or against wages earned in this state and in any other state, the claim will be paid by this state or another state as designated by the agreement in accordance with a determination on the claim as provided by the agreement and pursuant to the qualification and disqualification provisions of this title or under the provisions of the law of the designated paying state (including another state) or under such a combination of the provisions of both laws as shall be determined by the commissioner as being fair and reasonable to all affected interests, and whereby the wages of such individual, if earned in two or more states (including another state) may be combined, and further, whereby this state or another state shall reimburse the paying state in an amount which shall bear the same ratio to the amount of benefits already paid as the amount of wage credits transferred by this state or another state, and used in the determination, bear to the total wage credits used in computing the claimant's maximum amount of benefits potentially payable.

Whenever any claim is filed by an individual involving the combination of wages or a reciprocal arrangement for the payment of benefits, which is governed by the provisions of this section, the employment security department of this state, when not designated as the paying state, shall promptly make a report to the other state making the determination, showing wages earned in employment in this state.

The commissioner is hereby authorized to make to another state and to receive from another state reimbursements from or to the unemployment compensation fund in accordance with arrangements made pursuant to the provisions of this section. [1977 ex.s. c 292 § 9; 1971 c 3 § 11; 1959 c 266 § 1; 1949 c 214 § 8; 1945 c 35 § 44; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9998-182. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 8; 1941 c 253 § 8; 1939 c 214 § 9; 1937 c 162 § 11.]

**Effective dates—1977 ex.s. c 292:** See note following RCW 50.04.116.

**Construction—Compliance with federal act—1971 c 3:** See RCW 50.44.080.

**50.12.060 Reciprocal coverage arrangements.** The commissioner is hereby authorized to enter into arrangements with the appropriate agencies of other states, foreign governments or the federal government whereby services performed by an individual for a single employing unit for which services are customarily performed in more than one state shall be deemed to be services performed entirely within any one of the states (1) in which any part of such individual's service is performed, or (2) in which such individual has his residence, or (3) in which the employing unit maintains a place of business: PROVIDED, That there is in effect, as to

such services, an election by the employing unit with the acquiescence of such individual, approved by the agency charged with the administration of such state's unemployment compensation law, pursuant to which all the services performed by such individual for such employing unit are deemed to be performed entirely within such state. [1945 c 35 § 45; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-183. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 8; 1941 c 253 § 8; 1939 c 214 § 9; 1937 c 162 § 11.]

**50.12.070 Employing unit records and reports.** Each employing unit shall keep true and accurate work records, containing such information as the commissioner may prescribe. Such records shall be open to inspection and be subject to being copied by the commissioner or his or her authorized representatives at any reasonable time and as often as may be necessary. The commissioner may require from any employing unit any sworn or unsworn reports with respect to persons employed by it, which he or she deems necessary for the effective administration of this title. Each employer shall make periodic reports at such intervals as the commissioner may by regulation prescribe, setting forth the remuneration paid for employment to workers in its employ, the names of all such workers, and until April 1, 1978, the number of weeks for which the worker earned the "qualifying weekly wage", and beginning July 1, 1977, the hours worked by each worker and such other information as the commissioner may by regulation prescribe.

In the event the employing unit fails or has failed to report the number of hours in a reporting period for which a worker worked such number will be computed by the commissioner and given the same force and effect as if it had been reported by the employing unit. In computing the number of such hours worked the total wages for the reporting period, as reported by the employing unit, shall be divided by the dollar amount of the state's minimum wage in effect for such reporting period and the quotient, disregarding any remainder, shall be credited to the worker: PROVIDED, That although the computation so made will not be subject to appeal by the employing unit, monetary entitlement may be redetermined upon request if the department is provided with credible evidence of the actual hours worked. [1983 1st ex.s. c 23 § 8; 1977 ex.s. c 33 § 3; 1975 1st ex.s. c 228 § 2; 1945 c 35 § 46; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-184. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 8; 1939 c 214 § 9; 1937 c 162 § 11.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective dates—Construction—1983 1st ex.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 50.04.073.

**Effective dates—Construction—1977 ex.s. c 33:** See notes following RCW 50.04.030.

**Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 228:** See note following RCW 50.04.355.

**50.12.080 Arbitrary reports.** If any employing unit fails to make or file any report or return required by this title, or any regulation made pursuant hereto, the commissioner may, upon the basis of such knowledge as may be available to him, arbitrarily make a report on behalf of such employing unit and the report so made shall be deemed to be prima facie correct. In any action or proceedings brought for the recovery of contributions, interest, or penalties due upon the payroll of an employer, the certificate of the department that an audit has been made of the payroll of

such employer pursuant to the direction of the department, or a certificate that a return has been filed by or for an employer or estimated by reason of lack of a return, shall be prima facie evidence of the amount of such payroll for the period stated in the certificate. [1983 1st ex.s. c 23 § 9; 1951 c 215 § 2; 1945 c 35 § 47; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-185. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 8.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective dates—Construction—1983 1st ex.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 50.04.073.

#### 50.12.090 Interstate use of employing unit records.

The records of an employer maintained in this state pertaining to employment of persons in another state shall be open to representatives of the commissioner to permit cooperation with other state unemployment compensation agencies in ascertaining information necessary to administer the unemployment compensation acts of such other states. [1945 c 35 § 48; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-186.]

#### 50.12.100 Compulsory production of records and information.

In case of contumacy or refusal to obey subpoenas issued to any person, any court of the state within the jurisdiction of which the inquiry is carried on, or within the jurisdiction of which said person guilty of contumacy or refusal to obey is found or resides or transacts business, upon application by any duly authorized representative of the commissioner, shall have jurisdiction to issue to such person an order requiring such person to appear before such authorized representative, there to produce evidence, if so ordered, or there to give testimony touching the matter under investigation, or in question. Failure to obey such order of the court may be punished by said court as a contempt thereof. [1945 c 35 § 49; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-187. Prior: 1939 c 214 § 9; 1937 c 162 § 11.]

#### 50.12.120 Protection against self-incrimination.

No person shall be excused from attending and testifying or from producing books, papers, correspondence, memoranda, and other records before any duly authorized representative of the commissioner or any appeal tribunal in obedience to the subpoena of such representative of the commissioner or such appeal tribunal, on the ground that the testimony or evidence, documentary or otherwise, required of him may tend to incriminate him or subject him to a penalty or forfeiture; but no individual shall be prosecuted or subjected to any penalty or forfeiture for or on account of any transaction, matter, or thing concerning which he is compelled, after having claimed his privilege against self-incrimination, to testify or produce evidence, documentary or otherwise, except that such individual so testifying shall not be exempt from prosecution and punishment for perjury committed in so testifying. [1945 c 35 § 51; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-189. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 8; 1939 c 214 § 9; 1937 c 162 § 11.]

**50.12.130 Oaths and witnesses.** In the discharge of the duties imposed by this title, the appeal tribunal and any duly authorized representative of the commissioner shall have power to administer oaths and affirmations, take depositions, certify to official acts and issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of

books, papers, correspondence, memoranda, and other records deemed to be necessary as evidence in connection with any dispute or the administration of this title. It shall be unlawful for any person, without just cause, to fail to comply with subpoenas issued pursuant to the provisions of this section. [1945 c 35 § 52; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-190. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 8; 1941 c 253 § 8; 1939 c 214 § 9; 1937 c 162 § 11.]

#### 50.12.140 Destruction of office records.

The commissioner may destroy any form, claim, ledger, check, letter, or other record of the employment security department at the expiration of three years after such record was originated by or filed with the employment security department, except that warrants and claims, claim determination, employer liability forms and contribution reports may be destroyed at the expiration of six years after such form is originated by or filed with the employment security department, and except that this section shall not apply to records pertaining to grants, accounts or expenditures for administration, records of the unemployment compensation fund and the unemployment compensation administration fund. [1947 c 215 § 11; 1945 c 35 § 53; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 99998-191.]

*Preservation and destruction of public records: Chapter 40.14 RCW.*

#### 50.12.150 Representation by attorney general.

The attorney general shall be the general counsel of each and all divisions and departments under this title and it shall be his duty to institute and prosecute all actions and proceedings which may be necessary in the enforcement and carrying out of each, every, and all of the provisions of this title, and it shall be the duty of the attorney general to assign such assistants and attorneys as may be necessary to the exclusive duty of assisting each, every, and all divisions and departments created under this title in the enforcement of this title. The salaries of such assistants shall be paid out of the unemployment compensation administration fund, together with their expenses fixed by the attorney general and allowed by the treasurer of the unemployment compensation administration fund when approved upon vouchers by the attorney general. [1945 c 35 § 54; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-192. Prior: 1937 c 162 § 17.]

*Attorney general: Chapter 43.10 RCW.*

#### 50.12.160 Publication of title, rules and regulations, etc.

The commissioner may cause to be printed for distribution to the public the text of this title, the regulations and general rules, and other material which he deems relevant and suitable. [1977 c 75 § 76; 1945 c 35 § 55; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-193.]

#### 50.12.170 Services and fees of sheriffs.

The sheriff of any county, upon request of the commissioner or his duly authorized representative, or upon request of the attorney general, shall, for and on behalf of the commissioner, perform the functions of service, distraint, seizure, and sale, authority for which is granted to the commissioner or his duly authorized representative. No bond shall be required by the sheriff of any county for services rendered for the commissioner, his duly authorized representative, or the

attorney general. The sheriff shall be allowed such fees as may be prescribed for like or similar official services. [1945 c 35 § 56; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-194.]

*County sheriff: Chapter 36.28 RCW.*

**50.12.180 State-federal cooperation.** The commissioner, through the Washington state employment service division, shall establish and maintain free public employment offices in such places as may be necessary for the proper administration of this title and for the purpose of performing such duties as are within the purview of the act of congress entitled "An Act to provide for the establishment of a national employment system and for other purposes," approved June 6, 1933 (48 Stat. 113; U.S.C. Title 29, Sec. 49(c), as amended).

In the administration of this title the commissioner shall cooperate to the fullest extent consistent with the provisions of this title, with any official or agency of the United States having powers or duties under the provisions of the said act of congress, as amended, and to do and perform all things necessary to secure to this state the benefits of the said act of congress, as amended, in the promotion and maintenance of a system of public employment offices. The provisions of the said act of congress, as amended, are hereby accepted by this state, in conformity with section 4 of said act and there shall be observance of and compliance with the requirements thereof. The commissioner may cooperate with or enter into agreements with the railroad retirement board with respect to the establishment, maintenance, and use of free employment service facilities, and make available to said board the state's records relating to the administration of this title, and furnish such copies thereof, at the expense of the board, as it may deem necessary for its purposes.

The commissioner shall comply with such provisions as the social security board, created by the social security act, approved August 14, 1935, as amended, may from time to time require, regarding reports and the correctness and verification thereof, and shall comply with the regulations of the social security board governing the expenditures of such sums as may be allotted and paid to this state under Title III of the social security act for the purpose of assisting the administration of this title. The commissioner may afford reasonable cooperation with every agency of the United States charged with the administration of any unemployment insurance law.

The governor is authorized to apply for an advance to the state unemployment fund and to accept the responsibility for the repayment of such advance in accordance with the conditions specified in Title XII of the social security act, as amended, in order to secure to this state and its citizens the advantages available under the provisions of such title.

The commissioner is also authorized and empowered to take such steps, not inconsistent with law, as may be necessary for the purpose of procuring for the people of this state all of the benefits and assistance, financial and otherwise, provided, or to be provided for, by or pursuant to any act of congress.

Upon request therefor the commissioner shall furnish to any agency of the United States charged with the administration of public works or assistance through public employment, the name, address, ordinary occupation, and employ-

ment status of each recipient of benefits and such recipient's rights to further benefits under this title. [1973 1st ex.s. c 158 § 4; 1959 c 266 § 2; 1945 c 35 § 57; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-195. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 8; 1941 c 253 § 8; 1939 c 214 § 9; 1937 c 162 § 11.]

**Effective date—1973 1st ex.s. c 158:** See note following RCW 50.08.020.

**50.12.190 Employment stabilization.** The commissioner shall take all appropriate steps to reduce and prevent unemployment; to encourage and assist in the adoption of practical methods of vocational training, retraining and vocational guidance; to investigate, recommend, advise, and assist in the establishment and operation by municipalities, counties, school districts, and the state, of reserves for public works to be used in times of business depression and unemployment; to promote the reemployment of unemployed workers throughout the state in every other way that may be feasible; and to these ends to carry and publish the results of investigations and research studies. [1945 c 35 § 58; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-197. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 8; 1941 c 253 § 8; 1939 c 214 § 9; 1937 c 162 § 11.]

**50.12.200 State advisory council—Committees and councils.** The commissioner shall appoint a state advisory council composed of not more than nine men and women, of which three shall be representatives of employers, three shall be representatives of employees, and three shall be representatives of the general public. Such council shall aid the commissioner in formulating policies and discussing problems related to the administration of this title and of assuring impartiality and freedom from political influence in the solution of such problems. The council shall serve without compensation. The commissioner may also appoint committees, and industrial or other special councils, to perform appropriate services. Advisory council members shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 as now existing or hereafter amended. [1982 1st ex.s. c 18 § 1; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34 § 149; 1953 ex.s. c 8 § 4; 1947 c 215 § 12; 1945 c 35 § 59; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 9998-197. Prior: 1941 c 253 § 17.]

**Severability—1982 1st ex.s. c 18:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1982 1st ex.s. c 18 § 22.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—1982 1st ex.s. c 18:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements which are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state, the conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict and with respect to the agencies directly affected, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act in its application to the agencies concerned. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements which are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state." [1982 1st ex.s. c 18 § 21.]

**Effective date—Severability—1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34:** See notes following RCW 2.08.115.

**50.12.210 Employment services for handicapped—Report to legislative committees.** It is the policy of the state of Washington that persons with physical, mental, or sensory handicaps shall be given equal opportunities in employment. The legislature recognizes that handicapped persons have faced unfair discrimination in employment.

For these reasons, the state employment service division of the employment security department shall give particular and special attention service to those persons with physical, mental, or sensory handicaps which substantially limit one or more of their major life functions as defined under P.L. 93-112 and rules promulgated thereunder. Particular and special attention service shall include but not be limited to particular and special attention in counseling, referral, notification of job listings in advance of other persons, and other services of the employment service division.

Nothing in this section shall be construed so as to affect the veteran's preference or any other requirement of the United States department of labor.

The employment security department shall report to the house and senate commerce and labor committees by December 1, 1987, on its accomplishments under this section and on its future plans for implementation of this section. The department shall report to the above mentioned committees every odd-numbered year thereafter on its actions under this section.

The employment security department shall establish rules to implement this section. [1987 c 76 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 273 § 1.]

**50.12.220 Penalties for late reports or contributions—Assessment—Appeal.** (1) If an employer fails to file in a timely and complete manner a report required by RCW 50.12.070 as now or hereafter amended or the rules adopted pursuant thereto, the employer shall be subject to a minimum penalty of ten dollars per violation.

(2) If contributions are not paid on the date on which they are due and payable as prescribed by the commissioner, there shall be assessed a penalty of five percent of the amount of the contributions for the first month or part thereof of delinquency; there shall be assessed a total penalty of ten percent of the amount of the contributions for the second month or part thereof of delinquency; and there shall be assessed a total penalty of twenty percent of the amount of the contributions for the third month or part thereof of delinquency. No penalty so added shall be less than ten dollars. These penalties are in addition to the interest charges assessed under RCW 50.24.040.

(3) Penalties shall not accrue on contributions from an estate in the hands of a receiver, executor, administrator, trustee in bankruptcy, common law assignee, or other liquidating officer subsequent to the date when such receiver, executor, administrator, trustee in bankruptcy, common law assignee, or other liquidating officer qualifies as such, but contributions accruing with respect to employment of persons by a receiver, executor, administrator, trustee in bankruptcy, common law assignee, or other liquidating officer shall become due and shall be subject to penalties in the same manner as contributions due from other employers.

(4) Where adequate information has been furnished to the department and the department has failed to act or has advised the employer of no liability or inability to decide the issue, penalties shall be waived by the commissioner. Penalties may also be waived for good cause if the commissioner determines that the failure to timely file reports or pay contributions was not due to the employer's fault.

(5) Any decision to assess a penalty as provided by this section shall be made by the chief administrative officer of the tax branch or his or her designee.

(6) Nothing in this section shall be construed to deny an employer the right to appeal the assessment of any penalty. Such appeal shall be made in the manner provided in RCW 50.32.030. [1987 c 111 § 2; 1979 ex.s. c 190 § 1.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—1987 c 111:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements which are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements which are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal unemployment tax credits to employers in this state." [1987 c 111 § 10.]

**Severability—1987 c 111:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1987 c 111 § 11.]

**Effective date—1987 c 111:** "This act shall take effect July 1, 1987. Sections 2 and 8 of this act shall be effective for quarters beginning on and after July 1, 1987." [1987 c 111 § 12.] "Sections 2 and 8 of this act" consist of the 1987 amendments to RCW 50.12.220 and 51.48.210, respectively. For codification of the remainder of 1987 c 111, see Codification Tables, Volume 0.

**50.12.230 Job skills training program—Department's duties.** See RCW 28C.04.400 through 28C.04.480.

**50.12.235 Washington conservation corps—Department's duties.** See chapter 43.220 RCW.

**50.12.240 On-the-job training—Employer qualifications established by rule.** The commissioner may establish by rule qualifications for employers who agree to provide on-the-job training for new employees. [1985 c 299 § 2.]

**50.12.245 Cooperation with work force training and education coordinating board.** The commissioner shall cooperate with the work force training and education coordinating board in the conduct of the board's responsibilities under RCW 28C.18.060 and shall provide information and data in a format that is accessible to the board. [1991 c 238 § 80.]

**Effective dates—Severability—1991 c 238:** See RCW 28B.50.917 and 28B.50.918.

**50.12.250 Information clearinghouse to assist in employment of persons of disability.** The employment security department shall establish an information clearinghouse for use by persons of disability and governmental and private employers. The services of the clearinghouse shall include:

(1) Provision of information on private and state services available to assist persons of disability in their training and employment needs;

(2) Provision of information on private, state, and federal incentive programs and services available to employers of persons of disability; and

(3) Publication of a comprehensive list of programs and services in subsections (1) and (2) of this section. [1987 c 369 § 2.]

**Legislative finding—1987 c 369:** "The legislature finds that improving the economic status of persons of disability, the state's largest social minority with over four hundred thousand people, will require active state involvement. Persons of disability suffer unemployment at almost twice the rate and experience poverty at more than twice the rate of the general population. Employers have experienced confusion about the variety of employment services available to them. Optimum service from, and access to, the state's training and placement programs for persons of disability requires coordination and a clear focus on the stated needs of persons of disability and their prospective employers. It is the purpose of this chapter to guarantee that representatives of the disability community, labor, and the private sector have an institutionalized means of meeting their respective needs in the training, employment, and economic participation of persons of disability." [1987 c 369 § 1.]

**50.12.252 Information clearinghouse—Consultation on establishment.** In establishing the information clearinghouse, the employment security department shall consult with organizations of private sector employers and persons of disability. [1987 c 369 § 3.]

**Legislative finding—1987 c 369:** See note following RCW 50.12.250.

**50.12.261 Work force employment and training—Reports.** (1) The employment security department shall report to the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 1994, and every year thereafter, on the status of the programs provided in chapter 226, Laws of 1993 and the resulting outcomes. The department shall include in its report quantitative and demographic information on the increase in job orders, placement referrals, individualized training plans, skill assessments, and other interventions achieved. The department also shall include in its report the number of repeat clients as a percentage of all clients served by programs provided in chapter 226, Laws of 1993.

(2) The state board for community and technical colleges shall report to the appropriate standing committees of the legislature by December 1, 1994, and every year thereafter, the number of certified student full-time equivalents receiving training as provided in chapter 226, Laws of 1993. In addition, the report must include information on the outcomes of the provided training. The report also must include indices of placement rates, student demographics, training plan completion rates, and comparisons of preprogram and postprogram wage levels.

(3) Each community and technical college shall confer and consult with its respective labor-management advisory board concerning the college's efforts to provide the training and services rendered in chapter 226, Laws of 1993 and meet the completion and placement goals of the work force training and education coordinating board. Each community and technical college shall ensure the participation on its labor-management advisory board of small businesses as defined in \*RCW 43.31.025, with particular emphasis on businesses with fifteen or fewer employees.

(4) The work force training and education coordinating board shall conduct a study in consultation with the higher education coordinating board on the feasibility of: (a) Redirecting all state and federal job training and retraining funds distributed in the state into a separate job training trust fund; and (b) distributing the funds according to uniform

criteria. The work force training and education coordinating board shall report to the appropriate committees of the legislature on the results of the study by January 1, 1995. [1993 c 226 § 17.]

**Reviser's note—Sunset Act application:** (1) The work force employment and training program is subject to review, termination, and possible extension under chapter 43.131 RCW, the Sunset Act. See RCW 43.131.377. RCW 50.24.018, 50.16.090, 50.16.092, 50.16.094, 50.16.096, and 50.29.085 are scheduled for future repeal under RCW 43.131.378.

\* (2) RCW 43.31.025 was repealed by 1993 c 280 § 82, effective July 1, 1994.

**Findings—Purpose, intent—Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Application—1993 c 226:** See notes following RCW 50.24.018.

**50.12.270 Rural natural resources impact areas—Training and services program—Survey—Definition.** (1) Subject to the availability of state or federal funds, the employment security department, as a member of the agency rural community assistance task force, shall consult with and may subcontract with local educational institutions, local businesses, local labor organizations, local associate development organizations, local private industry councils, local social service organizations, and local governments in carrying out a program of training and services, including training through the entrepreneurial training program, for dislocated workers in rural natural resources impact areas.

(2) The department shall conduct a survey to determine the actual future employment needs and jobs skills in rural natural resources impact areas.

(3) The department shall coordinate the services provided in this section with all other services provided by the department and with the other economic recovery efforts undertaken by state and local government agencies on behalf of the rural natural resources impact areas.

(4) The department shall make every effort to procure additional federal and other moneys for the efforts enumerated in this section.

(5) For the purposes of this section, "rural natural resources impact area" means:

(a) A nonmetropolitan county, as defined by the 1990 decennial census, that meets two of the five criteria set forth in subsection (6) of this section; or

(b) A nonurbanized area, as defined by the 1990 decennial census, that is located in a metropolitan county that meets two of the five criteria set forth in subsection (6) of this section.

(6) For the purposes of designating rural natural resources impact areas, the following criteria shall be considered:

(a) A lumber and wood products employment location quotient at or above the state average;

(b) A commercial salmon fishing employment location quotient at or above the state average;

(c) Projected or actual direct lumber and wood products job losses of one hundred positions or more;

(d) Projected or actual direct commercial salmon fishing job losses of one hundred positions or more; and

(e) An unemployment rate twenty percent or more above the state average. The counties that meet these criteria shall be determined by the employment security department for the most recent year for which data is available. For the purposes of administration of programs

under this chapter, the United States post office five-digit zip code delivery areas will be used to determine residence status for eligibility purposes. For the purpose of this definition, a zip code delivery area that is located wholly or partially in an urbanized area or within two miles of an urbanized area is considered urbanized. The office of financial management shall make available a zip code listing of the areas to all agencies and organizations providing services under this chapter. [1995 c 226 § 30; 1991 c 315 § 3.]

**Sunset Act application:** See note following RCW 43.31.601.

**Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—Effective date—1995 c 226:** See notes following RCW 43.31.601.

**Intent—1991 c 315:** "The legislature finds that:

(1) The economic health and well-being of timber-dependent communities is of substantial public concern. The significant reduction in annual timber harvest levels likely will result in reduced economic activity and persistent unemployment and underemployment over time, which would be a serious threat to the safety, health, and welfare of residents of the timber impact areas, decreasing the value of private investments and jeopardizing the sources of public revenue.

(2) Timber impact areas are most often located in areas that are experiencing little or no economic growth, creating an even greater risk to the health, safety, and welfare of these communities. The ability to remedy problems caused by the substantial reduction in harvest activity is beyond the power and control of the regulatory process and influence of the state, and the ordinary operations of private enterprise without additional governmental assistance are insufficient to adequately remedy the resulting problems of poverty and unemployment.

(3) To address these concerns, it is the intent of the legislature to increase training and retraining services accessible to timber impact areas, and provide for coordination of noneconomic development services in timber impact areas as economic development efforts will not succeed unless social, housing, health, and other needs are addressed." [1991 c 315 § 1.]

**Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—Effective date—1991 c 315:** See RCW 50.70.900 through 50.70.902.

## Chapter 50.13

### RECORDS AND INFORMATION—PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

#### Sections

- 50.13.010 Legislative intent and recognition.
- 50.13.015 Information held private and confidential—Requests for disclosure.
- 50.13.020 Information or records deemed private and confidential—Release when required by federal program.
- 50.13.030 Rules.
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- 50.13.060 Access to records or information by governmental agencies.
- 50.13.070 Availability of records or information to parties to judicial or administrative proceedings—Discovery proceedings—Subpoenas.
- 50.13.080 Disclosure of records or information to private persons or organizations contracting to assist in operation and management of department—Penalties.
- 50.13.090 Disclosure of records or information to contracting governmental or private organizations.
- 50.13.100 Disclosure of records or information where identifying details deleted or individual or employing unit consents.
- 50.13.900 Construction.
- 50.13.905 Severability—1977 ex.s. c 153.
- 50.13.910 Legislative designation and placement.

**50.13.010 Legislative intent and recognition.** This chapter is intended to reconcile the free access to public records granted by the open government act and the discovery rights of judicial and administrative systems with the historical confidentiality of certain records of the department of employment security and the individual's right of privacy as acknowledged by the open government act.

The legislature recognizes that records and information held by the department of employment security could be misused. Therefore, this chapter defines a right of privacy and confidentiality as regards individual and employing unit records maintained by the department of employment security. The legislature further recognizes that there are situations where this right of privacy and confidentiality is outweighed by other considerations. Therefore, this chapter also defines certain exceptions to the right of privacy and confidentiality. [1977 ex.s. c 153 § 1.]

**50.13.015 Information held private and confidential—Requests for disclosure.** (1) If information provided to the department by another governmental agency is held private and confidential by state or federal laws, the department may not release such information.

(2) Information provided to the department by another governmental entity conditioned upon privacy and confidentiality is to be held private and confidential according to the agreement between the department and other governmental agency.

(3) The department may hold private and confidential information obtained for statistical analysis, research, or study purposes if the information was supplied voluntarily, conditioned upon maintaining confidentiality of the information.

(4) Persons requesting disclosure of information held by the department under subsection (1) or (2) of this section shall request such disclosure from the agency providing the information to the department rather than from the department.

(5) This section supersedes any provisions of chapter 42.17 RCW to the contrary. [1989 c 92 § 3.]

**50.13.020 Information or records deemed private and confidential—Release when required by federal program.** Any information or records concerning an individual or employing unit obtained by the department of employment security pursuant to the administration of this title or other programs for which the department has responsibility shall be private and confidential, except as otherwise provided in this chapter. This chapter does not create a rule of evidence. Information or records may be released by the department of employment security when the release is required by the federal government in connection with, or as a condition of funding for, a program being administered by the department. The provisions of RCW 50.13.060 (1) (a), (b) and (c) will not apply to such release. [1981 c 35 § 2; 1977 ex.s. c 153 § 2.]

**Effective dates—Severability—1981 c 35:** See notes following RCW 50.22.030.

**50.13.030 Rules.** The commissioner of the department of employment security shall have the authority to adopt,



amend, or rescind rules interpreting and implementing the provisions of this chapter. In particular, these rules shall specify the procedure to be followed to obtain information or records to which the public has access under this chapter or chapter 42.17 RCW. [1977 ex.s. c 153 § 3.]

**50.13.040 Access of individual or employing unit to records and information.** (1) An individual shall have access to all records and information concerning that individual held by the department of employment security, unless the information is exempt from disclosure under RCW 42.17.310.

(2) An employing unit shall have access to its own records and to any records and information relating to a benefit claim by an individual if the employing unit is either the individual's last employer or is the individual's base year employer.

(3) An employing unit shall have access to any records and information relating to any decision to allow or deny benefits if:

(a) The decision is based on employment or an offer of employment with the employing unit; or

(b) If the decision is based on material information provided by the employing unit.

(4) An employing unit shall have access to general summaries of benefit claims by individuals whose benefits are chargeable to the employing unit's experience rating or reimbursement account. [1993 c 483 § 6; 1977 ex.s. c 153 § 4.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—1993 c 483:** See notes following RCW 50.04.293.

**50.13.050 Access to records or information by interested party in proceeding before appeal tribunal or commissioner—Decisions not private and confidential, exception.** (1) Any interested party, as defined by rule, in a proceeding before the appeal tribunal or commissioner shall have access to any information or records deemed private and confidential under this chapter if the information or records are material to the issues in that proceeding.

(2) No decisions by the commissioner or the appeals tribunal shall be deemed private and confidential under this chapter unless the decisions are based on information obtained in a closed hearing. [1977 ex.s. c 153 § 5.]

**50.13.060 Access to records or information by governmental agencies.** (1) Governmental agencies, including law enforcement agencies, prosecuting agencies, and the executive branch, whether state, local, or federal shall have access to information or records deemed private and confidential under this chapter if the information or records are needed by the agency for official purposes and:

(a) The agency submits an application in writing to the employment security department for the records or information containing a statement of the official purposes for which the information or records are needed and specific identification of the records or information sought from the department; and

(b) The director, commissioner, chief executive, or other official of the agency has verified the need for the specific

information in writing either on the application or on a separate document; and

(c) The agency requesting access has served a copy of the application for records or information on the individual or employing unit whose records or information are sought and has provided the department with proof of service. Service shall be made in a manner which conforms to the civil rules for superior court. The requesting agency shall include with the copy of the application a statement to the effect that the individual or employing unit may contact the public records officer of the employment security department to state any objections to the release of the records or information. The employment security department shall not act upon the application of the requesting agency until at least five days after service on the concerned individual or employing unit. The employment security department shall consider any objections raised by the concerned individual or employing unit in deciding whether the requesting agency needs the information or records for official purposes.

(2) The requirements of subsections (1) and (8) of this section shall not apply to the state legislative branch. The state legislature shall have access to information or records deemed private and confidential under this chapter, if the legislature or a legislative committee finds that the information or records are necessary and for official purposes. If the employment security department does not make information or records available as provided in this subsection, the legislature may exercise its authority granted by chapter 44.16 RCW.

(3) In cases of emergency the governmental agency requesting access shall not be required to formally comply with the provisions of subsection (1) of this section at the time of the request if the procedures required by subsection (1) of this section are complied with by the requesting agency following the receipt of any records or information deemed private and confidential under this chapter. An emergency is defined as a situation in which irreparable harm or damage could occur if records or information are not released immediately.

(4) The requirements of subsection (1)(c) of this section shall not apply to governmental agencies where the procedures would frustrate the investigation of possible violations of criminal laws.

(5) Governmental agencies shall have access to certain records or information, limited to such items as names, addresses, social security numbers, and general information about benefit entitlement or employer information possessed by the department, for comparison purposes with records or information possessed by the requesting agency to detect improper or fraudulent claims, or to determine potential tax liability or employer compliance with registration and licensing requirements. In those cases the governmental agency shall not be required to comply with subsection (1)(c) of this section, but the requirements of the remainder of subsection (1) must be satisfied.

(6) Governmental agencies may have access to certain records and information, limited to employer information possessed by the department for purposes authorized in chapter 50.38 RCW. Access to these records and information is limited to only those individuals conducting authorized statistical analysis, research, and evaluation studies. Only in cases consistent with the purposes of chapter 50.38

RCW are government agencies not required to comply with subsection (1)(c) of this section, but the requirements of the remainder of subsection (1) of this section must be satisfied. Information provided by the department and held to be private and confidential under state or federal laws shall not be misused or released to unauthorized parties subject to the sanctions in RCW 50.13.080.

(7) Disclosure to governmental agencies of information or records obtained by the employment security department from the federal government shall be governed by any applicable federal law or any agreement between the federal government and the employment security department where so required by federal law. When federal law does not apply to the records or information state law shall control.

(8) The disclosure of any records or information by a governmental agency which has obtained the records or information under this section is prohibited unless the disclosure is directly connected to the official purpose for which the records or information were obtained.

(9) In conducting periodic salary or fringe benefit studies pursuant to law, the department of personnel shall have access to records of the employment security department as may be required for such studies. For such purposes, the requirements of subsection (1)(c) of this section need not apply. [1996 c 79 § 1; 1993 c 281 § 59; 1981 c 177 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 177 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 153 § 6.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—1996 c 79:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal unemployment tax credits to employers in this state." [1996 c 79 § 3.]

**Effective date—1996 c 79:** "This act shall take effect July 1, 1996." [1996 c 79 § 4.]

**Effective date—1993 c 281:** See note following RCW 41.06.022.

**50.13.070 Availability of records or information to parties to judicial or administrative proceedings—Discovery proceedings—Subpoenas.** Information or records deemed private and confidential under this chapter shall be available to parties to judicial or formal administrative proceedings only upon a finding by the presiding officer that the need for the information or records in the proceeding outweighs any reasons for the privacy and confidentiality of the information or records. Information or records deemed private and confidential under this chapter shall not be available in discovery proceedings unless the court in which the action has been filed has made the finding specified above. A judicial or administrative subpoena directed to the employment security department must contain this finding. A subpoena for records or information held by the department may be directed to and served upon any employee of the department, but the department may specify by rule which employee shall produce the records or information in compliance with the subpoena. [1977 ex.s. c 153 § 7.]

**50.13.080 Disclosure of records or information to private persons or organizations contracting to assist in operation and management of department—Penalties.**

(1) The employment security department shall have the right to disclose information or records deemed private and confidential under this chapter to any private person or organization when such disclosure is necessary to permit private contracting parties to assist in the operation and management of the department in instances where certain departmental functions may be delegated to private parties to increase the department's efficiency or quality of service to the public. The private persons or organizations shall use the information or records solely for the purpose for which the information was disclosed and shall be bound by the same rules of privacy and confidentiality as employment security department employees.

(2) Nothing in this section shall be construed as limiting or restricting the effect of RCW 42.17.260(9).

(3) The misuse or unauthorized release of records or information deemed private and confidential under this chapter by any private person or organization to which access is permitted by this section shall subject the person or organization to a civil penalty of five thousand dollars and other applicable sanctions under state and federal law. Suit to enforce this section shall be brought by the attorney general and the amount of any penalties collected shall be paid into the employment security department administrative contingency fund. The attorney general may recover reasonable attorneys' fees for any action brought to enforce this section. [1996 c 79 § 2; 1977 ex.s. c 153 § 8.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective date—1996 c 79:** See notes following RCW 50.13.060.

**50.13.090 Disclosure of records or information to contracting governmental or private organizations.** Where the employment security department contracts to provide services to other governmental or private organizations, the department may disclose to those organizations information or records deemed private and confidential which have been acquired in the performance of the department's obligations under the contracts. [1977 ex.s. c 153 § 9.]

**50.13.100 Disclosure of records or information where identifying details deleted or individual or employing unit consents.** Nothing in this chapter shall prevent the disclosure of information or records deemed private and confidential under this chapter if all details identifying an individual or employing unit are deleted or the individual or employing unit consents to the disclosure. [1977 ex.s. c 153 § 10.]

**50.13.900 Construction.** Any ambiguities in this chapter shall be construed in a manner consistent with federal laws applying to the employment security department. If any provision of this chapter or the application thereof is held invalid by a final decision of any court or declared by the secretary of the department of labor of the United States to be inconsistent with federal laws upon which funding of the employment security department is contingent, the invalid or inconsistent provision shall be ineffective only to the extent necessary to insure compliance with the court decision or federal determination and the re-

remainder of the chapter shall be given full effect. [1977 ex.s. c 153 § 11.]

**50.13.905 Severability—1977 ex.s. c 153.** If any provision of this act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1977 ex.s. c 153 § 13.]

**50.13.910 Legislative designation and placement.** Sections 1 through 11 of this act shall constitute a new chapter in Title 50 RCW and shall be designated as chapter 50.13 RCW. [1977 ex.s. c 153 § 14.]

## Chapter 50.16 FUNDS

Sections	
50.16.010	Unemployment compensation fund—Administrative contingency fund—Employment and training trust fund—Federal interest payment fund.
50.16.015	Federal interest payment fund—Establishment.
50.16.020	Administration of funds—Accounts.
50.16.030	Withdrawals from federal unemployment trust fund.
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50.16.092	Increased employer unemployment compensation rates—Disposition.
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50.16.096	Training programs—Funds to community and technical colleges.

**50.16.010 Unemployment compensation fund—Administrative contingency fund—Employment and training trust fund—Federal interest payment fund.** (*Effective until June 30, 1999.*) There shall be maintained as special funds, separate and apart from all public moneys or funds of this state an unemployment compensation fund, an administrative contingency fund, an employment and training trust fund, and a federal interest payment fund, which shall be administered by the commissioner exclusively for the purposes of this title, and to which RCW 43.01.050 and 43.84.092 shall not be applicable.

(1) The unemployment compensation fund shall consist of

- (a) all contributions and payments in lieu of contributions collected pursuant to the provisions of this title,
- (b) any property or securities acquired through the use of moneys belonging to the fund,
- (c) all earnings of such property or securities,
- (d) any moneys received from the federal unemployment account in the unemployment trust fund in accordance with Title XII of the social security act, as amended,
- (e) all money recovered on official bonds for losses sustained by the fund,

(f) all money credited to this state's account in the unemployment trust fund pursuant to section 903 of the social security act, as amended,

(g) all money received from the federal government as reimbursement pursuant to section 204 of the federal-state extended compensation act of 1970 (84 Stat. 708-712; 26 U.S.C. Sec. 3304), and

(h) all moneys received for the fund from any other source.

All moneys in the unemployment compensation fund shall be commingled and undivided.

(2)(a) The administrative contingency fund shall consist of:

(i) All interest on delinquent contributions collected pursuant to this title;

(ii) All fines and penalties collected pursuant to the provisions of this title;

(iii) All sums recovered on official bonds for losses sustained by the fund; and

(iv) Revenue received under RCW 50.24.014:

PROVIDED, That all fees, fines, forfeitures and penalties collected or assessed by a district court because of the violation of a state law shall be remitted as provided in chapter 3.62 RCW as now exists or is later amended.

(b) Moneys available in the administrative contingency fund, other than money in the special account created under RCW 50.24.014, shall be expended upon the direction of the commissioner, with the approval of the governor, whenever it appears to him or her that such expenditure is necessary for:

(i) The proper administration of this title and no federal funds are available for the specific purpose to which such expenditure is to be made, provided, the moneys are not substituted for appropriations from federal funds which, in the absence of such moneys, would be made available.

(ii) The proper administration of this title for which purpose appropriations from federal funds have been requested but not yet received, provided, the administrative contingency fund will be reimbursed upon receipt of the requested federal appropriation.

(iii) The proper administration of this title for which compliance and audit issues have been identified that establish federal claims requiring the expenditure of state resources in resolution. Claims must be resolved in the following priority: First priority is to provide services to eligible participants within the state; second priority is to provide substitute services or program support; and last priority is the direct payment of funds to the federal government.

Money in the special account created under RCW 50.24.014 may only be expended, after appropriation, for the purposes specified in RCW 50.62.010, 50.62.020, 50.62.030, 50.04.070, 50.04.072, 50.16.010, 50.29.025, 50.24.014, 50.44.053, and 50.22.010.

(3) The employment and training trust fund shall consist of all contributions received from the employment and training trust fund contributions in accordance with RCW 50.24.018. [1993 c 483 § 7; 1993 c 226 § 9; 1991 sp.s. c 13 § 59; 1987 c 202 § 218; 1985 ex.s. c 5 § 6; 1983 1st ex.s. c 13 § 5; 1980 c 142 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 292 § 24; 1973 c 73 § 4; 1969 ex.s. c 199 § 27; 1959 c 170 § 1; 1955 c 286 § 2; 1953 ex.s. c 8 § 5; 1945 c 35 § 60; Rem. Supp. 1945 §

9998-198. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 6; 1941 c 253 §§ 7, 10; 1939 c 214 § 11; 1937 c 162 § 13.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1993 c 226 § 9 and by 1993 c 483 § 7, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section pursuant to RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—1993 c 483:** See notes following RCW 50.04.293.

**Findings—Purpose, intent—Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Application—1993 c 226:** See notes following RCW 50.24.018.

**Effective dates—Severability—1991 sp.s. c 13:** See notes following RCW 18.08.240.

**Intent—1987 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.04.190.

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—1985 ex.s. c 5:** See notes following RCW 50.62.010.

**Conflict with federal requirements—1983 1st ex.s. c 13:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements which are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state, the conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements which are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state." [1983 1st ex.s. c 13 § 13.]

**Effective dates—1977 ex.s. c 292:** See note following RCW 50.04.116.

**Effective dates—1973 c 73:** See note following RCW 50.04.030.

**50.16.010 Unemployment compensation fund—Administrative contingency fund—Employment and training trust fund—Federal interest payment fund.** (*Effective June 30, 1999.*) There shall be maintained as special funds, separate and apart from all public moneys or funds of this state an unemployment compensation fund, an administrative contingency fund, and a federal interest payment fund, which shall be administered by the commissioner exclusively for the purposes of this title, and to which RCW 43.01.050 shall not be applicable.

The unemployment compensation fund shall consist of

- (1) all contributions and payments in lieu of contributions collected pursuant to the provisions of this title,
- (2) any property or securities acquired through the use of moneys belonging to the fund,
- (3) all earnings of such property or securities,
- (4) any moneys received from the federal unemployment account in the unemployment trust fund in accordance with Title XII of the social security act, as amended,
- (5) all money recovered on official bonds for losses sustained by the fund,
- (6) all money credited to this state's account in the unemployment trust fund pursuant to section 903 of the social security act, as amended,
- (7) all money received from the federal government as reimbursement pursuant to section 204 of the federal-state extended compensation act of 1970 (84 Stat. 708-712; 26 U.S.C. Sec. 3304), and
- (8) all moneys received for the fund from any other source.

All moneys in the unemployment compensation fund shall be commingled and undivided.

The administrative contingency fund shall consist of all interest on delinquent contributions collected pursuant to this title, all fines and penalties collected pursuant to the provisions of this title, all sums recovered on official bonds for

losses sustained by the fund, and revenue received under RCW 50.24.014: PROVIDED, That all fees, fines, forfeitures and penalties collected or assessed by a district court because of the violation of a state law shall be remitted as provided in chapter 3.62 RCW as now exists or is later amended.

Moneys available in the administrative contingency fund, other than money in the special account created under RCW 50.24.014, shall be expended upon the direction of the commissioner, with the approval of the governor, whenever it appears to him or her that such expenditure is necessary for:

(a) The proper administration of this title and no federal funds are available for the specific purpose to which such expenditure is to be made, provided, the moneys are not substituted for appropriations from federal funds which, in the absence of such moneys, would be made available.

(b) The proper administration of this title for which purpose appropriations from federal funds have been requested but not yet received, provided, the administrative contingency fund will be reimbursed upon receipt of the requested federal appropriation.

(c) The proper administration of this title for which compliance and audit issues have been identified that establish federal claims requiring the expenditure of state resources in resolution. Claims must be resolved in the following priority: First priority is to provide services to eligible participants within the state; second priority is to provide substitute services or program support; and last priority is the direct payment of funds to the federal government.

Money in the special account created under RCW 50.24.014 may only be expended, after appropriation, for the purposes specified in RCW 50.62.010, 50.62.020, 50.62.030, 50.04.070, 50.04.072, 50.16.010, 50.29.025, 50.24.014, 50.44.053, and 50.22.010. [1993 c 483 § 7; 1993 c 226 § 10; 1993 c 226 § 9; 1991 sp.s. c 13 § 59; 1987 c 202 § 218; 1985 ex.s. c 5 § 6; 1983 1st ex.s. c 13 § 5; 1980 c 142 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 292 § 24; 1973 c 73 § 4; 1969 ex.s. c 199 § 27; 1959 c 170 § 1; 1955 c 286 § 2; 1953 ex.s. c 8 § 5; 1945 c 35 § 60; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-198. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 6; 1941 c 253 §§ 7, 10; 1939 c 214 § 11; 1937 c 162 § 13.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1993 c 226 § 10 and by 1993 c 483 § 7, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section pursuant to RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—1993 c 483:** See notes following RCW 50.04.293.

**Effective dates—1993 c 226 §§ 10, 12, and 14:** "(1) Sections 10 and 12 of this act shall take effect June 30, 1999;

(2) Section 14 of this act shall take effect January 1, 1998." [1993 c 226 § 20.]

**Findings—Purpose, intent—Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Application—1993 c 226:** See notes following RCW 50.24.018.

**Effective dates—Severability—1991 sp.s. c 13:** See notes following RCW 18.08.240.

**Intent—1987 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.04.190.

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—1985 ex.s. c 5:** See notes following RCW 50.62.010.

**Conflict with federal requirements—1983 1st ex.s. c 13:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements which are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state, the

conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements which are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state." [1983 1st ex.s. c 13 § 13.]

**Effective dates—1977 ex.s. c 292:** See note following RCW 50.04.116.

**Effective dates—1973 c 73:** See note following RCW 50.04.030.

**50.16.015 Federal interest payment fund—Establishment.** A separate and identifiable fund to provide for the payment of interest on advances received from this state's account in the federal unemployment trust fund shall be established and administered under the direction of the commissioner. This fund shall be known as the federal interest payment fund and shall consist of contributions paid under RCW 50.16.070. [1983 1st ex.s. c 13 § 6.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—1983 1st ex.s. c 13:** See note following RCW 50.22.100.

**50.16.020 Administration of funds—Accounts. (Effective until June 30, 1999.)** The commissioner shall designate a treasurer and custodian of the unemployment compensation fund, the employment and training trust fund, and the administrative contingency fund, who shall administer such funds in accordance with the directions of the commissioner and shall issue his or her warrants upon them in accordance with such regulations as the commissioner shall prescribe. The treasurer and custodian shall maintain within the unemployment compensation fund three separate accounts as follows:

- (1) a clearing account,
- (2) an unemployment trust fund account, and
- (3) a benefit account.

All moneys payable to the unemployment compensation fund, upon receipt thereof by the commissioner, shall be forwarded to the treasurer, who shall immediately deposit them in the clearing account. Refunds payable pursuant to the provisions of this title from the unemployment compensation fund may be paid from the clearing account upon warrants issued by the treasurer under the direction of the commissioner: **PROVIDED, HOWEVER,** That refunds of interest or penalties on delinquent contributions shall be paid from the administrative contingency fund upon warrants issued by the treasurer under the direction of the commissioner.

After clearance thereof, all other moneys in the clearing account shall be immediately deposited with the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States to the credit of the account of this state in the unemployment trust fund, established and maintained pursuant to section 904 of the social security act, as amended, any provisions of law in this state relating to the deposit, administration, release, or disbursement of moneys in the possession or custody of this state to the contrary notwithstanding.

The benefit account shall consist of all moneys requisitioned from this state's account in the unemployment trust fund. Moneys in the clearing and benefit accounts and in the administrative contingency fund shall not be commingled with other state funds, but shall be deposited by the treasurer, under the direction of the commissioner, in any bank or public depository in which general funds of the state may be

deposited, but no public deposit insurance charge or premium shall be paid out of the fund.

Such moneys shall be secured by said bank or public depository to the same extent and in the same manner as required by the general depository law of the state and collateral pledged shall be maintained in a separate custody account.

The treasurer shall give a bond conditioned upon the faithful performance of his or her duties as a custodian of the funds in an amount fixed by the director of the department of general administration and in a form prescribed by law or approved by the attorney general. Premiums for said bond shall be paid from the administration fund. All sums recovered on official bonds for losses sustained by the unemployment compensation fund shall be deposited in such fund. All sums recovered on official bonds for losses sustained by the administrative contingency fund shall be deposited in such fund. [1993 c 226 § 11; 1983 1st ex.s. c 23 § 10; 1975 c 40 § 12; 1953 ex.s. c 8 § 6; 1945 c 35 § 61; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-199. Prior: 1943 c 126 §§ 6, 9; 1939 c 214 § 11; 1937 c 162 § 13.]

**Findings—Purpose, intent—Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Application—1993 c 226:** See notes following RCW 50.24.018.

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective dates—Construction—1983 1st ex.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 50.04.073.  
*Powers and duties of director of general administration as to official bonds: RCW 43.19.540.*

**50.16.020 Administration of funds—Accounts. (Effective June 30, 1999.)** The commissioner shall designate a treasurer and custodian of the unemployment compensation fund and of the administrative contingency fund, who shall administer such funds in accordance with the directions of the commissioner and shall issue his or her warrants upon them in accordance with such regulations as the commissioner shall prescribe. The treasurer and custodian shall maintain within the unemployment compensation fund three separate accounts as follows:

- (1) a clearing account,
- (2) an unemployment trust fund account, and
- (3) a benefit account.

All moneys payable to the unemployment compensation fund, upon receipt thereof by the commissioner, shall be forwarded to the treasurer, who shall immediately deposit them in the clearing account. Refunds payable pursuant to the provisions of this title from the unemployment compensation fund may be paid from the clearing account upon warrants issued by the treasurer under the direction of the commissioner: **PROVIDED, HOWEVER,** That refunds of interest or penalties on delinquent contributions shall be paid from the administrative contingency fund upon warrants issued by the treasurer under the direction of the commissioner.

After clearance thereof, all other moneys in the clearing account shall be immediately deposited with the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States to the credit of the account of this state in the unemployment trust fund, established and maintained pursuant to section 904 of the social security act, as amended, any provisions of law in this state relating to the deposit, administration, release, or disbursement of

moneys in the possession or custody of this state to the contrary notwithstanding.

The benefit account shall consist of all moneys requisitioned from this state's account in the unemployment trust fund. Moneys in the clearing and benefit accounts and in the administrative contingency fund shall not be commingled with other state funds, but shall be deposited by the treasurer, under the direction of the commissioner, in any bank or public depository in which general funds of the state may be deposited, but no public deposit insurance charge or premium shall be paid out of the fund.

Such moneys shall be secured by said bank or public depository to the same extent and in the same manner as required by the general depository law of the state and collateral pledged shall be maintained in a separate custody account.

The treasurer shall give a bond conditioned upon the faithful performance of his or her duties as a custodian of the funds in an amount fixed by the director of the department of general administration and in a form prescribed by law or approved by the attorney general. Premiums for said bond shall be paid from the administration fund. All sums recovered on official bonds for losses sustained by the unemployment compensation fund shall be deposited in such fund. All sums recovered on official bonds for losses sustained by the administrative contingency fund shall be deposited in such fund. [1993 c 226 § 12; 1993 c 226 § 11; 1983 1st ex.s. c 23 § 10; 1975 c 40 § 12; 1953 ex.s. c 8 § 6; 1945 c 35 § 61; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-199. Prior: 1943 c 126 §§ 6, 9; 1939 c 214 § 11; 1937 c 162 § 13.]

**Effective dates—1993 c 226 §§ 10, 12, and 14:** See note following RCW 50.16.010.

**Findings—Purpose, intent—Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Application—1993 c 226:** See notes following RCW 50.24.018.

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective dates—Construction—1983 1st ex.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 50.04.073.

*Powers and duties of director of general administration as to official bonds:* RCW 43.19.540.

**50.16.030 Withdrawals from federal unemployment trust fund.** (1) Moneys shall be requisitioned from this state's account in the unemployment trust fund solely for the payment of benefits and repayment of loans from the federal government to guarantee solvency of the unemployment compensation fund in accordance with regulations prescribed by the commissioner, except that money credited to this state's account pursuant to section 903 of the social security act, as amended, shall be used exclusively as provided in RCW 50.16.030(5). The commissioner shall from time to time requisition from the unemployment trust fund such amounts, not exceeding the amounts standing to its account therein, as he deems necessary for the payment of benefits for a reasonable future period. Upon receipt thereof the treasurer shall deposit such moneys in the benefit account and shall issue his warrants for the payment of benefits solely from such benefits account.

(2) Expenditures of such moneys in the benefit account and refunds from the clearing account shall not be subject to any provisions of law requiring specific appropriations or other formal release by state officers of money in their custody, and RCW 43.01.050, as amended, shall not apply.

All warrants issued by the treasurer for the payment of benefits and refunds shall bear the signature of the treasurer and the countersignature of the commissioner, or his duly authorized agent for that purpose.

(3) Any balance of moneys requisitioned from the unemployment trust fund which remains unclaimed or unpaid in the benefit account after the expiration of the period for which sums were requisitioned shall either be deducted from estimates for, and may be utilized for the payment of, benefits during succeeding periods, or in the discretion of the commissioner, shall be redeposited with the secretary of the treasury of the United States of America to the credit of this state's account in the unemployment trust fund.

(4) Money credited to the account of this state in the unemployment trust fund by the secretary of the treasury of the United States of America pursuant to section 903 of the social security act, as amended, may be requisitioned and used for the payment of expenses incurred for the administration of this title pursuant to a specific appropriation by the legislature, provided that the expenses are incurred and the money is requisitioned after the enactment of an appropriation law which:

(a) specifies the purposes for which such money is appropriated and the amounts appropriated therefor,

(b) limits the period within which such money may be obligated to a period ending not more than two years after the date of the enactment of the appropriation law, and

(c) limits the amount which may be obligated during a twelve-month period beginning on July 1st and ending on the next June 30th to an amount which does not exceed the amount by which (i) the aggregate of the amounts credited to the account of this state pursuant to section 903 of the social security act, as amended, during the same twelve-month period and the thirty-four preceding twelve-month periods, exceeds (ii) the aggregate of the amounts obligated pursuant to RCW 50.16.030(4), (5) and (6) and charged against the amounts credited to the account of this state during any of such thirty-five twelve-month periods. For the purposes of RCW 50.16.030(4), (5) and (6), amounts obligated during any such twelve-month period shall be charged against equivalent amounts which were first credited and which are not already so charged; except that no amount obligated for administration during any such twelve-month period may be charged against any amount credited during such a twelve-month period earlier than the thirty-fourth twelve-month period preceding such period: **PROVIDED,** That any amount credited to this state's account under section 903 of the social security act, as amended, which has been appropriated for expenses of administration, whether or not withdrawn from the trust fund shall be excluded from the unemployment compensation fund balance for the purpose of experience rating credit determination.

(5) Money credited to the account of this state pursuant to section 903 of the social security act, as amended, may not be withdrawn or used except for the payment of benefits and for the payment of expenses of administration and of public employment offices pursuant to RCW 50.16.030(4), (5) and (6).

(6) Money requisitioned as provided in RCW 50.16.030(4), (5) and (6) for the payment of expenses of administration shall be deposited in the unemployment compensation fund, but until expended, shall remain a part

of the unemployment compensation fund. The commissioner shall maintain a separate record of the deposit, obligation, expenditure and return of funds so deposited. Any money so deposited which either will not be obligated within the period specified by the appropriation law or remains unobligated at the end of the period, and any money which has been obligated within the period but will not be expended, shall be returned promptly to the account of this state in the unemployment trust fund. [1983 1st ex.s. c 7 § 1; 1973 c 6 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 201 § 1; 1959 c 170 § 2; 1945 c 35 § 62; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-200. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 6; 1941 c 253 § 7.]

**50.16.040 Management of funds upon discontinuance of federal unemployment trust fund.** The provisions of this title, to the extent that they relate to the unemployment trust fund, shall be operative only so long as such unemployment trust fund continues to exist and so long as the secretary of the treasury of the United States of America continues to maintain for this state a separate book account of all funds deposited therein for this state for benefit purposes, together with this state's proportionate share of the earnings of such unemployment trust fund, from which no other state is permitted to make withdrawals. If and when such unemployment trust fund ceases to exist, or such separate book account is no longer maintained, all moneys, properties or securities therein, belonging to the unemployment compensation fund of this state shall be transferred to the treasurer of the unemployment compensation fund, who shall hold, invest, transfer, sell, deposit, and release such moneys, properties, or securities in a manner approved by the commissioner, in accordance with the provisions of this title: **PROVIDED**, That such moneys shall be invested in the following readily marketable classes of securities: Bonds or other interest bearing obligations of the United States of America: **AND PROVIDED FURTHER**, That such investment shall at all times be made so that all the assets of the fund shall always be readily convertible into cash when needed for the payment of benefits. The treasurer shall dispose of securities or other properties belonging to the unemployment compensation fund only under the direction of the commissioner. [1945 c 35 § 63; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-201. Prior: 1941 c 253 § 7.]

**50.16.050 Unemployment compensation administration fund.** (1) There is hereby established a fund to be known as the unemployment compensation administration fund. Except as otherwise provided in this section, all moneys which are deposited or paid into this fund are hereby made available to the commissioner. All moneys in this fund shall be expended solely for the purpose of defraying the cost of the administration of this title, and for no other purpose whatsoever. All moneys received from the United States of America, or any agency thereof, for said purpose pursuant to section 302 of the social security act, as amended, shall be expended solely for the purposes and in the amounts found necessary by the secretary of labor for the proper and efficient administration of this title. All moneys received from the United States employment service, United States department of labor, for said purpose pursuant to the act of congress approved June 6, 1933, as amended or

supplemented by any other act of congress, shall be expended solely for the purposes and in the amounts found necessary by the secretary of labor for the proper and efficient administration of the public employment office system of this state. The unemployment compensation administration fund shall consist of all moneys received from the United States of America or any department or agency thereof, or from any other source, for such purpose. All moneys in this fund shall be deposited, administered, and disbursed by the treasurer of the unemployment compensation fund under rules and regulations of the commissioner and none of the provisions of RCW 43.01.050 shall be applicable to this fund. The treasurer last named shall be the treasurer of the unemployment compensation administration fund and shall give a bond conditioned upon the faithful performance of his duties in connection with that fund. All sums recovered on the official bond for losses sustained by the unemployment compensation administration fund shall be deposited in said fund.

(2) Notwithstanding any provision of this section:

(a) All money requisitioned and deposited in this fund pursuant to RCW 50.16.030(6) shall remain part of the unemployment compensation fund and shall be used only in accordance with the conditions specified in RCW 50.16.030 (4), (5) and (6).

(b) All money deposited in this fund pursuant to RCW 50.38.065 shall be used only after appropriation and only for the purposes of RCW 50.38.060. [1993 c 62 § 8; 1959 c 170 § 3; 1947 c 215 § 13; 1945 c 35 § 64; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 9998-202. Prior: 1941 c 253 § 7; 1939 c 214 § 11; 1937 c 162 § 13.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective date—1993 c 62:** See RCW 50.38.901 and 50.38.902.

**50.16.060 Replacement of federal funds.** The state of Washington hereby pledges that it will replace within a reasonable time any moneys paid to this state under Title III of the social security act, and the Wagner-Peyser act, which, because of any action or contingency, have been lost or have been expended for purposes other than, or in amounts in excess of, those found necessary by the secretary of labor for the proper administration of the Washington employment security act. [1959 c 170 § 4; 1945 c 35 § 67; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-205.]

**50.16.070 Federal interest payment fund—Employer contributions—When payable—Maximum rate—Deduction from remuneration unlawful.** The federal interest payment fund shall consist of contributions payable by each employer (except employers as described in RCW 50.44.010 and 50.44.030 who have properly elected to make payments in lieu of contributions, employers who are required to make payments in lieu of contributions, and employers paying contributions under RCW 50.44.035) for any calendar quarter which begins on or after January 1, 1984, and for which the commissioner determines that the department will have an outstanding balance of accruing federal interest at the end of the calendar quarter. The amount of wages subject to tax shall be determined according to RCW 50.24.010. The tax rate applicable to wages paid during the calendar quarter shall be determined by the commissioner

and shall not exceed fifteen one-hundredths of one percent. In determining whether to require contributions as authorized by this section, the commissioner shall consider the current balance in the federal interest payment fund and the projected amount of interest which will be due and payable as of the following September 30. Except as appropriated for the fiscal biennium ending June 30, 1991, any excess moneys in the federal interest payment fund shall be retained in the fund for future interest payments.

Contributions under this section shall become due and be paid by each employer in accordance with such rules as the commissioner may prescribe and shall not be deducted, in whole or in part, from the remuneration of individuals in the employ of the employer. Any deduction in violation of this section is unlawful.

In the payment of any contributions under this section, a fractional part of a cent shall be disregarded unless it amounts to one-half cent or more, in which case it shall be increased to one cent. [1989 1st ex.s. c 19 § 811; 1988 c 289 § 710; 1983 1st ex.s. c 13 § 7.]

**Severability—1989 1st ex.s. c 19:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1989 1st ex.s. c 19 § 817.]

**Effective date—1989 1st ex.s. c 19:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect July 1, 1989." [1989 1st ex.s. c 19 § 818.]

**Severability—1988 c 289:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1988 c 289 § 803.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—1983 1st ex.s. c 13:** See note following RCW 50.16.010.

**50.16.080 Federal targeted jobs tax credit program—Administration—Processing fee—Deposit of fees.** The cost of administering the federal targeted jobs tax credit program shall be fully borne by the employers requesting the credits. The commissioner shall establish the amount of the processing fee and procedures for collecting the fee. The commissioner shall establish the processing fee at a sufficient level to defray the costs of administering the federal targeted jobs tax credit program. The fee shall be established by the commissioner by rule. However, if federal funding is provided to finance such services, the commissioner shall revise or eliminate this fee based on the amount of federal funding received. Fees received for processing shall be deposited in a special account in the unemployment compensation administration fund. [1988 c 84 § 2.]

**Legislative finding—1988 c 84:** "The legislature finds that:

(1) The employment security department through the targeted jobs tax credit program has the responsibility to issue federal tax credit certifications to Washington state employers. The tax credit certification allows the employer to claim a credit against federal income tax for wages paid during the first year to employees who qualify for the program.

(2) To the extent that funding is available, the department, through the federal targeted jobs tax credit program, provides service to employers in the form of technical assistance and training, program marketing, monitoring, and maintenance of records and processing of documents that may result in a certification which allows employers to claim a federal tax credit.

(3) The United States Congress through the Tax Reform Act of 1986 reauthorized the targeted jobs tax credit but did not include funds to cover the costs of processing employer requests for federal tax credit certifications.

(4) The state has a vital interest in the economic benefits employers realize from the targeted jobs tax credit because the economic competitive-

ness of Washington state is enhanced as tax credit savings are reinvested in the state's economy.

(5) The departments of corrections, social and health services, and veterans affairs, and the superintendent of public instruction, along with employment security and other state service providers, utilize the targeted jobs tax credit program as an incentive for employers to hire hard-to-place clients.

(6) Economically disadvantaged youth, Vietnam-era veterans, ex-felons, and vocational rehabilitation, supplemental security income, general assistance and AFDC recipients have an especially difficult time in obtaining employment." [1988 c 84 § 1.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—1988 c 84:** "If any part of this act shall be found to be in conflict with federal requirements which are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state, such conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of such conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements which are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state." [1988 c 84 § 3.]

**Severability—1988 c 84:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1988 c 84 § 4.]

**Effective date—1988 c 84:** "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 March 1, 1988." [1988 c 84 § 6.] This act was signed by the governor March 16, 1988.

#### **50.16.090 Employment and training trust fund.**

There is hereby established the employment and training trust fund. All moneys in this fund are irrevocably vested for the administration of this title. The employment and training trust fund shall consist of all moneys from employment and training trust fund contributions as established in RCW 50.24.018. The treasurer of the employment security department shall deposit, administer, and disburse all moneys in the fund under rules adopted by the commissioner and RCW 43.01.050 and 43.84.092 are not applicable to this fund. The treasurer of the employment security department shall be the treasurer of the employment and training trust fund as described in RCW 50.16.020 and shall give a bond conditioned upon the faithful performance of his or her duties in connection with the fund. All sums recovered on the official bond for losses sustained by the employment and training trust fund must be deposited in the fund. Notwithstanding any provision of this section, all moneys received and deposited in the fund under chapter 226, Laws of 1993, remain part of the employment and training trust fund and may be used solely for the following purposes:

(1) Providing training and related support services, including financial aid, to individuals who have been terminated or have received a notice of termination from employment, and who are eligible for or have exhausted their entitlement to unemployment compensation benefits within the previous twenty-four months;

(2) Assisting workers in finding employment through job referral, job development, counseling, and referral to training resources;

(3) Obtaining labor market information necessary for the administration of the unemployment insurance program and to assist unemployed workers in finding employment. In obtaining the information the employment security department shall ensure the inclusion of information gathered from small businesses as defined in \*RCW 43.31.025, with



particular emphasis on businesses with fifteen or fewer employees;

(4) Performing research by an independent state auditing agency or an independent contractor to determine effectiveness of unemployment insurance programs and to determine whether program changes would benefit workers and employers;

(5) Collecting contributions for and administration of the employment and training trust fund;

(6) Improving service through improved use of information technology; and

(7) Establishing collocation employment security and job service outstations at community and technical college campuses across the state. These outstations shall provide a one-stop point of access for unemployed and dislocated workers seeking job placement services, training program information, and labor market information. In communities without co-located outstations the local job service center and community or technical college shall collaborate to provide these services. [1993 c 226 § 4.]

**Sunset Act application:** See note following RCW 50.12.261.

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 43.31.025 was repealed by 1993 c 280 § 82, effective July 1, 1994.

**Findings—Purpose, intent—Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Application—1993 c 226:** See notes following RCW 50.24.018.

**50.16.092 Increased employer unemployment compensation rates—Disposition.** For calculations occurring on or after June 30, 1994, and in accordance with RCW 50.29.025, if the commissioner determines that the employment and training trust fund contributions for the most recent rate year have increased employer unemployment compensation contribution rates, the revenues received by the department from the employment and training contribution for calendar quarters beginning the following July 1st shall not be deposited in the employment and training trust fund but shall be deposited in the unemployment compensation fund. [1993 c 226 § 5.]

**Sunset Act application:** See note following RCW 50.12.261.

**Findings—Purpose, intent—Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Application—1993 c 226:** See notes following RCW 50.24.018.

**50.16.094 Employment security benefits during work force training—Eligibility—Rules.** An individual may be eligible for applicable employment security benefits while participating in work force training. Eligibility is at the discretion of the commissioner of employment security after submitting a commissioner-approved training waiver and developing a detailed individualized training plan.

The commissioner shall adopt rules as necessary to implement this section. [1995 c 57 § 1; 1993 c 226 § 6.]

**Sunset Act application:** See note following RCW 50.12.261.

**Application—1995 c 57:** "This act applies only to benefit charges attributable to new claims effective after July 1, 1995." [1995 c 57 § 4.]

**Effective date—1995 c 57:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately [April 17, 1995]." [1995 c 57 § 5.]

**Findings—Purpose, intent—Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Application—1993 c 226:** See notes following RCW 50.24.018.

**50.16.096 Training programs—Funds to community and technical colleges.** (1) The employment security department shall disburse the amounts appropriated by the legislature for the purposes of chapter 226, Laws of 1993 to the state board for community and technical colleges. These funds shall be allotted for, and only for, training programs and related support services, including financial aid, in the community and technical college system that:

(a) Are consistent with work force training priorities and based upon the comprehensive plan for work force training developed by the work force training and education coordinating board. The state board for community and technical colleges shall develop a plan for use and evaluation of these funds which is to be approved by the work force training and education coordinating board for consistency with their work force priorities. In developing and approving the plan, information shall be gathered from small businesses as defined in \*RCW 43.31.025, with particular emphasis on businesses with fifteen or fewer employees. Further, the state board for community and technical colleges shall report to the work force training and education coordinating board and the legislature annually on the progress and results of the training and support services provided to eligible participants;

(b) Provide increased enrollments for individuals who have been terminated or have received a notice of termination from employment, and who are eligible for or have exhausted their entitlement to unemployment compensation benefits within the previous twenty-four months, with first priority given to individuals who are unlikely to return to employment in the individuals' principal occupation or previous industry because of a diminishing demand for their skills in that occupation or industry; and

(c) Provide increased enrollments and support services, including financial aid, that do not replace or supplant any existing enrollments, programs, support services, or funding sources. For fiscal year 1994, the state board for community and technical colleges may borrow from the general fund to initiate the programs authorized under chapter 226, Laws of 1993. However, the board shall repay the borrowed amount by the end of the fiscal biennium from funds appropriated to it from the employment and training trust fund.

(2) For purposes of chapter 226, Laws of 1993, training provided by the community and technical colleges shall only consist of basic skills and literacy, occupational skills, vocational education, and related or supplemental instruction for apprentices who are enrolled in a registered, state-approved apprenticeship program. Community and technical colleges may contract with skill centers to provide training authorized in this section. Upon the request of an eligible recipient, a community and technical college may contract with a private technical school for specialized vocational training. Available tuition for the training is limited to the amount that would otherwise be obtained per enrolled quarter to a public institution. Furthermore, the funding is only available to students who seek training in a course of study not available at a public institution within an eligible recipient's congressional district. [1993 c 226 § 8.]

**Sunset Act application:** See note following RCW 50.12.261.

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 43.31.025 was repealed by 1993 c 280 § 82, effective July 1, 1994.

**Findings—Purpose, intent—Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Application—1993 c 226:** See notes following RCW 50.24.018.

## Chapter 50.20 BENEFITS AND CLAIMS

### Sections

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*Environmental restoration job training: RCW 43.21J.060 and 43.21J.070.*

**50.20.010 Benefit eligibility conditions.** An unemployed individual shall be eligible to receive waiting period credits or benefits with respect to any week in his or her eligibility period only if the commissioner finds that:

(1) He or she has registered for work at, and thereafter has continued to report at, an employment office in accordance with such regulation as the commissioner may prescribe, except that the commissioner may by regulation waive or alter either or both of the requirements of this subdivision as to individuals attached to regular jobs and as

to such other types of cases or situations with respect to which the commissioner finds that the compliance with such requirements would be oppressive, or would be inconsistent with the purposes of this title;

(2) He or she has filed an application for an initial determination and made a claim for waiting period credit or for benefits in accordance with the provisions of this title;

(3) He or she is able to work, and is available for work in any trade, occupation, profession, or business for which he or she is reasonably fitted. To be available for work an individual must be ready, able, and willing, immediately to accept any suitable work which may be offered to him or her and must be actively seeking work pursuant to customary trade practices and through other methods when so directed by the commissioner or the commissioner's agents;

(4) He or she has been unemployed for a waiting period of one week;

(5) He or she participates in reemployment services if the individual has been referred to reemployment services pursuant to the profiling system established by the commissioner under RCW 50.20.011, unless the commissioner determines that:

(a) The individual has completed such services; or

(b) There is justifiable cause for the claimant's failure to participate in such services; and

(6) As to weeks beginning after March 31, 1981, which fall within an extended benefit period as defined in RCW 50.22.010, the individual meets the terms and conditions of RCW 50.22.020 with respect to benefits claimed in excess of twenty-six times the individual's weekly benefit amount.

An individual's eligibility period for regular benefits shall be coincident to his or her established benefit year. An individual's eligibility period for additional or extended benefits shall be the periods prescribed elsewhere in this title for such benefits. [1995 c 381 § 1; 1981 c 35 § 3; 1973 c 73 § 6; 1970 ex.s. c 2 § 4; 1959 c 266 § 3; 1953 ex.s. c 8 § 7; 1951 c 265 § 9; 1951 c 215 § 11; 1949 c 214 § 9; 1945 c 35 § 68; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9998-206. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 2; 1941 c 253 §§ 1, 2; 1939 c 214 § 2; 1937 c 162 § 4.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—1995 c 381:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal unemployment tax credits to employers in this state." [1995 c 381 § 5.]

**Effective date—1995 c 381:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately [May 16, 1995]." [1995 c 381 § 6.]

**Construction—Effective dates—Severability—1981 c 35:** See notes following RCW 50.22.030.

**Effective dates—1973 c 73:** See note following RCW 50.04.030.

**Effective date—1970 ex.s. c 2:** See note following RCW 50.04.020.

**Severability—1951 c 265:** See note following RCW 50.98.070.

*Government or retirement pension plan payments as remuneration or wages—Recovery of excess over benefits allowable, limitations: RCW 50.04.323.*

**50.20.011 Profiling system to identify individuals likely to exhaust benefits—Confidentiality of informa-**

**tion—Penalty.** (1) The commissioner shall establish and use a profiling system for new claimants for regular compensation under this title that identifies permanently separated workers who are likely to exhaust regular compensation and will need job search assistance services to make a successful transition to new employment. The profiling system shall use a combination of individual characteristics and labor market information to assign each individual a unique probability of benefit exhaustion. Individuals identified as likely to exhaust benefits shall be referred to reemployment services, such as job search assistance services, to the extent such services are available at public expense.

(2) The profiling system shall include collection and review of follow-up information relating to the services received by individuals under this section and the employment outcomes for the individuals following receipt of the services. The information shall be used in making profiling identifications.

(3) In carrying out reviews of individuals receiving services, the department may contract with public or private entities and may disclose information or records necessary to permit contracting entities to assist in the operation and management of department functions. Any information or records disclosed to public or private entities shall be used solely for the purposes for which the information was disclosed and the entity shall be bound by the same rules of privacy and confidentiality as department employees. The misuse or unauthorized disclosure of information or records deemed private and confidential under chapter 50.13 RCW by any person or organization to which access is permitted by this section shall subject the person or organization to a civil penalty of five thousand dollars and other applicable sanctions under state and federal law. Suit to enforce this section shall be brought by the attorney general and the amount of any penalties collected shall be paid into the employment security department administrative contingency fund. The attorney general may recover reasonable attorneys' fees for any action brought to enforce this section. [1995 c 381 § 2.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective date—1995 c 381:** See notes following RCW 50.20.010.

**50.20.012 Rules—1995 c 381.** The commissioner may adopt rules as necessary to implement the 1995 c 381 §§ 1 and \*3 amendments to RCW 50.20.010 and 50.20.043 and 50.20.011, including but not limited to definitions, eligibility standards, program review criteria and procedures, and provisions necessary to comply with applicable federal laws and regulations that are a condition to receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal unemployment tax credits to employers in this state. [1995 c 381 § 4.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Section 3 of this act (amendment to RCW 50.20.043) was vetoed by the governor.

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective date—1995 c 381:** See notes following RCW 50.20.010.

**50.20.015 Person with marginal labor force attachment.** If the product of an otherwise eligible individual's weekly benefit amount multiplied by thirteen is greater than the total amount of wages earned in covered employment in the higher of two corresponding calendar quarters included within the individual's determination period, that individual

shall be considered to have marginal labor force attachment. For the purposes of this subsection and RCW 50.29.020, "determination period" means the first eight of the last nine completed calendar quarters immediately preceding the individual's current benefit year. [1986 c 106 § 1; 1985 c 285 § 3; 1984 c 205 § 9.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—1986 c 106:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements which are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements which are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal unemployment tax credits to employers in this state." [1986 c 106 § 7.]

**Severability—1986 c 106:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1986 c 106 § 8.]

**Severability—1985 c 285:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1985 c 285 § 5.]

**Effective date—1985 c 285:** "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 July 1, 1985." [1985 c 285 § 6.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Effective dates—1984 c 205:** See notes following RCW 50.20.120.

*Persons with marginal labor force attachment—Effect on employer experience rating accounts:* RCW 50.29.020.

**50.20.020 Waiting period credit limitation.** No week shall be counted as a waiting period week,

(1) if benefits have been paid with respect thereto, and  
(2) unless the individual was otherwise eligible for benefits with respect thereto, and

(3) unless it occurs within the benefit year which includes the week with respect to which he claims payment of benefits. [1949 c 214 § 10; 1945 c 35 § 69; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9998-207.]

**50.20.042 Unemployed aerospace workers—Training.** Aerospace workers unemployed as the result of downsizing and restructuring of the aerospace industry will be deemed to be dislocated workers for the purpose of commissioner approval of training under RCW 50.20.043. [1993 c 226 § 7.]

**Findings—Purpose, intent—Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Application—1993 c 226:** See notes following RCW 50.24.018.

**50.20.043 Training provision.** No otherwise eligible individual shall be denied benefits for any week because the individual is in training with the approval of the commissioner, nor shall such individual be denied benefits with respect to any week in which the individual is satisfactorily progressing in a training program with the approval of the commissioner by reason of the application of RCW 50.20.010(3), 50.20.015, 50.20.080, or 50.22.020(1) relating to availability for work and active search for work, or failure to apply for or refusal to accept suitable work.

An individual who the commissioner determines to be a dislocated worker as defined by RCW 50.04.075 and who

is satisfactorily progressing in a training program approved by the commissioner shall be considered to be in training with the approval of the commissioner. [1985 c 40 § 1; 1984 c 181 § 2; 1971 c 3 § 12.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—1985 c 40:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements which are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements which are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal unemployment tax credits to employers in this state." [1985 c 40 § 2.]

**Severability—1985 c 40:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1985 c 40 § 3.]

**Effective date—1985 c 40:** "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 July 1, 1985." [1985 c 40 § 4.]

**Construction—Compliance with federal act—1971 c 3:** See RCW 50.44.080.

*Job skills program participation deemed to be training: RCW 28C.04.480.*

**50.20.044 Ineligibility for benefits for failure to attend job search workshop or training course.** If an otherwise eligible individual fails without good cause, as determined by the commissioner under rules prescribed by the commissioner, to attend a job search workshop or a training or retraining course when directed by the department and such workshop or course is available at public expense, such individual shall not be eligible for benefits with respect to any week in which such failure occurred. [1984 c 205 § 8.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Effective dates—1984 c 205:** See notes following RCW 50.20.120.

**50.20.045 Employee separated from employment due to wage garnishment not disqualified.** Subject to the provisions of RCW 6.27.170, an individual who is separated from his employment due to garnishment of his wages shall not be disqualified from receiving unemployment benefits because of such separation. [1969 ex.s. c 264 § 35.]

**50.20.050 Disqualification for leaving work voluntarily without good cause.** (1) An individual shall be disqualified from benefits beginning with the first day of the calendar week in which he or she has left work voluntarily without good cause and thereafter for five calendar weeks and until he or she has obtained bona fide work and earned wages equal to five times his or her weekly benefit amount.

The disqualification shall continue if the work obtained is a mere sham to qualify for benefits and is not bona fide work. In determining whether work is of a bona fide nature, the commissioner shall consider factors including but not limited to the following:

- (a) The duration of the work;
- (b) The extent of direction and control by the employer over the work; and
- (c) The level of skill required for the work in light of the individual's training and experience.

(2) An individual shall not be considered to have left work voluntarily without good cause when:

(a) He or she has left work to accept a bona fide offer of bona fide work as described in subsection (1) of this section;

(b) The separation was because of the illness or disability of the claimant or the death, illness, or disability of a member of the claimant's immediate family if the claimant took all reasonable precautions, in accordance with any regulations that the commissioner may prescribe, to protect his or her employment status by having promptly notified the employer of the reason for the absence and by having promptly requested reemployment when again able to assume employment: PROVIDED, That these precautions need not have been taken when they would have been a futile act, including those instances when the futility of the act was a result of a recognized labor/management dispatch system; or

(c) He or she has left work to relocate for the spouse's employment that is outside the existing labor market area if the claimant remained employed as long as was reasonable prior to the move.

(3) In determining under this section whether an individual has left work voluntarily without good cause, the commissioner shall only consider work-connected factors such as the degree of risk involved to the individual's health, safety, and morals, the individual's physical fitness for the work, the individual's ability to perform the work, and such other work connected factors as the commissioner may deem pertinent, including state and national emergencies. Good cause shall not be established for voluntarily leaving work because of its distance from an individual's residence where the distance was known to the individual at the time he or she accepted the employment and where, in the judgment of the department, the distance is customarily traveled by workers in the individual's job classification and labor market, nor because of any other significant work factor which was generally known and present at the time he or she accepted employment, unless the related circumstances have so changed as to amount to a substantial involuntary deterioration of the work factor or unless the commissioner determines that other related circumstances would work an unreasonable hardship on the individual were he or she required to continue in the employment.

(4) Subsections (1) and (3) of this section shall not apply to an individual whose marital status or domestic responsibilities cause him or her to leave employment. Such an individual shall not be eligible for unemployment insurance benefits beginning with the first day of the calendar week in which he or she left work and thereafter for five calendar weeks and until he or she has requalified, either by obtaining bona fide work and earning wages equal to five times his or her weekly benefit amount or by reporting in person to the department during ten different calendar weeks and certifying on each occasion that he or she is ready, able, and willing to immediately accept any suitable work which may be offered, is actively seeking work pursuant to customary trade practices, and is utilizing such employment counseling and placement services as are available through the department. This subsection does not apply to individuals covered by subsection (2) (b) or (c) of this section. [1993 c 483 § 8; 1982 1st ex.s. c 18 § 6; 1981 c 35 § 4;

1980 c 74 § 5; 1977 ex.s. c 33 § 4; 1970 ex.s. c 2 § 21; 1953 ex.s. c 8 § 8; 1951 c 215 § 12; 1949 c 214 § 12; 1947 c 215 § 15; 1945 c 35 § 73; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9998-211. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 3; 1941 c 253 § 3; 1939 c 214 § 3; 1937 c 162 § 5.]

**Effective dates, applicability—Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—1993 c 483:** See notes following RCW 50.04.293.

**Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1982 1st ex.s. c 18:** See notes following RCW 50.12.200.

**Severability—1981 c 35:** See note following RCW 50.22.030.

**Severability—1980 c 74:** See note following RCW 50.04.323.

**Effective dates—Construction—1977 ex.s. c 33:** See notes following RCW 50.04.030.

**Effective date—1970 ex.s. c 2:** See note following RCW 50.04.020.

**50.20.060 Disqualification from benefits due to misconduct.** An individual shall be disqualified from benefits beginning with the first day of the calendar week in which he or she has been discharged or suspended for misconduct connected with his or her work and thereafter for five calendar weeks and until he or she has obtained work and earned wages equal to five times his or her benefit amount. Alcoholism shall not constitute a defense to disqualification from benefits due to misconduct. [1993 c 483 § 9; 1982 1st ex.s. c 18 § 16; 1977 ex.s. c 33 § 5; 1970 ex.s. c 2 § 22; 1953 ex.s. c 8 § 9; 1951 c 215 § 13; 1949 c 214 § 13; 1947 c 215 § 16; 1945 c 35 § 74; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9998-212. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 3; 1941 c 253 § 3; 1939 c 214 § 3; 1937 c 162 § 5.]

**Effective dates, applicability—Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—1993 c 483:** See notes following RCW 50.04.293.

**Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1982 1st ex.s. c 18:** See notes following RCW 50.12.200.

**Effective dates—Construction—1977 ex.s. c 33:** See notes following RCW 50.04.030.

**Effective date—1970 ex.s. c 2:** See note following RCW 50.04.020.

**50.20.065 Cancellation of hourly wage credits due to felony or gross misdemeanor.** (1) An individual who has been discharged from his or her work because of a felony or gross misdemeanor of which he or she has been convicted, or has admitted committing to a competent authority, and that is connected with his or her work shall have all hourly wage credits based on that employment canceled.

(2) The employer shall notify the department of such an admission or conviction, not later than six months following the admission or conviction.

(3) The claimant shall disclose any conviction of the claimant of a work-connected felony or gross misdemeanor occurring in the previous two years to the department at the time of application for benefits.

(4) All benefits that are paid in error based on wage/hour credits that should have been removed from the claimant's base year are recoverable, notwithstanding RCW 50.20.190 or 50.24.020 or any other provisions of this title. [1993 c 483 § 11.]

**Effective dates, applicability—Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—1993 c 483:** See notes following RCW 50.04.293.

**50.20.070 Disqualification for misrepresentation.** Irrespective of any other provisions of this title an individual

shall be disqualified for benefits for any week with respect to which he has knowingly made a false statement or representation involving a material fact or knowingly failed to report a material fact and has thereby obtained or attempted to obtain any benefits under the provisions of this title, and for an additional twenty-six weeks commencing with the first week for which he completes an otherwise compensable claim for waiting period credit or benefits following the date of the delivery or mailing of the determination of disqualification under this section: PROVIDED, That such disqualification shall not be applied after two years have elapsed from the date of the delivery or mailing of the determination of disqualification under this section, but all overpayments established by such determination of disqualification shall be collected as otherwise provided by this title. [1973 1st ex.s. c 158 § 5; 1953 ex.s. c 8 § 10; 1951 c 265 § 10; 1949 c 214 § 14; 1947 c 215 § 17; 1945 c 35 § 75; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9998-213. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 3; 1941 c 253 § 3; 1939 c 214 § 3; 1937 c 162 § 5.]

**Effective date—1973 1st ex.s. c 158:** See note following RCW 50.08.020.

**Severability—1951 c 265:** See note following RCW 50.98.070.

**50.20.080 Disqualification for refusal to work.** An individual is disqualified for benefits, if the commissioner finds that the individual has failed without good cause, either to apply for available, suitable work when so directed by the employment office or the commissioner, or to accept suitable work when offered the individual, or to return to his or her customary self-employment (if any) when so directed by the commissioner. Such disqualification shall begin with the week of the refusal and thereafter for five calendar weeks and continue until the individual has obtained work and earned wages therefor of not less than five times his or her suspended weekly benefit amount. [1993 c 483 § 10; 1959 c 321 § 1; 1953 ex.s. c 8 § 11; 1951 c 215 § 14; 1949 c 214 § 15; 1945 c 35 § 76; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9998-214. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 3; 1941 c 253 § 3; 1939 c 214 § 3; 1937 c 162 § 5.]

**Effective dates, applicability—Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—1993 c 483:** See notes following RCW 50.04.293.

**Effective date—1959 c 321:** "This act shall take effect on July 5, 1959." [1959 c 321 § 4.]

**50.20.085 Disqualification for receipt of industrial insurance disability benefits.** An individual is disqualified from benefits with respect to any day or days for which he or she is receiving, has received, or will receive compensation under RCW 51.32.060 or 51.32.090. [1991 c 117 § 2; 1986 c 75 § 1.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Effective dates—1991 c 117:** See notes following RCW 50.04.030.

**50.20.090 Strike or lockout disqualification—When inapplicable.** (1) An individual shall be disqualified for benefits for any week with respect to which the commissioner finds that the individual's unemployment is:

(a) Due to a strike at the factory, establishment, or other premises at which the individual is or was last employed; or

(b) Due to a lockout by his or her employer who is a member of a multi-employer bargaining unit and who has

locked out the employees at the factory, establishment, or other premises at which the individual is or was last employed after one member of the multi-employer bargaining unit has been struck by its employees as a result of the multi-employer bargaining process.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section shall not apply if it is shown to the satisfaction of the commissioner that:

(a) The individual is not participating in or financing or directly interested in the strike or lockout that caused the individual's unemployment; and

(b) The individual does not belong to a grade or class of workers of which, immediately before the commencement of the strike or lockout, there were members employed at the premises at which the strike or lockout occurs, any of whom are participating in or financing or directly interested in the strike or lockout: PROVIDED, That if in any case separate branches of work which are commonly conducted as separate businesses in separate premises are conducted in separate departments of the same premises, each such department shall, for the purpose of this subdivision, be deemed to be a separate factory, establishment, or other premises.

(3) Any disqualification imposed under this section shall end when the strike or lockout is terminated. [1988 c 83 § 1; 1987 c 2 § 1; 1953 ex.s. c 8 § 12; 1945 c 35 § 77; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-215. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 3; 1941 c 253 § 3; 1939 c 214 § 3; 1937 c 162 § 5.]

**Labor dispute study—1988 c 83:** "(1) The department of employment security shall study and analyze the impact of section 1 of this act on the number of claimants receiving unemployment insurance benefits and the total amount of benefits paid, and on the type, frequency, duration, and outcome of labor disputes. In performing the study the department shall specifically address the impact of section 1(1)(b) of this act on the above subjects.

(2) In performing its duties under this section the department shall periodically convene meetings with representatives of labor and management, including but not limited to representatives of the following: A general business association; an organization broadly representing organized labor; the construction industry; construction industry organized labor; the trade industry; trade industry organized labor; the manufacturing industry; manufacturing industry organized labor; the service industry; service industry organized labor; the transportation industry; transportation industry organized labor; the communication industry; and communication industry organized labor.

(3) For the purpose of studying and analyzing the impact of section 1(1)(b) of this act the department shall periodically convene, in addition to those meetings specified in subsection (2) of this section, meetings with representatives of labor and management from industries with multi-employer bargaining units, including but not limited to representatives from a general business association; an organization broadly representing organized labor; the retail trade industry; and retail trade industry organized labor.

(4) The department shall report its findings to the governor, the senate economic development and labor committee, and the house of representatives commerce and labor committee, or the appropriate successor committees, by the commencement of the 1990 regular session of the legislature." [1988 c 83 § 2.] "Section 1 of this act" is the 1988 c 83 amendment to RCW 50.20.090.

**Effective date—1988 c 83:** "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 on the Sunday following the day on which the governor signs this act [March 20, 1988]." [1988 c 83 § 3.]

**Applicability—Effective date—1987 c 2:** "(1) This act shall apply retrospectively to all applicable employers and employees as of November 16, 1986.

(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 [February 20, 1987]." [1987 c 2 § 4.]

**Severability—1987 c 2:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1987 c 2 § 5.]

**50.20.095 Disqualification for attending school or institution of higher education.** Any individual registered at an established school in a course of study providing scholastic instruction of twelve or more hours per week, or the equivalent thereof, shall be disqualified from receiving benefits or waiting period credit for any week during the school term commencing with the first week of such scholastic instruction or the week of leaving employment to return to school, whichever is the earlier, and ending with the week immediately before the first full week in which the individual is no longer registered for twelve or more hours of scholastic instruction per week: PROVIDED, That registration for less than twelve hours will be for a period of sixty days or longer. The term "school" includes primary schools, secondary schools, and "institutions of higher education" as that phrase is defined in RCW 50.44.037.

This disqualification shall not apply to any individual who:

(1) Is in approved training within the meaning of RCW 50.20.043; or

(2) Demonstrates to the commissioner by a preponderance of the evidence his or her actual availability for work, and in arriving at this determination the commissioner shall consider the following factors:

(a) Prior work history;

(b) Scholastic history;

(c) Past and current labor market attachment; and

(d) Past and present efforts to seek work. [1980 c 74 § 4; 1977 ex.s. c 33 § 8.]

**Severability—1980 c 74:** See note following RCW 50.04.323.

**Effective dates—Construction—1977 ex.s. c 33:** See notes following RCW 50.04.030.

**50.20.098 Services performed by alien.** (1) Benefits shall not be paid on the basis of services performed by an alien unless the alien is an individual who was lawfully admitted for permanent residence, was lawfully present for purposes of performing such services, or otherwise was permanently residing in the United States under color of law at the time such services were performed, including an alien who was lawfully present in the United States as a result of the application of the provisions of 8 U.S.C. Sec. 1182(d)(5): PROVIDED, That any modifications to 26 U.S.C. Sec. 3304(a)(14) as provided by PL 94-566 which specify other conditions or other effective date than stated herein for the denial of benefits based on services performed by aliens and which modifications are required to be implemented under state law as a condition for full tax credit against the tax imposed by 26 U.S.C. Sec. 3301 shall be deemed applicable under this section.

(2) Any data or information required of individuals applying for benefits to determine whether benefits are not payable to them because of their alien status shall be uniformly required from all applicants for benefits.

(3) In the case of an individual whose application for benefits would otherwise be approved, no determination that benefits to the individual are not payable because of his or

her alien status shall be made except upon a preponderance of the evidence. [1993 c 58 § 2; 1989 c 92 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 292 § 10.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Effective date—1993 c 58:** See notes following RCW 50.04.165.

**Effective dates—1977 ex.s. c 292:** See note following RCW 50.04.116.

**50.20.100 Suitable work factors.** Suitable work for an individual is employment in an occupation in keeping with the individual's prior work experience, education, or training and if the individual has no prior work experience, special education, or training for employment available in the general area, then employment which the individual would have the physical and mental ability to perform, and for individuals with base year work experience in agricultural labor, any agricultural labor available from any employer shall be deemed suitable unless it meets the conditions in RCW 50.20.110 or the commissioner finds elements of specific work opportunity unsuitable for a particular individual. In determining whether work is suitable for an individual, the commissioner shall also consider the degree of risk involved to the individual's health, safety, and morals, the individual's physical fitness, the individual's length of unemployment and prospects for securing local work in the individual's customary occupation, the distance of the available work from the individual's residence, and such other factors as the commissioner may deem pertinent, including state and national emergencies. [1989 c 380 § 80; 1977 ex.s. c 33 § 6; 1973 1st ex.s. c 158 § 6; 1945 c 35 § 78; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-216.]

**Effective date—1989 c 380 §§ 78 through 81:** See note following RCW 50.04.150.

**Conflict with federal requirements—1989 c 380:** See note following RCW 50.04.150.

**Severability—1989 c 380:** See RCW 15.58.942 and 15.58.943.

**Effective dates—Construction—1977 ex.s. c 33:** See notes following RCW 50.04.030.

**Effective date—1973 1st ex.s. c 158:** See note following RCW 50.08.020.

**50.20.110 Suitable work exceptions.** Notwithstanding any other provisions of this title, no work shall be deemed to be suitable and benefits shall not be denied under this title to any otherwise eligible individual for refusing to accept new work under any of the following conditions:

(1) If the position offered is vacant due directly to a strike, lockout, or other labor dispute; or

(2) if the remuneration, hours, or other conditions of the work offered are substantially less favorable to the individual than those prevailing for similar work in the locality; or

(3) if as a condition of being employed the individual would be required by the employing unit to join a company union or to resign from or refrain from joining any bona fide labor organization. [1945 c 35 § 79; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-217.]

**50.20.113 Unemployment of sport or athletic event participant during period between sport seasons.** Benefits shall not be paid to any individual on the basis of any services, substantially all of which consist of participating in sports or athletic events or training or preparing to so

participate, for any week which commences during the period between two successive sport seasons (or similar periods) if the individual performed the services in the first of the seasons (or similar periods) and there is a reasonable assurance that the individual will perform the services in the latter of the seasons (or similar periods). [1977 ex.s. c 292 § 6.]

**Effective dates—1977 ex.s. c 292:** See note following RCW 50.04.116.

**50.20.115 Unemployment due to vacation.** When an unemployed individual is qualified for receipt of unemployment compensation benefits by the specific provisions of RCW 50.20.010, 50.20.120 and 50.20.130, and such individual is not specifically disqualified from receiving such benefits by reason of the provisions of RCW 50.20.090, 50.20.050, 50.20.060, 50.20.070 or 50.20.080, he shall, for all purposes of the unemployment compensation act, be deemed to be involuntarily unemployed and entitled to unemployment compensation benefits: PROVIDED, That the cessation of operations by an employer for the purpose of granting vacations, whether by union contract or other reasons, shall in no manner be construed to be a voluntary quit nor a voluntary unemployment on the part of the employees. [1983 c 3 § 158; 1951 c 265 § 12.]

**Severability—1951 c 265:** See note following RCW 50.98.070.

**50.20.117 Jury service.** No otherwise eligible individual shall be denied benefits for any week because he or she is serving as a prospective or impaneled juror in any court of this state. Compensation received for service as a juror shall not be considered wages subject to contributions under this title nor shall such compensation be considered in determining base-year wages, but it shall be considered remuneration for purposes of a deduction from benefits under RCW 50.20.130. [1979 ex.s. c 135 § 6.]

**Severability—1979 ex.s. c 135:** See note following RCW 2.36.080.

**50.20.118 Unemployment while in approved training.** (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, an otherwise eligible individual shall not be denied benefits for any week because he or she is in training approved under section 236(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, P.L. 93-618, nor may that individual be denied benefits for any such week by reason of leaving work which is not suitable employment to enter such training, or for failure to meet any requirement of federal or state law for any such week which relates to the individual's availability for work, active search for work, or refusal to accept work.

(2) For the purposes of this section, "suitable employment" means, with respect to an individual, work of a substantially equal or higher skill level than the individual's past adversely affected employment (as described for the purposes of the Trade Act of 1974, P.L. 93-618), if the wages for such work are not less than eighty percent of the individual's average weekly wage as determined for the purposes of the Trade Act of 1974, P.L. 93-618. [1982 1st ex.s. c 18 § 7.]

**Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1982 1st ex.s. c 18:** See notes following RCW 50.12.200.

**50.20.120 Amount of benefits.** (1) Subject to the other provisions of this title, benefits shall be payable to any eligible individual during the individual's benefit year in a maximum amount equal to the lesser of thirty times the weekly benefit amount (determined hereinafter) or one-third of the individual's base year wages under this title: PROVIDED, That as to any week beginning on and after March 31, 1981, which falls in an extended benefit period as defined in RCW 50.22.010(1), as now or hereafter amended, an individual's eligibility for maximum benefits in excess of twenty-six times his or her weekly benefit amount will be subject to the terms and conditions set forth in RCW 50.22.020, as now or hereafter amended.

(2) An individual's weekly benefit amount shall be an amount equal to one twenty-fifth of the average quarterly wages of the individual's total wages during the two quarters of the individual's base year in which such total wages were highest. The maximum and minimum amounts payable weekly shall be determined as of each June 30th to apply to benefit years beginning in the twelve-month period immediately following such June 30th. The maximum amount payable weekly shall be seventy percent of the "average weekly wage" for the calendar year preceding such June 30th. The minimum amount payable weekly shall be fifteen percent of the "average weekly wage" for the calendar year preceding such June 30th. If any weekly benefit, maximum benefit, or minimum benefit amount computed herein is not a multiple of one dollar, it shall be reduced to the next lower multiple of one dollar. [1993 c 483 § 12; 1984 c 205 § 1; 1983 1st ex.s. c 23 § 11; 1981 c 35 § 5; 1980 c 74 § 3; 1977 ex.s. c 33 § 7; 1970 ex.s. c 2 § 5; 1959 c 321 § 2; 1955 c 209 § 1; 1951 c 265 § 11; 1949 c 214 § 16; 1945 c 35 § 80; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9998-218. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 1; 1941 c 253 § 1; 1939 c 214 § 1; 1937 c 162 § 3.]

**Effective dates, applicability—Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—1993 c 483:** See notes following RCW 50.04.293.

**Conflict with federal requirements—1984 c 205:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements which are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements which are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal unemployment tax credits to employers in this state." [1984 c 205 § 11.]

**Severability—1984 c 205:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1984 c 205 § 12.]

**Effective dates—1984 c 205:** "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 [March 21, 1984], except as follows:

- (1) Sections 6 and 13 of this act shall take effect on January 1, 1985;
- (2) Section 7 of this act shall be effective for compensable weeks of unemployment beginning on or after January 6, 1985; and
- (3) Section 9 of this act shall take effect on July 1, 1985." [1984 c 205 § 14.] For codification of this act [1984 c 205], see Codification Tables, Volume 0.

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective dates—Construction—1983 1st ex.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 50.04.073.

**Construction—Effective dates—Severability—1981 c 35:** See notes following RCW 50.22.030.

**Severability—Effective dates—1980 c 74:** See notes following RCW 50.04.323.

**Effective dates—Construction—1977 ex.s. c 33:** See notes following RCW 50.04.030.

**Effective date—1970 ex.s. c 2:** See note following RCW 50.04.020.

**Effective date—1959 c 321:** See note following RCW 50.20.080.

**Severability—1951 c 265:** See note following RCW 50.98.070.

### **50.20.130 Deduction from weekly benefit amount.**

If an eligible individual is available for work for less than a full week, he shall be paid his weekly benefit amount reduced by one-seventh of such amount for each day that he is unavailable for work: PROVIDED, That if he is unavailable for work for three days or more of a week, he shall be considered unavailable for the entire week.

Each eligible individual who is unemployed in any week shall be paid with respect to such week a benefit in an amount equal to his weekly benefit amount less seventy-five percent of that part of the remuneration (if any) payable to him with respect to such week which is in excess of five dollars. Such benefit, if not a multiple of one dollar, shall be reduced to the next lower multiple of one dollar. [1983 1st ex.s. c 23 § 12; 1973 2nd ex.s. c 7 § 3; 1959 c 321 § 3; 1951 c 215 § 15; 1949 c 214 § 17; 1945 c 35 § 81; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9998-219. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 1; 1941 c 253 § 1; 1939 c 214 § 1; 1937 c 162 § 3.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective dates—Construction—1983 1st ex.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 50.04.073.

**Application—1973 2nd ex.s. c 7:** See note following RCW 50.04.310.

**Effective date—1959 c 321:** See note following RCW 50.20.080.

**50.20.140 Filing applications and claims—Scope of initial determination—"Application for initial determination", "claim for benefits", "claim for waiting period" defined.** An application for initial determination, a claim for waiting period, or a claim for benefits shall be filed in accordance with such regulations as the commissioner may prescribe. An application for an initial determination may be made by any individual whether unemployed or not. Each employer shall post and maintain printed statements of such regulations in places readily accessible to individuals in his employment and shall make available to each such individual at the time he becomes unemployed, a printed statement of such regulations and such notices, instructions and other material as the commissioner may by regulation prescribe. Such printed material shall be supplied by the commissioner to each employer without cost to him.

The term "application for initial determination" shall mean a request in writing for an initial determination. The term "claim for waiting period" shall mean a certification, after the close of a given week, that the requirements stated herein for eligibility for waiting period have been met. The term "claim for benefits" shall mean a certification, after the close of a given week, that the requirements stated herein for eligibility for receipt of benefits have been met.

A representative designated by the commissioner shall take the application for initial determination and for the claim for waiting period credits or for benefits. When an application for initial determination has been made, the employment security department shall promptly make an initial determination which shall be a statement of the applicant's base year wages, his weekly benefit amount, his maximum amount of benefits potentially payable and his



benefit year. Such determination shall fix the general conditions under which waiting period credit shall be granted and under which benefits shall be paid during any period of unemployment occurring within the benefit year fixed by such determination. [1951 c 215 § 4; 1945 c 35 § 82; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-220. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 4; 1941 c 253 § 4; 1939 c 214 § 4; 1937 c 162 § 6.]

**50.20.150 Notice of application or claim.** The applicant for initial determination, his most recent employing unit as stated by the applicant, and any other interested party which the commissioner by regulation prescribes, shall, if not previously notified within the same continuous period of unemployment, be given notice promptly in writing that an application for initial determination has been filed and such notice shall contain the reasons given by the applicant for his last separation from work. If, during his benefit year, the applicant becomes unemployed after having accepted subsequent work, and reports for the purpose of reestablishing his eligibility for benefits, a similar notice shall be given promptly to his then most recent employing unit as stated by him, or to any other interested party which the commissioner by regulation prescribes.

Each base year employer shall be promptly notified of the filing of any application for initial determination which may result in a charge to his account. [1970 ex.s. c 2 § 7; 1951 c 215 § 5; 1945 c 35 § 83; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-221. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 4; 1941 c 253 § 4; 1939 c 214 § 4; 1937 c 162 § 6.]

**Effective date—1970 ex.s. c 2:** See note following RCW 50.04.020.

**50.20.160 Redetermination.** (1) A determination of amount of benefits potentially payable issued pursuant to the provisions of RCW 50.20.120 and 50.20.140 shall not serve as a basis for appeal but shall be subject to request by the claimant for reconsideration and/or for redetermination by the commissioner at any time within one year from the date of delivery or mailing of such determination, or any redetermination thereof: PROVIDED, That in the absence of fraud or misrepresentation on the part of the claimant, any benefits paid prior to the date of any redetermination which reduces the amount of benefits payable shall not be subject to recovery under the provisions of RCW 50.20.190. A denial of a request to reconsider or a redetermination shall be furnished the claimant in writing and provide the basis for appeal under the provisions of RCW 50.32.020.

(2) A determination of denial of benefits issued under the provisions of RCW 50.20.180 shall become final, in absence of timely appeal therefrom: PROVIDED, That the commissioner may reconsider and redetermine such determinations at any time within one year from delivery or mailing to correct an error in identity, omission of fact, or misapplication of law with respect to the facts.

(3) A determination of allowance of benefits shall become final, in absence of a timely appeal therefrom: PROVIDED, That the commissioner may redetermine such allowance at any time within two years following the benefit year in which such allowance was made in order to recover any benefits improperly paid and for which recovery is provided under the provisions of RCW 50.20.190: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That in the absence of fraud,

misrepresentation, or nondisclosure, this provision or the provisions of RCW 50.20.190 shall not be construed so as to permit redetermination or recovery of an allowance of benefits which having been made after consideration of the provisions of RCW 50.20.010(3), or the provisions of RCW 50.20.050, 50.20.060, 50.20.080, or 50.20.090 has become final.

(4) A redetermination may be made at any time: (a) To conform to a final court decision applicable to either an initial determination or a determination of denial or allowance of benefits; (b) in the event of a back pay award or settlement affecting the allowance of benefits; or (c) in the case of fraud, misrepresentation, or willful nondisclosure. Written notice of any such redetermination shall be promptly given by mail or delivered to such interested parties as were notified of the initial determination or determination of denial or allowance of benefits and any new interested party or parties who, pursuant to such regulation as the commissioner may prescribe, would be an interested party. [1990 c 245 § 4; 1959 c 266 § 4; 1953 ex.s. c 8 § 13; 1951 c 215 § 6; 1945 c 35 § 84; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-222. Prior: 1941 c 253 § 4.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—1990 c 245:** See note following RCW 50.04.030.

**50.20.170 Payment of benefits.** An individual who has received an initial determination finding that he is potentially entitled to receive waiting period credit or benefits shall, during the benefit year, be given waiting period credit or be paid benefits in accordance with such initial determination for any week with respect to which the conditions of eligibility for such credit or benefits, as prescribed by this title, are met, unless the individual is denied waiting period credit or benefits under the disqualification provisions of this title.

All benefits shall be paid through employment offices in accordance with such regulations as the commissioner may prescribe. [1945 c 35 § 85; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-223. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 1; 1941 c 253 § 1; 1939 c 214 § 1; 1937 c 162 § 3.]

**50.20.180 Denial of benefits.** If waiting period credit or the payment of benefits shall be denied to any claimant for any week or weeks, the claimant and such other interested party as the commissioner by regulation prescribes shall be promptly issued written notice of the denial and the reasons therefor. In any case where the department is notified in accordance with such regulation as the commissioner prescribes or has reason to believe that the claimant's right to waiting period credit or benefits is in issue because of his separation from work for any reason other than lack of work, the department shall promptly issue a determination of allowance or denial of waiting period credit or benefits and the reasons therefor to the claimant, his most recent employing unit as stated by the claimant, and such other interested party as the commissioner by regulation prescribes. Notice that waiting period credit or benefits are allowed or denied shall suffice for the particular weeks stated in the notice or until the condition upon which the allowance or denial was based has been changed. [1951 c 215 § 7; 1945 c 38 § 86;

Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-224. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 4; 1941 c 253 § 4; 1939 c 214 § 4; 1937 c 162 § 6.]

**50.20.190 Recovery of benefit payments.** (1) An individual who is paid any amount as benefits under this title to which he or she is not entitled shall, unless otherwise relieved pursuant to this section, be liable for repayment of the amount overpaid. The department shall issue an overpayment assessment setting forth the reasons for and the amount of the overpayment. The amount assessed, to the extent not collected, may be deducted from any future benefits payable to the individual: PROVIDED, That in the absence of a back pay award, a settlement affecting the allowance of benefits, fraud, misrepresentation, or willful nondisclosure, every determination of liability shall be mailed or personally served not later than two years after the close of or final payment made on the individual's applicable benefit year for which the purported overpayment was made, whichever is later, unless the merits of the claim are subjected to administrative or judicial review in which event the period for serving the determination of liability shall be extended to allow service of the determination of liability during the six-month period following the final decision affecting the claim.

(2) The commissioner may waive an overpayment if the commissioner finds that said overpayment was not the result of fraud, misrepresentation, willful nondisclosure, or fault attributable to the individual and that the recovery thereof would be against equity and good conscience: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That the overpayment so waived shall be charged against the individual's applicable entitlement for the eligibility period containing the weeks to which the overpayment was attributed as though such benefits had been properly paid.

(3) Any assessment herein provided shall constitute a determination of liability from which an appeal may be had in the same manner and to the same extent as provided for appeals relating to determinations in respect to claims for benefits: PROVIDED, That an appeal from any determination covering overpayment only shall be deemed to be an appeal from the determination which was the basis for establishing the overpayment unless the merits involved in the issue set forth in such determination have already been heard and passed upon by the appeal tribunal. If no such appeal is taken to the appeal tribunal by the individual within thirty days of the delivery of the notice of determination of liability, or within thirty days of the mailing of the notice of determination, whichever is the earlier, said determination of liability shall be deemed conclusive and final. Whenever any such notice of determination of liability becomes conclusive and final, the commissioner, upon giving at least twenty days notice by certified mail return receipt requested to the individual's last known address of the intended action, may file with the superior court clerk of any county within the state a warrant in the amount of the notice of determination of liability plus a filing fee of five dollars. The clerk of the county where the warrant is filed shall immediately designate a superior court cause number for the warrant, and the clerk shall cause to be entered in the judgment docket under the superior court cause number assigned to the warrant, the name of the person(s) mentioned in the warrant,

the amount of the notice of determination of liability, and the date when the warrant was filed. The amount of the warrant as docketed shall become a lien upon the title to, and any interest in, all real and personal property of the person(s) against whom the warrant is issued, the same as a judgment in a civil case duly docketed in the office of such clerk. A warrant so docketed shall be sufficient to support the issuance of writs of execution and writs of garnishment in favor of the state in the manner provided by law for a civil judgment. A copy of the warrant shall be mailed to the person(s) mentioned in the warrant by certified mail to the person's last known address within five days of its filing with the clerk.

(4) On request of any agency which administers an employment security law of another state, the United States, or a foreign government and which has found in accordance with the provisions of such law that a claimant is liable to repay benefits received under such law, the commissioner may collect the amount of such benefits from the claimant to be refunded to the agency. In any case in which under this section a claimant is liable to repay any amount to the agency of another state, the United States, or a foreign government, such amounts may be collected without interest by civil action in the name of the commissioner acting as agent for such agency if the other state, the United States, or the foreign government extends such collection rights to the employment security department of the state of Washington, and provided that the court costs be paid by the governmental agency benefiting from such collection.

(5) Any employer who is a party to a back pay award or settlement due to loss of wages shall, within thirty days of the award or settlement, report to the department the amount of the award or settlement, the name and social security number of the recipient of the award or settlement, and the period for which it is awarded. When an individual has been awarded or receives back pay, for benefit purposes the amount of the back pay shall constitute wages paid in the period for which it was awarded. For contribution purposes, the back pay award or settlement shall constitute wages paid in the period in which it was actually paid. The following requirements shall also apply:

(a) The employer shall reduce the amount of the back pay award or settlement by an amount determined by the department based upon the amount of unemployment benefits received by the recipient of the award or settlement during the period for which the back pay award or settlement was awarded;

(b) The employer shall pay to the unemployment compensation fund, in a manner specified by the commissioner, an amount equal to the amount of such reduction;

(c) The employer shall also pay to the department any taxes due for unemployment insurance purposes on the entire amount of the back pay award or settlement notwithstanding any reduction made pursuant to (a) of this subsection;

(d) If the employer fails to reduce the amount of the back pay award or settlement as required in (a) of this subsection, the department shall issue an overpayment assessment against the recipient of the award or settlement in the amount that the back pay award or settlement should have been reduced; and

(e) If the employer fails to pay to the department an amount equal to the reduction as required in (b) of this

subsection, the department shall issue an assessment of liability against the employer which shall be collected pursuant to the procedures for collection of assessments provided herein and in RCW 50.24.110.

(6) When an individual fails to repay an overpayment assessment that is due and fails to arrange for satisfactory repayment terms, the commissioner shall impose an interest penalty of one percent per month of the outstanding balance. Interest shall accrue immediately on overpayments assessed pursuant to RCW 50.20.070 and shall be imposed when the assessment becomes final. For any other overpayment, interest shall accrue when the individual has missed two or more of their monthly payments either partially or in full. The interest penalty shall be used to fund detection and recovery of overpayment and collection activities. [1995 c 90 § 1; 1993 c 483 § 13; 1991 c 117 § 3; 1990 c 245 § 5; 1989 c 92 § 2; 1981 c 35 § 6; 1975 1st ex.s. c 228 § 3; 1973 1st ex.s. c 158 § 7; 1953 ex.s. c 8 § 14; 1951 c 215 § 8; 1947 c 215 § 18; 1945 c 35 § 87; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 9998-225. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 12; 1941 c 253 § 13; 1939 c 214 § 14; 1937 c 162 § 16.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—1995 c 90:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal unemployment tax credits to employers in this state." [1995 c 90 § 2.]

**Application—1995 c 90:** "This act applies to job separations occurring after July 1, 1995." [1995 c 90 § 3.]

**Effective date—1995 c 90:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately [April 18, 1995]." [1995 c 90 § 4.]

**Effective dates, applicability—Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—1993 c 483:** See notes following RCW 50.04.293.

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Effective dates—1991 c 117:** See notes following RCW 50.04.030.

**Conflict with federal requirements—1990 c 245:** See note following RCW 50.04.030.

**Severability—1981 c 35:** See note following RCW 50.22.030.

**Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 228:** See note following RCW 50.04.355.

**Effective date—1973 1st ex.s. c 158:** See note following RCW 50.08.020.

*Government or retirement pension plan payments as remuneration or wages—Recovery of excess over benefits allowable, limitations: RCW 50.04.323.*

**50.20.191 Authority to compromise benefit overpayments.** See RCW 50.24.020.

**50.20.192 Collection of benefit overpayments, limitation of actions.** See RCW 50.24.190.

**50.20.193 Chargeoff of uncollectible benefit overpayments.** See RCW 50.24.200.

**50.20.195 Assessed interest—Use.** All receipts from interest assessed against unemployment insurance claimants shall be deposited in the administrative contingency fund and

shall be used for the purpose of RCW 50.20.190(6). [1993 c 483 § 14.]

**Effective dates, applicability—Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—1993 c 483:** See notes following RCW 50.04.293.

**50.20.200 Nonliability of state.** Benefits shall be deemed to be due and payable under this title only to the extent provided in this title and to the extent that moneys are available therefor to the credit of the unemployment compensation fund, and neither the state nor the commissioner shall be liable for any amount in excess of such sums. [1945 c 35 § 88; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-226.]

**50.20.210 Notification of availability of basic health plan.** The commissioner shall notify any person filing a claim under this chapter who resides in a local area served by the Washington basic health plan of the availability of basic health care coverage to qualified enrollees in the Washington basic health plan under chapter 70.47 RCW, unless the Washington basic health plan administrator has notified the commissioner of a closure of enrollment in the area. The commissioner shall maintain a supply of Washington basic health plan enrollment application forms, which shall be provided in reasonably necessary quantities by the administrator, in each appropriate employment service office for the use of persons wishing to apply for enrollment in the Washington basic health plan. [1987 1st ex.s. c 5 § 16.]

**Severability—1987 1st ex.s. c 5:** See note following RCW 70.47.901.

**50.20.220 Federal income tax deduction and withholding—Notice—Rules.** (*Effective December 31, 1996.*) (1) An individual filing a new claim for unemployment insurance must, at the time of filing such claim, be advised that:

(a) Unemployment insurance is subject to federal income tax;

(b) Requirements exist pertaining to estimated tax payments;

(c) The individual may elect to have federal income tax deducted and withheld from the individual's payment of unemployment insurance at the amount specified in the federal internal revenue code; and

(d) The individual is permitted to change a previously elected withholding status.

(2) Amounts deducted and withheld from unemployment compensation must remain in the unemployment fund until transferred to the federal taxing authority as a payment of income tax.

(3) The commissioner shall follow all procedures specified by the United States department of labor and the federal internal revenue service pertaining to the deducting and withholding of income tax.

(4) The commissioner shall adopt rules to implement this section. Amounts shall be deducted and withheld in accordance with the priorities established in rules adopted by the commissioner. [1996 c 28 § 2.]

**Findings—1996 c 28:** "The legislature finds that:

(1) The unique federal and state partnership of the unemployment insurance program places a special responsibility on states, and selected Congressional legislation requires conforming legislation at the state level;

(2) The most recent conformity legislation requires states to offer employed workers the option of having the employment security department withhold federal income tax from unemployment insurance benefits;

(3) Unemployment benefits have been subject to income tax for several years, and voluntary withholding is a reasonable strategy some claimants will use to spread the payment of their federal income tax liability over several weeks or months rather than a single payment at income tax time; and

(4) Conformity with federal law supports the federal and state partnership and responds to the needs of this state's unemployed workers." [1996 c 28 § 1.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—1996 c 28:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal unemployment tax credits to employers in this state." [1996 c 28 § 3.]

**Severability—1996 c 28:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1996 c 28 § 4.]

**Effective date—Application—1996 c 28:** "This act shall take effect December 31, 1996, and shall apply to payments made after December 31, 1996." [1996 c 28 § 5.]

## Chapter 50.22

### EXTENDED BENEFITS

#### Sections

50.22.010	Definitions.
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50.22.060	Public announcement when extended benefit period becomes effective or is terminated—Computations of rate of insured unemployment.
50.22.090	Additional benefit period for rural natural resources impact areas—Eligibility—Training program—Rules.
50.22.105	Supplemental additional benefits—February 26, 1994, through December 31, 1995—Eligibility.

**50.22.010 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(1) "Extended benefit period" means a period which:

(a) Begins with the third week after a week for which there is an "on" indicator; and

(b) Ends with the third week after the first week for which there is an "off" indicator: PROVIDED, That no extended benefit period shall last for a period of less than thirteen consecutive weeks, and further that no extended benefit period may begin by reason of an "on" indicator before the fourteenth week after the close of a prior extended benefit period which was in effect with respect to this state.

(2) There is an "on" indicator for this state for a week if the commissioner determines, in accordance with the regulations of the United States secretary of labor, that for the period consisting of such week and the immediately preceding twelve weeks:

(a) The rate of insured unemployment, not seasonally adjusted, equaled or exceeded one hundred twenty percent of the average of such rates for the corresponding thirteen-week

period ending in each of the preceding two calendar years and equaled or exceeded five percent; or

(b) For benefits for weeks of unemployment beginning after March 6, 1993:

(i) The average rate of total unemployment, seasonally adjusted, as determined by the United States secretary of labor, for the period consisting of the most recent three months for which data for all states are published before the close of the week equals or exceeds six and one-half percent; and

(ii) The average rate of total unemployment in the state, seasonally adjusted, as determined by the United States secretary of labor, for the three-month period referred to in (b)(i) of this subsection, equals or exceeds one hundred ten percent of the average for either or both of the corresponding three-month periods ending in the two preceding calendar years.

(3) "High unemployment period" means any period of unemployment beginning after March 6, 1993, during which an extended benefit period would be in effect if:

(a) The average rate of total unemployment, seasonally adjusted, as determined by the United States secretary of labor, for the period consisting of the most recent three months for which data for all states are published before the close of the week equals or exceeds eight percent; and

(b) The average rate of total unemployment in the state, seasonally adjusted, as determined by the United States secretary of labor, for the three-month period referred to in (a) of this subsection, equals or exceeds one hundred ten percent of the average for either or both of the corresponding three-month periods ending in the two preceding calendar years.

(4) There is an "off" indicator for this state for a week only if, for the period consisting of such week and immediately preceding twelve weeks, none of the options specified in subsection (2) or (3) of this section result in an "on" indicator.

(5) "Regular benefits" means benefits payable to an individual under this title or under any state law (including benefits payable to federal civilian employees and to ex-servicemen pursuant to 5 U.S.C. chapter 85) other than extended benefits or additional benefits.

(6) "Extended benefits" means benefits payable for weeks of unemployment beginning in an extended benefit period to an individual under this title or under any state law (including benefits payable to federal civilian employees and to ex-servicemen pursuant to 5 U.S.C. chapter 85) other than regular or additional benefits.

(7) "Additional benefits" are benefits totally financed by the state and payable under this title to exhaustees by reason of conditions of high unemployment or by reason of other special factors.

(8) "Eligibility period" of an individual means the period consisting of the weeks in his or her benefit year which begin in an extended benefit period that is in effect in this state and, if his or her benefit year ends within such extended benefit period, any weeks thereafter which begin in such period.

(9) "Additional benefit eligibility period" of an individual means the period consisting of the weeks in his or her benefit year which begin in an additional benefit period that is in effect and, if his or her benefit year ends within such

additional benefit period, any weeks thereafter which begin in such period.

(10) "Exhaustee" means an individual who, with respect to any week of unemployment in his or her eligibility period:

(a) Has received, prior to such week, all of the regular benefits that were payable to him or her under this title or any other state law (including dependents' allowances and regular benefits payable to federal civilian employees and ex-servicemen under 5 U.S.C. chapter 85) in his or her current benefit year that includes such week; or

(b) Has received, prior to such week, all of the regular benefits that were available to him or her under this title or any other state law (including dependents' allowances and regular benefits available to federal civilian employees and ex-servicemen under 5 U.S.C. chapter 85) in his or her current benefit year that includes such week, after the cancellation of some or all of his or her wage credits or the total or partial reduction of his or her rights to regular benefits: PROVIDED, That, for the purposes of (a) and (b), an individual shall be deemed to have received in his or her current benefit year all of the regular benefits that were payable to him or her, or available to him or her, as the case may be, even though:

(i) As a result of a pending appeal with respect to wages or employment, or both, that were not included in the original monetary determination with respect to his or her current benefit year, he or she may subsequently be determined to be entitled to more regular benefits; or

(ii) By reason of the seasonal provisions of another state law, he or she is not entitled to regular benefits with respect to such week of unemployment (although he or she may be entitled to regular benefits with respect to future weeks of unemployment in the next season, as the case may be, in his or her current benefit year), and he or she is otherwise an exhaustee within the meaning of this section with respect to his or her right to regular benefits under such state law seasonal provisions during the season or off season in which that week of unemployment occurs; or

(iii) Having established a benefit year, no regular benefits are payable to him or her during such year because his or her wage credits were canceled or his or her right to regular benefits was totally reduced as the result of the application of a disqualification; or

(c) His or her benefit year having ended prior to such week, he or she has insufficient wages or employment, or both, on the basis of which he or she could establish in any state a new benefit year that would include such week, or having established a new benefit year that includes such week, he or she is precluded from receiving regular benefits by reason of the provision in RCW 50.04.030 which meets the requirement of section 3304(a)(7) of the Federal Unemployment Tax Act, or the similar provision in any other state law; and

(d)(i) Has no right for such week to unemployment benefits or allowances, as the case may be, under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, and such other federal laws as are specified in regulations issued by the United States secretary of labor; and

(ii) Has not received and is not seeking for such week unemployment benefits under the unemployment compensation law of Canada, unless the appropriate agency finally

determines that he or she is not entitled to unemployment benefits under such law for such week.

(11) "State law" means the unemployment insurance law of any state, approved by the United States secretary of labor under section 3304 of the internal revenue code of 1954. [1993 c 483 § 15; 1985 ex.s. c 5 § 10; 1983 c 1 § 1; 1982 1st ex.s. c 18 § 2; 1981 c 35 § 7; 1977 ex.s. c 292 § 11; 1973 c 73 § 7; 1971 c 1 § 2.]

**Effective dates, applicability—Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—1993 c 483:** See notes following RCW 50.04.293.

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—1985 ex.s. c 5:** See notes following RCW 50.62.010.

**Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1982 1st ex.s. c 18:** See notes following RCW 50.12.200.

**Severability—1981 c 35:** See note following RCW 50.22.030.

**Application—1977 ex.s. c 292:** "The provisions of section 11 of this 1977 amendatory act shall apply to the week ending May 21, 1977, and all weeks thereafter." [1977 ex.s. c 292 § 25.] This applies to the 1977 ex.s. c 292 § 11 amendment to RCW 50.22.010.

**Effective dates—1977 ex.s. c 292:** See note following RCW 50.04.116.

**Effective dates—1973 c 73:** See note following RCW 50.04.030.

**Emergency—Effective date—1971 c 1:** "This 1971 amendatory 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 on the Sunday following the day on which the governor signs this enactment [January 17, 1971]." [1971 c 1 § 11.]

**Repealer—Effect as to benefits—1971 c 1:** "Section 23, chapter 2, Laws of 1970 ex. sess. and RCW 50.20.127 are each hereby repealed. No benefits shall be paid pursuant to RCW 50.20.127 for weeks commencing on or after the effective date of this 1971 amendatory act." [1971 c 1 § 10.]

**50.22.020 Application of title provisions and commissioner's regulations—Eligibility for extended benefits.** When the result would not be inconsistent with the other provisions of this chapter, the provisions of this title and commissioner's regulations enacted pursuant thereto, which apply to claims for, or the payment of, regular benefits, shall apply to claims for, and the payment of, extended benefits: PROVIDED, That

(1) Payment of extended compensation under this chapter shall not be made to any individual for any week of unemployment in his or her eligibility period—

(a) During which he or she fails to accept any offer of suitable work (as defined in subsection (3) of this section) or fails to apply for any suitable work to which he or she was referred by the employment security department; or

(b) During which he or she fails to actively engage in seeking work.

(2) If any individual is ineligible for extended compensation for any week by reason of a failure described in subsections (1)(a) or (1)(b) of this section, the individual shall be ineligible to receive extended compensation for any week which begins during a period which—

(a) Begins with the week following the week in which such failure occurs; and

(b) Does not end until such individual has been employed during at least four weeks which begin after such failure and the total of the remuneration earned by the individual for being so employed is not less than the product of four multiplied by the individual's weekly benefit amount (as determined under RCW 50.20.120) for his or her benefit year.

(3) For purposes of this section, the term "suitable work" means, with respect to any individual, any work which is within such individual's capabilities and which does not involve conditions described in RCW 50.20.110: PROVIDED, That if the individual furnishes evidence satisfactory to the employment security department that such individual's prospects for obtaining work in his or her customary occupation within a reasonably short period are good, the determination of whether any work is suitable work with respect to such individual shall be made in accordance with RCW 50.20.100.

(4) Extended compensation shall not be denied under subsection (1)(a) of this section to any individual for any week by reason of a failure to accept an offer of, or apply for, suitable work if:

(a) The gross average weekly remuneration payable to such individual for the position does not exceed the sum of—

(i) The individual's weekly benefit amount (as determined under RCW 50.20.120) for his or her benefit year; plus

(ii) The amount (if any) of supplemental unemployment compensation benefits (as defined in section 501(c)(17)(D) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, 26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(17)(D)), payable to such individual for such week;

(b) The position was not offered to such individual in writing and was not listed with the employment security department;

(c) Such failure would not result in a denial of compensation under the provisions of RCW 50.20.080 and 50.20.100 to the extent such provisions are not inconsistent with the provisions of subsections (3) and (5) of this section; or

(d) The position pays wages less than the higher of—

(i) The minimum wage provided by section (6)(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, without regard to any exemption; or

(ii) Any applicable state or local minimum wage.

(5) For purposes of this section, an individual shall be treated as actively engaged in seeking work during any week if:

(a) The individual has engaged in a systematic and sustained effort to obtain work during such week; and

(b) The individual provides tangible evidence to the employment security department that he or she has engaged in such an effort during such week.

(6) The employment security department shall refer applicants for benefits under this chapter to any suitable work to which subsections (4)(a) through (4)(d) of this section would not apply.

(7) No provisions of this title which terminates a disqualification for voluntarily leaving employment, being discharged for misconduct, or refusing suitable employment shall apply for purposes of determining eligibility for extended compensation unless such termination is based upon employment subsequent to the date of such disqualification.

(8) The provisions of subsections (1) through (7) of this section shall apply with respect to weeks of unemployment beginning after March 31, 1981: PROVIDED HOWEVER, That the provisions of subsections (1) through (7) of this section shall not apply to those weeks of unemployment beginning after March 6, 1993, and before January 1, 1995.

[1993 c 483 § 16; 1993 c 58 § 3; 1981 c 35 § 8; 1971 c 1 § 3.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1993 c 58 § 3 and by 1993 c 483 § 16, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section pursuant to RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Effective dates, applicability—Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—1993 c 483:** See notes following RCW 50.04.293.

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Effective date—1993 c 58:** See notes following RCW 50.04.165.

**Construction—Effective dates—Severability—1981 c 35:** See notes following RCW 50.22.030.

**50.22.030 Extended benefit eligibility conditions—Interstate claim.** (1) An individual shall be eligible to receive extended benefits with respect to any week of unemployment in his or her eligibility period only if the commissioner finds with respect to such week that:

(a) The individual is an "exhaustee" as defined in RCW 50.22.010;

(b) He or she has satisfied the requirements of this title for the receipt of regular benefits that are applicable to individuals claiming extended benefits, including not being subject to a disqualification for the receipt of benefits; and

(c) He or she has earned wages in the applicable base year of at least:

(i) Forty times his or her weekly benefit amount; or

(ii) One and one-half times his or her insured wages in the calendar quarter of the base period in which the insured wages are the highest, for weeks of unemployment on or after July 3, 1992.

(2) An individual filing an interstate claim in any state under the interstate benefit payment plan shall not be eligible to receive extended benefits for any week beyond the first two weeks claimed for which extended benefits are payable unless an extended benefit period embracing such week is also in effect in the agent state. [1993 c 483 § 17; 1982 1st ex.s. c 18 § 4; 1981 c 35 § 9; 1971 c 1 § 4.]

**Effective dates, applicability—Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—1993 c 483:** See notes following RCW 50.04.293.

**Effective dates—1982 1st ex.s. c 18:** "Sections 2, 9[10], 10[11], 11[12], 16[17], and 17[18] of this act are 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 [April 2, 1982]. Section 4 of this act shall take effect on September 26, 1982." [1982 1st ex.s. c 18 § 23.] The bracketed section references in this section correct erroneous internal references which occurred during the engrossing process after a new section was added by amendment.

**Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1982 1st ex.s. c 18:** See notes following RCW 50.12.200.

**Construction—1981 c 35 §§ 3, 5, 8, and 9:** "Sections 3, 5, and 8 of this 1981 amendatory act are being enacted to comply with the provisions of Pub. L. 96-499. Ambiguities in those sections should be interpreted in accordance with provisions of that federal law. Section 9 of this 1981 amendatory act is enacted pursuant to Pub. L. 96-364. Any ambiguities in that section should be construed in accordance with that federal law." [1981 c 35 § 15.] For codification of 1981 c 35, see Codification Tables, Volume 0.

**Effective dates—1981 c 35 §§ 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, and 12:** "Sections 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, and 12 of this amendatory act are 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 [April 20, 1981]; section 9 of this amendatory 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 with weeks beginning on and after June 1, 1981." [1981 c 35 § 16.] For codification of 1981 c 35, see Codification Tables, Volume 0.

**Severability—1981 c 35:** "If any provision of this amendatory act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1981 c 35 § 17.]

**50.22.040 Weekly extended benefit amount.** The weekly extended benefit amount payable to an individual for a week of total unemployment in his eligibility period shall be an amount equal to the weekly benefit amount payable to him during his applicable benefit year. However, for those individuals whose eligibility period for extended benefits commences with weeks beginning after October 1, 1983, the weekly benefit amount, as computed in RCW 50.20.120(2) and payable under this section, if not a multiple of one dollar, shall be reduced to the next lower multiple of one dollar. [1983 1st ex.s. c 23 § 13; 1971 c 1 § 5.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective dates—Construction—1983 1st ex.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 50.04.073.

**50.22.050 Total extended benefit amount—Reduction.** (1) The total extended benefit amount payable to any eligible individual with respect to his or her applicable benefit year shall be the least of the following amounts:

(a) Fifty percent of the total amount of regular benefits which were payable to him or her under this title in his or her applicable benefit year;

(b) Thirteen times his or her weekly benefit amount which was payable to him or her under this title for a week of total unemployment in the applicable benefit year; or

(c) Thirty-nine times his or her weekly benefit amount which was payable to him or her under this title for a week of total unemployment in the applicable benefit year, reduced by the total amount of regular benefits which were paid (or deemed paid) to him or her under this title with respect to the benefit year.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, if the benefit year of any eligible individual ends within an extended benefit period, the extended benefits which the individual would otherwise be entitled to receive with respect to weeks of unemployment beginning after the end of the benefit year and within the extended benefit period shall be reduced (but not below zero) by the product of the number of weeks for which the individual received any amount as a trade readjustment allowance within that benefit year, multiplied by the individual's weekly extended benefit amount.

(3) Effective for weeks beginning in a high unemployment period as defined in RCW 50.22.010(3) the total extended benefit amount payable to any eligible individual with respect to his or her applicable benefit year shall be the least of the following amounts:

(a) Eighty percent of the total amount of regular benefits that were payable to him or her under this title in his or her applicable benefit year;

(b) Twenty times his or her weekly benefit amount that was payable to him or her under this title for a week of total unemployment in the applicable benefit year; or

(c) Forty-six times his or her weekly benefit amount that was payable to him or her under this title for a week of total unemployment in the applicable benefit year, reduced by the

total amount of regular benefits which were paid, or deemed paid, to him or her under this title with respect to the benefit year. [1993 c 483 § 18; 1982 1st ex.s. c 18 § 5; 1971 c 1 § 6.]

**Effective dates, applicability—Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—1993 c 483:** See notes following RCW 50.04.293.

**Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1982 1st ex.s. c 18:** See notes following RCW 50.12.200.

**50.22.060 Public announcement when extended benefit period becomes effective or is terminated—Computations of rate of insured unemployment.** (1) Whenever an extended benefit period is to become effective in this state (or in all states) as a result of an "on" indicator, or an extended benefit period is to be terminated in this state as a result of an "off" indicator, the commissioner shall make an appropriate public announcement.

(2) Computations required by the provisions of RCW 50.22.010(4) shall be made by the commissioner, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the United States secretary of labor. [1982 1st ex.s. c 18 § 3; 1971 c 1 § 7.]

**Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1982 1st ex.s. c 18:** See notes following RCW 50.12.200.

**50.22.090 Additional benefit period for rural natural resources impact areas—Eligibility—Training program—Rules.** (1) An additional benefit period is established for rural natural resources impact areas, defined in RCW 43.31.601, and determined by the office of financial management and the employment security department. Benefits shall be paid as provided in subsection (3) of this section to exhaustees eligible under subsection (4) of this section.

(2) The additional benefit period for a county may end no sooner than fifty-two weeks after the additional benefit period begins.

(3) Additional benefits shall be paid as follows:

(a) No new claims for additional benefits shall be accepted for weeks beginning after July 1, 1997, but for claims established on or before July 1, 1997, weeks of unemployment occurring after July 1, 1997, shall be compensated as provided in this section.

(b) The total additional benefit amount shall be one hundred four times the individual's weekly benefit amount, reduced by the total amount of regular benefits and extended benefits paid, or deemed paid, with respect to the benefit year. Additional benefits shall not be payable for weeks more than two years beyond the end of the benefit year of the regular claim for an individual whose benefit year ends on or after July 27, 1991, and shall not be payable for weeks ending on or after two years after March 26, 1992, for individuals who become eligible as a result of chapter 47, Laws of 1992.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of (b) of this subsection, individuals will be entitled to up to five additional weeks of benefits following the completion or termination of training.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of (b) of this subsection, individuals enrolled in prerequisite remedial education for a training program expected to last at least one year will be entitled to up to thirteen additional weeks of

benefits which shall not count toward the total in (b) of this subsection.

(e) The weekly benefit amount shall be calculated as specified in RCW 50.22.040.

(f) Benefits paid under this section shall be paid under the same terms and conditions as regular benefits. The additional benefit period shall be suspended with the start of an extended benefit period, or any totally federally funded benefit program, with eligibility criteria and benefits comparable to the program established by this section, and shall resume the first week following the end of the federal program.

(g) The amendments in chapter 316, Laws of 1993 affecting subsection (3) (b) and (c) of this section shall apply in the case of all individuals determined to be monetarily eligible under this section without regard to the date eligibility was determined.

(4) An additional benefit eligibility period is established for any exhaustee who:

(a)(i) At the time of last separation from employment, resided in or was employed in a rural natural resources impact area defined in RCW 43.31.601 and determined by the office of financial management and the employment security department; or

(ii) During his or her base year, earned wages in at least six hundred eighty hours in either the forest products industry, which shall be determined by the department but shall include the industries assigned the major group standard industrial classification codes "24" and "26" and the industries involved in the harvesting and management of logs, transportation of logs and wood products, processing of wood products, and the manufacturing and distribution of wood processing and logging equipment or the fishing industry assigned the standard industrial classification code "0912". The commissioner may adopt rules further interpreting the industries covered under this subsection. For the purposes of this subsection, "standard industrial classification code" means the code identified in RCW 50.29.025(6)(c); and

(b)(i) Has received notice of termination or layoff; and

(ii) Is unlikely to return to employment in his or her principal occupation or previous industry because of a diminishing demand within his or her labor market for his or her skills in the occupation or industry; and

(c)(i) Is notified by the department of the requirements of this section and develops an individual training program that is submitted to the commissioner for approval not later than sixty days after the individual is notified of the requirements of this section, and enters the approved training program not later than ninety days after the date of the individual's termination or layoff, or ninety days after July 1, 1991, whichever is later, unless the department determines that the training is not available during the ninety-day period, in which case the individual shall enter training as soon as it is available; or

(ii) Is enrolled in training approved under this section on a full-time basis and maintains satisfactory progress in the training.

(5) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Training program" means:

(i) A remedial education program determined to be necessary after counseling at the educational institution in

which the individual enrolls pursuant to his or her approved training program; or

(ii) A vocational training program at an educational institution that:

(A) Is training for a labor demand occupation; and

(B) Is likely to facilitate a substantial enhancement of the individual's marketable skills and earning power.

(b) "Educational institution" means an institution of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016 or an educational institution as defined in RCW 28C.04.410(3).

(c) "Training allowance or stipend" means discretionary use, cash-in-hand payments available to the individual to be used as the individual sees fit, but does not mean direct or indirect compensation for training costs, such as tuition or books and supplies.

(6) The commissioner shall adopt rules as necessary to implement this section.

(7) The provisions of RCW 50.22.010(10) shall not apply to anyone who establishes eligibility for additional benefits under this section and whose benefit year ends after January 1, 1994. These individuals will have the option of remaining on the original claim or filing a new claim. [1995 c 226 § 5; 1995 c 57 § 2; 1993 c 316 § 10; 1992 c 47 § 2; 1991 c 315 § 4.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1995 c 57 § 2 and by 1995 c 226 § 5, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section pursuant to RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Sunset Act application:** See note following RCW 43.31.601.

**Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—Effective date—1995 c 226:** See notes following RCW 43.31.601.

**Application—Effective date—1995 c 57:** See notes following RCW 50.16.094.

**Effective date—1993 c 316 § 10:** "Section 10 of this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately [May 12, 1993]." [1993 c 316 § 11.]

**Finding—1992 c 47:** "The legislature finds that the timber retraining benefits program as enacted in RCW 50.22.090 did not provide benefits to workers who were unemployed more than one year prior to its effective date. In order to provide benefits to these individuals, this act extends the benefits of the timber retraining benefits program to any eligible worker who filed an unemployment claim beginning on or after January 1, 1989." [1992 c 47 § 1.]

**Severability—1992 c 47:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1992 c 47 § 3.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—1992 c 47:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal unemployment tax credits to employers in this state." [1992 c 47 § 4.]

**Intent—1991 c 315:** See note following RCW 50.12.270.

**Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—Effective date—1991 c 315:** See RCW 50.70.900 through 50.70.902.

**50.22.105 Supplemental additional benefits—February 26, 1994, through December 31, 1995—Eligibility.** Supplemental additional benefits shall be available to individuals who, under this chapter, had a



balance of extended benefits available after payments up to and including the week ending February 26, 1994.

(1) Total supplemental additional benefits payable shall be equal to the extended benefit balance remaining after extended benefit payments for up to and including the week ending February 26, 1994, and shall be paid at the same weekly benefit amount.

(2) The week ending March 5, 1994, is the first week for which supplemental additional benefits are payable.

(3) Supplemental additional benefits shall be paid under the same terms and conditions as extended benefits.

(4) Supplemental additional benefits are not payable for weeks more than one year beyond the end of the benefit year of the regular claim.

(5) Weeks of supplemental additional benefits may not be paid for weeks that begin after the start of a new extended benefit period, or any totally federally funded benefit program with eligibility criteria and benefits comparable to additional benefits.

(6) Weeks of supplemental additional benefits may not be paid for weeks of unemployment beginning after December 31, 1995.

(7) The department shall seek federal funding to reimburse the state for the supplemental additional benefits paid under this section. Any federal funds received by the state for reimbursement shall be deposited in the unemployment trust fund solely for the payment of benefits under this title. [1994 c 3 § 3.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Effective dates—1994 c 3:** See notes following RCW 50.04.020.

## Chapter 50.24

### CONTRIBUTIONS BY EMPLOYERS

#### Sections

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50.24.210 Contributions due and payable upon termination or disposal of business—Successor liability.

**50.24.010 Payment of contributions—Amount of wages subject to tax—Wages paid by employers making payments in lieu of contributions not remuneration.** Contributions shall accrue and become payable by each employer (except employers as described in RCW 50.44.010 who have properly elected to make payments in lieu of contributions and those employers who are required to make payments in lieu of contributions) for each calendar year in which the employer is subject to this title at the rate established pursuant to chapter 50.29 RCW.

In each rate year, the amount of wages subject to tax for each individual shall be one hundred fifteen percent of the amount of wages subject to tax for the previous year rounded to the next lower one hundred dollars: PROVIDED, That the amount of wages subject to tax in any rate year shall not exceed eighty percent of the "average annual wage for contributions purposes" for the second preceding calendar year rounded to the next lower one hundred dollars: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the amount subject to tax shall be twelve thousand dollars for rate year 1984 and ten thousand dollars for rate year 1985.

In making computations under this section and RCW 50.29.010, wages paid based on services for employers making payments in lieu of contributions shall not be considered remuneration. Moneys paid from the fund, based on services performed for employers who make payments in lieu of contributions, which have not been reimbursed to the fund as of any June 30 shall be deemed an asset of the unemployment compensation fund, to the extent that such moneys exceed the amount of payments in lieu of contributions which the commissioner has previously determined to be uncollectible: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That the amount attributable to employment with the state shall also include interest as provided for in RCW 50.44.020.

Contributions shall become due and be paid by each employer to the treasurer for the unemployment compensation fund in accordance with such regulations as the commissioner may prescribe, and shall not be deducted, in whole or in part, from the remuneration of individuals in employment of the employer. Any deduction in violation of the provisions of this section shall be unlawful.

In the payment of any contributions, a fractional part of a cent shall be disregarded unless it amounts to one-half cent or more, in which case it shall be increased to one cent. [1984 c 205 § 2; 1977 ex.s. c 33 § 9; 1971 c 3 § 13; 1970 ex.s. c 2 § 8; 1949 c 214 § 18; 1945 c 35 § 89; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9998-227. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 5; 1941 c 253 § 5; 1939 c 214 § 5; 1937 c 162 § 7.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Effective dates—1984 c 205:** See notes following RCW 50.20.120.

**Effective dates—Construction—1977 ex.s. c 33:** See notes following RCW 50.04.030.

**Construction—Compliance with federal act—1971 c 3:** See RCW 50.44.080.

**Effective date—1970 ex.s. c 2:** See note following RCW 50.04.020.

**50.24.014 Financing special unemployment assistance—Account—Contributions.** (1)(a) A separate and identifiable account to provide for the financing of special

programs to assist the unemployed is established in the administrative contingency fund. Contributions to this account shall accrue and become payable by each employer, except employers as described in RCW 50.44.010 and 50.44.030 who have properly elected to make payments in lieu of contributions, taxable local government employers as described in RCW 50.44.035, and those employers who are required to make payments in lieu of contributions, at a basic rate of two one-hundredths of one percent. The amount of wages subject to tax shall be determined under RCW 50.24.010.

(b) For the first calendar quarter of 1994 only, the basic two one-hundredths of one percent contribution payable under (a) of this subsection shall be increased by one-hundredth of one percent to a total rate of three one-hundredths of one percent. The proceeds of this incremental one-hundredth of one percent shall be used solely for the purposes described in section 22, chapter 483, Laws of 1993, and for the purposes described in RCW 50.40.060. Any surplus from contributions payable under this subsection (b) will be deposited in the unemployment compensation trust fund.

(2)(a) Contributions under this section shall become due and be paid by each employer under rules as the commissioner may prescribe, and shall not be deducted, in whole or in part, from the remuneration of individuals in the employ of the employer. Any deduction in violation of this section is unlawful.

(b) In the payment of any contributions under this section, a fractional part of a cent shall be disregarded unless it amounts to one-half cent or more, in which case it shall be increased to one cent.

(3) If the commissioner determines that federal funding has been increased to provide financing for the services specified in chapter 50.62 RCW, the commissioner shall direct that collection of contributions under this section be terminated on the following January 1st. [1994 c 187 § 3; 1993 c 483 § 20; 1987 c 171 § 4; 1985 ex.s. c 5 § 8.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—1994 c 187:** See note following RCW 50.40.060.

**Effective dates, applicability—Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—1993 c 483:** See notes following RCW 50.04.293.

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—1987 c 171:** See notes following RCW 50.62.010.

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—1985 ex.s. c 5:** See notes following RCW 50.62.010.

**50.24.015 Wages—Deemed paid when contractually due.** For the purposes of liability for, collection of, and assessment of contributions, wages shall be deemed paid when such wages are contractually due but are unpaid because of the refusal or inability of the employer to make such payment. [1973 1st ex.s. c 158 § 19.]

**Effective date—1973 1st ex.s. c 158:** See note following RCW 50.08.020.

**50.24.018 Employment and training trust fund—Contributions.** Employment and training trust fund contributions to the employment and training trust fund shall accrue and become payable by each employer consistent with the tax schedule in RCW 50.29.025 as now existing or hereafter amended, except employers as described in RCW

50.44.010 and 50.44.030 who have properly elected to make payments in lieu of contributions, taxable local government employers as described in RCW 50.44.035, those employers who are required to make payments in lieu of contributions, and those qualified employers assigned rate class 20 under RCW 50.29.025 at the rate of twelve one-hundredths of one percent for rate years 1994, 1995, 1996, and 1997. The amount of wages subject to tax shall be determined under RCW 50.24.010. [1993 c 226 § 3.]

**Sunset Act application:** See note following RCW 50.12.261.

**Findings—1993 c 226:** "The legislature finds that:

(1) The economy of the state depends on a well-trained work force and a strong employment system. A well-trained work force generates the productivity employers need in order to compete in the global economy and to pay workers good wages. A strong employment and unemployment system ameliorates the negative impacts of unemployment and matches the needs of employers with individuals seeking employment.

(2) The legislature further finds that too many Washington workers are unemployed, many of whom need new or enhanced work force skills in order to meet current demand in the labor market. With the increasing pace of economic change, employees must become life-long learners who periodically obtain additional education and training. The state should provide unemployed workers a variety of effective services, including timely payment of unemployment benefits, job and career counseling, job referral services, and training.

(3) At the same time, too many employers report problems finding workers with the right skills. The state should provide employers with an effective training system and an efficient method for locating well-qualified workers.

Therefore, the legislature finds it necessary and in the public interest to create an employment and training trust fund in order to provide state funding for employment and training services." [1993 c 226 § 1.]

**Purpose—Intent—1993 c 226:** "It is the purpose of this act to reduce the amount paid by employers in the state to the unemployment compensation fund by twelve one-hundredths of one percent of taxable wages.

It is also the purpose of this act to establish a separate fund for training and employment services for dislocated workers. This fund shall consist of contributions of twelve one-hundredths of one percent of taxable wages.

It is the intent of the legislature that this act not result in any net increase in employer tax rates.

It is the further intent of the legislature that the employment security department and the state board for community and technical colleges shall work cooperatively to ensure expeditious training and placement of dislocated workers." [1993 c 226 § 2.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—1993 c 226:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal unemployment tax credits to employers in this state." [1993 c 226 § 21.]

**Severability—1993 c 226:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1993 c 226 § 22.]

**Application—1993 c 226:** "This act applies to tax rate years beginning with tax rate year 1994." [1993 c 226 § 23.]

**50.24.020 Authority to compromise.** The commissioner may compromise any claim for contributions, interest, or penalties, and any amount owed by an individual because of benefit overpayments, whether reduced to judgment or otherwise, existing or arising under this title in any case where collection of the full claim, in the case of contributions, interest, or penalties, would result in the insolvency of

the employing unit or individual from whom such contributions, interest, or penalties are claimed, and any case where collection of the full amount of benefit overpayments made to an individual, whether reduced to judgment or otherwise, would be against equity and good conscience.

Whenever a compromise is made by the commissioner in the case of a claim for contributions, interest, or penalties, there shall be placed on file in the office of the unemployment compensation division a statement of the amount of contributions, interest, and penalties imposed by law and claimed due, a complete record of the compromise agreement and the amount actually paid in accordance with the terms of the compromise agreement. Whenever a compromise is made by the commissioner in the case of a claim of a benefit overpayment, whether reduced to judgment or otherwise, there shall be placed on file in the office of the unemployment compensation division a statement of the amount of the benefit overpayment, attorneys' fees and costs, if any, a complete record of the compromise agreement and the amount actually paid in accordance with the terms of the compromise agreement.

If any such compromise is accepted by the commissioner, within such time as may be stated in the compromise or agreed to, such compromise shall be final and conclusive and except upon showing of fraud or malfeasance or misrepresentation of a material fact the case shall not be reopened as to the matters agreed upon. In any suit, action, or proceeding, such agreement or any determination, collection, payment, adjustment, refund, or credit made in accordance therewith shall not be annulled, modified, set aside, or disregarded. [1983 1st ex.s. c 23 § 14; 1955 c 286 § 5; 1945 c 35 § 90; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-228.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective dates—Construction—1983 1st ex.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 50.04.073.

**Effective date—1955 c 286:** "The provisions of section 5 of this act shall not become effective until the 3rd day of July, 1955." [1955 c 286 § 17.] This applies to RCW 50.24.020.

**50.24.030 Contributions erroneously paid to United States or another state.** Payments of contributions erroneously paid to an unemployment compensation fund of another state or to the United States government which should have been paid to this state and which thereafter shall be refunded by such other state or the United States government and paid by the employer to this state, shall be deemed to have been paid to this state and to have filed contribution reports thereon at the date of payment to the United States government or such other state. [1953 ex.s. c 8 § 15; 1949 c 214 § 19; 1945 c 35 § 91; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9998-229.]

**50.24.040 Interest on delinquent contributions.** If contributions are not paid on the date on which they are due and payable as prescribed by the commissioner, the whole or part thereof remaining unpaid shall bear interest at the rate of one percent per month or fraction thereof from and after such date until payment plus accrued interest is received by him. The date as of which payment of contributions, if mailed, is deemed to have been received may be determined by such regulations as the commissioner may prescribe. Interest collected pursuant to this section shall be paid into the administrative contingency fund. Interest shall not accrue on contributions from any estate in the hands of a

receiver, executor, administrator, trustee in bankruptcy, common law assignee or other liquidating officer subsequent to the date when such receiver, executor, administrator, trustee in bankruptcy, common law assignee or other liquidating officer qualifies as such, but contributions accruing with respect to employment of persons by any receiver, executor, administrator, trustee in bankruptcy, common law assignee or other liquidating officer shall become due and shall draw interest in the same manner as contributions due from other employers. Where adequate information has been furnished the department and the department has failed to act or has advised the employer of no liability or inability to decide the issue, interest may be waived. [1987 c 111 § 3; 1973 1st ex.s. c 158 § 8; 1953 ex.s. c 8 § 16; 1945 c 35 § 92; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-230. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 10; 1941 c 253 § 11.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Effective date—1987 c 111:** See notes following RCW 50.12.220.

**Effective date—1973 1st ex.s. c 158:** See note following RCW 50.08.020.

**50.24.050 Lien for contributions generally.** The claim of the employment security department for any contributions, interest, or penalties not paid when due, shall be a lien prior to all other liens or claims and on a parity with prior tax liens against all property and rights to property, whether real or personal, belonging to the employer. In order to avail itself of the lien hereby created, the department shall file with any county auditor where property of the employer is located a statement and claim of lien specifying the amount of delinquent contributions, interest, and penalties claimed by the department. From the time of filing for record, the amount required to be paid shall constitute a lien upon all property and rights to property, whether real or personal, in the county, owned by the employer or acquired by him. The lien shall not be valid against any purchaser, holder of a security interest, mechanic's lien, or judgment lien creditor until notice thereof has been filed with the county auditor. This lien shall be separate and apart from, and in addition to, any other lien or claim created by, or provided for in, this title. When any such notice of lien has been so filed, the commissioner may release the same by filing a certificate of release when it shall appear that the amount of delinquent contributions, interest, and penalties have been paid, or when such assurance of payment shall be made as the commissioner may deem to be adequate. Fees for filing and releasing the lien provided herein may be charged to the employer and may be collected from the employer utilizing the remedies provided in this title for the collection of contributions. [1981 c 302 § 39; 1979 ex.s. c 190 § 2; 1973 1st ex.s. c 158 § 9; 1947 c 215 § 19; 1945 c 35 § 93; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 9998-231. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 10; 1941 c 253 § 11; 1939 c 214 § 12; 1937 c 162 § 14.]

**Severability—1981 c 302:** See note following RCW 19.76.100.

**Effective date—1973 1st ex.s. c 158:** See note following RCW 50.08.020.

*Penalties for late reports or contributions:* RCW 50.12.220.

**50.24.060 Lien in event of insolvency or dissolution.** In the event of any distribution of an employer's assets pursuant to an order of any court, including any receivership,

probate, legal dissolution, or similar proceeding, or in case of any assignment for the benefit of creditors, composition, or similar proceeding, contributions, interest, or penalties then or thereafter due shall be a lien upon all the assets of such employer. Said lien will be prior to all other liens or claims except prior tax liens, other liens provided by this title, and claims for remuneration for services of not more than two hundred and fifty dollars to each claimant earned within six months of the commencement of the proceeding. The mere existence of a condition of insolvency or the institution of any judicial proceeding for legal dissolution or of any proceeding for distribution of assets shall cause such a lien to attach without action on behalf of the commissioner or the state. In the event of an employer's adjudication in bankruptcy, judicially confirmed extension proposal, or composition, under the federal bankruptcy act of 1898, as amended, contributions, interest, or penalties then or thereafter due shall be entitled to such priority as provided in that act, as amended. [1983 1st ex.s. c 23 § 15; 1945 c 35 § 94; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-232. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 10; 1941 c 253 § 11; 1939 c 214 § 12; 1937 c 162 § 14.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective dates—Construction—1983 1st ex.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 50.04.073.

**50.24.070 Order and notice of assessment.** At any time after the commissioner shall find that any contributions, interest, or penalties have become delinquent, the commissioner may issue an order and notice of assessment specifying the amount due, which order and notice of assessment shall be served upon the delinquent employer in the manner prescribed for the service of a summons in a civil action, or by certified mail to the last known address of the employer as shown by the records of the department. Failure of the employer to receive such notice or order whether served or mailed shall not release the employer from any tax, or any interest or penalties thereon. [1987 c 111 § 4; 1979 ex.s. c 190 § 3; 1945 c 35 § 95; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-233. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 10; 1941 c 253 § 11.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Effective date—1987 c 111:** See notes following RCW 50.12.220.

*Commencement of actions:* Chapter 4.28 RCW.

**50.24.080 Jeopardy assessment.** If the commissioner shall have reason to believe that an employer is insolvent or if any reason exists why the collection of any contributions accrued will be jeopardized by delaying collection, he may make an immediate assessment thereof and may proceed to enforce collection immediately, but interest and penalties shall not begin to accrue upon any contributions until the date when such contributions would normally have become delinquent. [1979 ex.s. c 190 § 4; 1945 c 35 § 96; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-234. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 10; 1941 c 253 § 11.]

**50.24.090 Distraint, seizure, and sale.** If the amount of contributions, interest, or penalties assessed by the commissioner by order and notice of assessment provided in this title is not paid within ten days after the service or mailing of the order and notice of assessment, the commissioner or his duly authorized representative may collect the amount stated in said assessment by the distraint, seizure,

and sale of the property, goods, chattels, and effects of said delinquent employer. There shall be exempt from distraint and sale under this section such goods and property as are exempt from execution under the laws of this state. [1979 ex.s. c 190 § 5; 1945 c 35 § 97; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-235. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 10; 1941 c 253 § 11.]

*Executions:* Chapter 6.17 RCW.

*Personal exemptions, generally:* Chapter 6.15 RCW.

**50.24.100 Distraint procedure.** The commissioner, upon making a distraint, shall seize the property and shall make an inventory of the property distrained, a copy of which shall be mailed to the owner of such property or personally delivered to him, and shall specify the time and place when said property shall be sold. A notice specifying the property to be sold and the time and place of sale shall be posted in at least two public places in the county wherein the seizure has been made. The time of sale shall be not less than ten nor more than twenty days from the date of posting of such notices. Said sale may be adjourned from time to time at the discretion of the commissioner, but not for a time to exceed in all sixty days. Said sale shall be conducted by the commissioner or his authorized representative who shall proceed to sell such property by parcel or by lot at a public auction, and who may set a minimum price to include the expenses of making a levy and of advertising the sale, and if the amount bid for such property at the sale is not equal to the minimum price so fixed, the commissioner or his representative may declare such property to be purchased by the employment security department for such minimum price. In such event the delinquent account shall be credited with the amount for which the property has been sold. Property acquired by the employment security department as herein prescribed may be sold by the commissioner or his representative at public or private sale, and the amount realized shall be placed in the unemployment compensation trust fund.

In all cases of sale, as aforesaid, the commissioner shall issue a bill of sale or a deed to the purchaser and said bill of sale or deed shall be prima facie evidence of the right of the commissioner to make such sale and conclusive evidence of the regularity of his proceeding in making the sale, and shall transfer to the purchaser all right, title, and interest of the delinquent employer in said property. The proceeds of any such sale, except in those cases wherein the property has been acquired by the employment security department, shall be first applied by the commissioner in satisfaction of the delinquent account, and out of any sum received in excess of the amount of delinquent contributions, interest, and penalties the administration fund shall be reimbursed for the costs of distraint and sale. Any excess which shall thereafter remain in the hands of the commissioner shall be refunded to the delinquent employer. Sums so refundable to a delinquent employer may be subject to seizure or distraint in the hands of the commissioner by any other taxing authority of the state or its political subdivisions. [1979 ex.s. c 190 § 6; 1949 c 214 § 20; 1945 c 35 § 98; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9998-236. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 10; 1941 c 253 § 11.]

**50.24.110 Notice and order to withhold and deliver.** The commissioner is hereby authorized to issue to any

person, firm, corporation, political subdivision, or department of the state, a notice and order to withhold and deliver property of any kind whatsoever when the commissioner has reason to believe that there is in the possession of such person, firm, corporation, political subdivision, or department, property which is due, owing, or belonging to any person, firm, or corporation upon whom the department has served a benefit overpayment assessment or a notice and order of assessment for unemployment compensation contributions, interest, or penalties. The effect of a notice to withhold and deliver shall be continuous from the date such notice and order to withhold and deliver is first made until the liability is satisfied or becomes unenforceable because of a lapse of time.

The notice and order to withhold and deliver shall be served by the sheriff or the sheriff's deputy of the county wherein the service is made, by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by any duly authorized representative of the commissioner. Any person, firm, corporation, political subdivision, or department upon whom service has been made is hereby required to answer the notice within twenty days exclusive of the day of service, under oath and in writing, and shall make true answers to the matters inquired of in the notice.

In the event there is in the possession of any such person, firm, corporation, political subdivision, or department, any property which may be subject to the claim of the employment security department of the state, such property shall be delivered forthwith to the commissioner or the commissioner's duly authorized representative upon demand to be held in trust by the commissioner for application on the indebtedness involved or for return, without interest, in accordance with final determination of liability or nonliability, or in the alternative, there shall be furnished a good and sufficient bond satisfactory to the commissioner conditioned upon final determination of liability.

Should any person, firm, or corporation fail to make answer to an order to withhold and deliver within the time prescribed herein, it shall be lawful for the court, after the time to answer such order has expired, to render judgment by default against such person, firm, or corporation for the full amount claimed by the commissioner in the notice to withhold and deliver, together with costs. [1990 c 245 § 6; 1987 c 111 § 5; 1979 ex.s. c 190 § 7; 1947 c 215 § 20; 1945 c 35 § 99; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 9998-237.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective dates—1990 c 245:** See notes following RCW 50.04.030.

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Effective date—1987 c 111:** See notes following RCW 50.12.220.

**50.24.115 Warrant—Authorized—Filing—Lien—Enforcement.** Whenever any order and notice of assessment or jeopardy assessment shall have become final in accordance with the provisions of this title the commissioner may file with the clerk of any county within the state a warrant in the amount of the notice of assessment plus interest, penalties, and a filing fee of five dollars. The clerk of the county wherein the warrant is filed shall immediately designate a superior court cause number for such warrant, and the clerk shall cause to be entered in the judgment docket under the superior court cause number assigned to the warrant, the name of the employer mentioned in the warrant,

the amount of the tax, interest, penalties, and filing fee and the date when such warrant was filed. The aggregate amount of such warrant as docketed shall become a lien upon the title to, and interest in all real and personal property of the employer against whom the warrant is issued, the same as a judgment in a civil case duly docketed in the office of such clerk. Such warrant so docketed shall be sufficient to support the issuance of writs of execution and writs of garnishment in favor of the state in the manner provided by law in the case of civil judgment, wholly or partially unsatisfied. The clerk of the court shall be entitled to a filing fee of five dollars, which shall be added to the amount of the warrant, and charged by the commissioner to the employer or employing unit. A copy of the warrant shall be mailed to the employer or employing unit by certified mail to his last known address within five days of filing with the clerk. [1983 1st ex.s. c 23 § 16; 1979 ex.s. c 190 § 8; 1975 1st ex.s. c 228 § 15.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective dates—Construction—1983 1st ex.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 50.04.073.

**Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 228:** See note following RCW 50.04.355.

**50.24.120 Collection by civil action.** (1) If after due notice, any employer defaults in any payment of contributions, interest, or penalties, the amount due may be collected by civil action in the name of the state, and the employer adjudged in default shall pay the cost of such action. Any lien created by this title may be foreclosed by decree of the court in any such action. Civil actions brought under this title to collect contributions, interest, or penalties from an employer shall be heard by the court at the earliest possible date and shall be entitled to preference upon the calendar of the court over all other civil actions except petitions for judicial review under this title and cases arising under the industrial insurance laws of this state.

(2) Any employing unit which is not a resident of this state and which exercises the privilege of having one or more individuals perform service for it within this state, and any resident employing unit which exercises that privilege and thereafter removes from this state, shall be deemed thereby to appoint the secretary of state as its agent and attorney for the acceptance of process in any action under this title. In instituting such an action against any such employing unit the commissioner shall cause such process or notice to be filed with the secretary of state and such service shall be sufficient service upon such employing unit, and shall be of the same force and validity as if served upon it personally within this state: PROVIDED, That the commissioner shall forthwith send notice of the service of such process or notice, together with a copy thereof, by registered mail, return receipt requested, to such employing unit at its last known address and such return receipt, the commissioner's affidavit of compliance with the provisions of this section, and a copy of the notice of service shall be appended to the original of the process filed in the court in which such action is pending.

(3) The courts of this state shall in the manner provided in subsections (1) and (2) of this section entertain actions to collect contributions, interest, or penalties for which liability has accrued under the employment security law of any other state or of the federal government. [1979 ex.s. c 190 § 9;

1959 c 266 § 5; 1953 ex.s. c 8 § 17; 1945 c 35 § 100; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-238. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 10.]

*Civil procedure: Title 4 RCW.*

*Industrial insurance: Title 51 RCW.*

**50.24.125 Collection by civil action—Collection of delinquent payments in lieu of contributions from political subdivisions or instrumentalities thereof.** Delinquent payments in lieu of contributions due the unemployment compensation fund and interest and penalties may be recovered from any of the political subdivisions of this state or any instrumentality of a political subdivision of this state by civil action. The governor is authorized to deduct the amount of delinquent payments in lieu of contributions and interest and penalties from any moneys payable by the state to said political subdivisions or instrumentalities and pay such moneys to the commissioner for deposit in the appropriate account. [1979 ex.s. c 190 § 10; 1971 c 3 § 15.]

**Construction—Compliance with federal act—1971 c 3:** See RCW 50.44.080.

**50.24.130 Contractor's and principal's liability for contributions—Exceptions.** No employing unit which contracts with or has under it any contractor or subcontractor who is an employer under the provisions of this title shall make any payment or advance to, or secure any credit for, such contractor or subcontractor or on account of any contract or contracts to which said employing unit is a party unless such contractor or subcontractor has paid contributions, due or to become due for wages paid or to be paid by such contractor or subcontractor for personal services performed pursuant to such contract or subcontract, or has furnished a good and sufficient bond acceptable to the commissioner for payment of contributions, interest, and penalties. Failure to comply with the provisions of this section shall render said employing unit directly liable for such contributions, interest, and penalties and the commissioner shall have all of the remedies of collection against said employing unit under the provisions of this title as though the services in question were performed directly for said employing unit.

For the purposes of this section, a contractor registered under chapter 18.27 RCW or licensed under chapter 19.28 RCW shall not be responsible for any contributions for the work of any subcontractor if:

(1) The subcontractor is currently engaging in a business which is registered under chapter 18.27 RCW or licensed under chapter 19.28 RCW;

(2) There is no other person, firm or corporation doing the same work at the same time on the same project except two or more persons, firms or corporations may contract and do the same work at the same time on the same project if each person, firm or corporation has employees;

(3) The subcontractor has a principal place of business which would be eligible for a business deduction for internal revenue service tax purposes other than that furnished by the contractor for which the business has contracted to furnish services;

(4) The subcontractor maintains a separate set of books or records that reflect all items of income and expenses of the business; and

(5) The subcontractor has contracted to perform:

(a) The work of a contractor as defined in RCW 18.27.010; or

(b) The work of installing wires or equipment to convey electric current or installing apparatus to be operated by such current as it pertains to the electrical industry as described in chapter 19.28 RCW. [1982 1st ex.s. c 18 § 15; 1979 ex.s. c 190 § 11; 1973 1st ex.s. c 158 § 10; 1949 c 214 § 21; 1945 c 35 § 101; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9998-239.]

**Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1982 1st ex.s. c 18:** See notes following RCW 50.12.200.

**Effective date—1973 1st ex.s. c 158:** See note following RCW 50.08.020.

*Purchasers of music or entertainment services, liability for unpaid contributions under RCW 50.24.130: RCW 50.04.148.*

**50.24.140 Collection remedies cumulative.** Remedies given to the state under this title for the collection of contributions, interest, or penalties shall be cumulative and no action taken by the commissioner or his duly authorized representative, the attorney general, or any other officer shall be construed to be an election on the part of the state or any of its officers to pursue any remedy to the exclusion of any other. [1979 ex.s. c 190 § 12; 1945 c 35 § 102; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-240. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 10.]

**50.24.150 Contribution adjustments and refunds.** No later than three years after the date on which any contributions, interest, or penalties have been paid, an employer who has paid such contributions, interest, or penalties may file with the commissioner a petition in writing for an adjustment thereof in connection with subsequent contribution payments or for a refund thereof when such adjustment cannot be made. If the commissioner upon an ex parte consideration shall determine that such contributions, interest, penalties, or portion thereof were erroneously collected, he shall allow such employer to make an adjustment thereof without interest in connection with subsequent contribution payments by him, or if such adjustment cannot be made, the commissioner shall refund said amount without interest from the unemployment compensation fund: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That after June 20, 1953, that refunds of interest on delinquent contributions or penalties shall be paid from the administrative contingency fund upon warrants issued by the treasurer under the direction of the commissioner. For like cause and within the same period, adjustment or refund may be made on the commissioner's own initiative. If the commissioner finds that upon ex parte consideration he cannot readily determine that such adjustment or refund should be allowed, he shall deny such application and notify the employer in writing. [1979 ex.s. c 190 § 13; 1953 ex.s. c 8 § 19; 1945 c 35 § 103; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-241. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 10; 1941 c 253 § 11.]

**50.24.160 Election of coverage.** Any employing unit for which services that do not constitute employment as defined in this title are performed may file with the commissioner a written election that all such services performed by any distinct class or group of individuals or by all individuals in its employ in one or more distinct establishments or

places of business shall be deemed to constitute employment for all the purposes of this title for not less than two calendar years. Upon the written approval of such election by the commissioner, such services shall be deemed to constitute employment subject to this title from and after the date stated in such approval. Services covered pursuant to this section shall cease to be deemed employment subject hereto as of January 1st of any calendar year subsequent to such two calendar years, only if the employing unit files with the commissioner prior to the fifteenth day of January of such year a written application for termination of coverage. [1977 ex.s. c 292 § 12; 1972 ex.s. c 35 § 1; 1971 c 3 § 14; 1959 c 266 § 6; 1951 c 265 § 8; 1951 c 215 § 9; 1945 c 35 § 104; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-242.]

**Effective dates—1977 ex.s. c 292:** See note following RCW 50.04.116.

**Construction—Compliance with federal act—1971 c 3:** See RCW 50.44.080.

**Severability—1951 c 265:** See note following RCW 50.98.070.

*Election of coverage for corporate officers:* RCW 50.04.165.

**50.24.170 Joint accounts.** The commissioner shall prescribe regulations for the establishment, maintenance, and dissolution of joint accounts by two or more employers, and shall, in accordance with such regulations and upon application by two or more employers to establish such account, or to merge their several individual accounts in a joint account, maintain such joint account as if it constituted a single employer's account. [1945 c 35 § 105; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-243. Prior: 1941 c 253 § 5.]

**50.24.180 Injunction proceedings.** Any employer who shall be delinquent in the payment of contributions, interest, or penalties may be enjoined upon the suit of the state of Washington from continuing in business in this state or employing persons herein until the delinquent contributions, interest, and penalties shall have been paid, or until the employer shall have furnished a good and sufficient bond in a sum equal to double the amount of contributions, interest, and penalties already delinquent, plus such further sum as the court shall deem adequate to protect the department in the collection of contributions, interest, and penalties which will become due from such employer during the next ensuing calendar year, said bond to be conditioned upon payment of all contributions, interest, and penalties due and owing within thirty days after the expiration of the next ensuing calendar year or at such earlier date as the court may fix.

Action pursuant to the provisions of this section may be instituted in the superior court of any county of the state wherein the employer resides, has its principal place of business, or where it has anyone performing services for it, whether or not such services constitute employment. [1979 ex.s. c 190 § 14; 1945 c 35 § 106; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 998-244. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 10; 1941 c 253 § 11.]

**50.24.190 Limitation of actions.** The commissioner shall commence action for the collection of contributions, interest, penalties, and benefit overpayments imposed by this title by assessment or suit within three years after a return is filed or notice of benefit overpayment is served. No

proceedings for the collection of such amounts shall be begun after the expiration of such period.

In case of a false or fraudulent return with intent to evade contributions, interest, or penalties, or in the event of a failure to file a return, the contributions, interest, and penalties may be assessed or a proceeding in court for the collection thereof may be begun at any time. [1979 ex.s. c 190 § 15; 1955 c 286 § 7. Prior: 1947 c 215 § 21, part; 1945 c 35 § 107, part; 1943 c 127 § 10, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 9998-245, part.]

**50.24.200 Chargeoff of uncollectible accounts.** The commissioner may charge off as uncollectible and no longer an asset of the unemployment compensation fund or the administrative contingency fund, as the case may be, any delinquent contributions, interest, penalties, credits, or benefit overpayments if the commissioner is satisfied that there are no cost-effective means of collecting the contributions, interest, penalties, credits, or benefit overpayments. [1989 c 78 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 190 § 16; 1955 c 286 § 8. Prior: 1947 c 215 § 21, part; 1945 c 35 § 107, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 9998-245, part.]

**50.24.210 Contributions due and payable upon termination or disposal of business—Successor liability.** Whenever any employer quits business, or sells out, exchanges, or otherwise disposes of the employer's business or stock of goods, any contributions payable under this title shall become immediately due and payable, and the employer shall, within ten days, make a return and pay the contributions due; and any person who becomes a successor to such business shall become liable for the full amount of the contributions and withhold from the purchase price a sum sufficient to pay any contributions due from the employer until such time as the employer produces a receipt from the employment security department showing payment in full of any contributions due or a certificate that no contribution is due and, if such contribution is not paid by the employer within ten days from the date of such sale, exchange, or disposal, the successor shall become liable for the payment of the full amount of contributions, and the payment thereof by such successor shall, to the extent thereof, be deemed a payment upon the purchase price, and if such payment is greater in amount than the purchase price the amount of the difference shall become a debt due such successor from the employer.

No successor may be liable for any contributions due from the person from whom that person has acquired a business or stock of goods if that person gives written notice to the employment security department of such acquisition and no assessment is issued by the department within one hundred eighty days of receipt of such notice against the former operator of the business and a copy thereof mailed to such successor. [1991 c 117 § 4.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Effective dates—1991 c 117:** See notes following RCW 50.04.030.

## Chapter 50.29

## EMPLOYER EXPERIENCE RATING

## Sections

- 50.29.010 Definitions.
- 50.29.020 Experience rating accounts—Enumeration of benefits not charged.
- 50.29.025 Contribution rate.
- 50.29.026 Modification of contribution rate.
- 50.29.027 Benefit ratio to be computed for rate year 1985 and thereafter.
- 50.29.030 "Wages" defined for purpose of prorating benefit charges.
- 50.29.062 Contribution rates for predecessor and successor employers.
- 50.29.065 Quarterly notice of benefits paid and benefits charged to base year employer's experience rating account.
- 50.29.070 Notice of employer benefit charges and rate of contribution—Request for review and redetermination—Petition for hearing upon denial—Further appeal.
- 50.29.080 Redetermination and correction of employer's contribution rate, when—Effect—Rights to further review and redetermination.
- 50.29.085 Combined contribution rate.

**50.29.010 Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

"Computation date" means July 1st of any year;

"Cut-off date" means September 30th next following the computation date;

"Qualification date" means April 1st of the third year preceding the computation date;

"Rate year" means the calendar year immediately following the computation date;

"Payroll" means all wages (as defined for contribution purposes) paid by an employer to individuals in his employment;

"Qualified employer" means any employer who (1) reported some employment in the twelve-month period beginning with the qualification date, (2) had no period of four or more consecutive calendar quarters for which he or she reported no employment in the two calendar years immediately preceding the computation date, and (3) has submitted by the cut-off date all reports, contributions, interest, and penalties required under this title for the period preceding the computation date. Unpaid contributions, interest, and penalties may be disregarded for the purposes of this section if they constitute less than either one hundred dollars or one-half of one percent of the employer's total tax reported for the twelve-month period immediately preceding the computation date. Late reports, contributions, penalties, or interest from employment defined under RCW 50.04.160 may be disregarded for the purposes of this section if showing is made to the satisfaction of the commissioner that an otherwise qualified employer acted in good faith and that forfeiture of qualification for a reduced contribution rate because of such delinquency would be inequitable. [1987 c 213 § 2; 1986 c 111 § 1; 1984 c 205 § 3; 1983 1st ex.s. c 23 § 17; 1973 1st ex.s. c 158 § 11; 1971 c 3 § 16; 1970 ex.s. c 2 § 10.]

**Construction—1987 c 213:** "This act shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired or liability or obligation incurred under the sections amended or repealed in this act, or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under those sections, nor as affecting any proceeding instituted thereunder." [1987 c 213 § 4.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—1986 c 111:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements which are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits,

the conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements which are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal unemployment tax credits to employers in this state." [1986 c 111 § 2.]

**Severability—1986 c 111:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1986 c 111 § 4.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Effective dates—1984 c 205:** See notes following RCW 50.20.120.

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective dates—Construction—1983 1st ex.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 50.04.073.

**Effective date—1973 1st ex.s. c 158:** See note following RCW 50.08.020.

**Construction—Compliance with federal act—1971 c 3:** See RCW 50.44.080.

**Effective date—1970 ex.s. c 2:** See note following RCW 50.04.020.

*Wages defined for contribution purposes: RCW 50.04.320.*

**50.29.020 Experience rating accounts—Enumeration of benefits not charged.** (1) An experience rating account shall be established and maintained for each employer, except employers as described in RCW 50.44.010 and 50.44.030 who have properly elected to make payments in lieu of contributions, taxable local government employers as described in RCW 50.44.035, and those employers who are required to make payments in lieu of contributions, based on existing records of the employment security department. Benefits paid to any eligible individuals shall be charged to the experience rating accounts of each of such individual's employers during the individual's base year in the same ratio that the wages paid by each employer to the individual during the base year bear to the wages paid by all employers to that individual during that base year, except as otherwise provided in this section.

(2) The legislature finds that certain benefit payments, in whole or in part, should not be charged to the experience rating accounts of employers except those employers described in RCW 50.44.010 and 50.44.030 who have properly elected to make payments in lieu of contributions, taxable local government employers described in RCW 50.44.035, and those employers who are required to make payments in lieu of contributions, as follows:

(a) Benefits paid to any individuals later determined to be ineligible shall not be charged to the experience rating account of any contribution paying employer.

(b) Benefits paid to an individual filing under the provisions of chapter 50.06 RCW shall not be charged to the experience rating account of any contribution paying employer only if:

(i) The individual files under RCW 50.06.020(1) after receiving crime victims' compensation for a disability resulting from a nonwork-related occurrence; or

(ii) The individual files under RCW 50.06.020(2).

(c) Benefits paid which represent the state's share of benefits payable under chapter 50.22 RCW shall not be charged to the experience rating account of any contribution paying employer.

(d) In the case of individuals who requalify for benefits under RCW 50.20.050 or 50.20.060, benefits based on wage credits earned prior to the disqualifying separation shall not



be charged to the experience rating account of the contribution paying employer from whom that separation took place.

(e) In the case of individuals identified under RCW 50.20.015, benefits paid with respect to a calendar quarter, which exceed the total amount of wages earned in the state of Washington in the higher of two corresponding calendar quarters included within the individual's determination period, as defined in RCW 50.20.015, shall not be charged to the experience rating account of any contribution paying employer.

(3)(a) Beginning July 1, 1985, a contribution-paying base year employer, not otherwise eligible for relief of charges for benefits under this section, may receive such relief if the benefit charges result from payment to an individual who:

(i) Last left the employ of such employer voluntarily for reasons not attributable to the employer;

(ii) Was discharged for misconduct connected with his or her work not a result of inability to meet the minimum job requirements;

(iii) Is unemployed as a result of closure or severe curtailment of operation at the employer's plant, building, work site, or other facility. This closure must be for reasons directly attributable to a catastrophic occurrence such as fire, flood, or other natural disaster; or

(iv) Continues to be employed on a regularly scheduled permanent part-time basis by a base year employer and who at some time during the base year was concurrently employed and subsequently separated from at least one other base year employer. Benefit charge relief ceases when the employment relationship between the employer requesting relief and the claimant is terminated. This subsection does not apply to shared work employers under chapter 50.60 RCW.

(b) The employer requesting relief of charges under this subsection must request relief in writing within thirty days following mailing to the last known address of the notification of the valid initial determination of such claim, stating the date and reason for the separation or the circumstances of continued employment. The commissioner, upon investigation of the request, shall determine whether relief should be granted. [1995 c 57 § 3; 1993 c 483 § 19; 1991 c 129 § 1; 1988 c 27 § 1. Prior: 1987 c 213 § 3; 1987 c 2 § 2; prior: 1985 c 299 § 1; 1985 c 270 § 2; 1985 c 42 § 1; 1984 c 205 § 7; 1975 1st ex.s. c 228 § 6; 1970 ex.s. c 2 § 11.]

**Application—Effective date—1995 c 57:** See notes following RCW 50.16.094.

**Effective dates, applicability—Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—1993 c 483:** See notes following RCW 50.04.293.

**Conflict with federal requirements—1988 c 27:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements which are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state, the conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements which are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state." [1988 c 27 § 2.]

**Construction—1987 c 213:** See note following RCW 50.29.010.

**Applicability—Effective date—Severability—1987 c 2:** See notes following RCW 50.20.090.

**Conflict with federal requirements—1985 c 42:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements which are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits,

the conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements which are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal unemployment tax credits to employers in this state." [1985 c 42 § 2.]

**Severability—1985 c 42:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1985 c 42 § 3.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Effective dates—1984 c 205:** See notes following RCW 50.20.120.

**Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 228:** See note following RCW 50.04.355.

**Effective date—1970 ex.s. c 2:** See note following RCW 50.04.020. "Determination period" defined for purposes of RCW 50.29.020: RCW 50.20.015.

**50.29.025 Contribution rate. (Effective until January 1, 1998.)** The contribution rate for each employer shall be determined under this section.

(1) A fund balance ratio shall be determined by dividing the balance in the unemployment compensation fund as of the June 30th immediately preceding the rate year by the total remuneration paid by all employers subject to contributions during the second calendar year preceding the rate year and reported to the department by the following March 31st. The division shall be carried to the fourth decimal place with the remaining fraction, if any, disregarded. The fund balance ratio shall be expressed as a percentage.

(2) The interval of the fund balance ratio, expressed as a percentage, shall determine which tax schedule in subsection (5) of this section shall be in effect for assigning tax rates for the rate year except that during rate year 1995 tax schedule AA shall be in effect. The intervals for determining the effective tax schedule shall be:

Interval of the Fund Balance Ratio Expressed as a Percentage	Effective Tax Schedule
2.90 and above	AA
2.50 to 2.89	A
2.10 to 2.49	B
1.70 to 2.09	C
1.30 to 1.69	D
1.00 to 1.29	E
Less than 1.00	F

(3) An array shall be prepared, listing all qualified employers in ascending order of their benefit ratios. The array shall show for each qualified employer: (a) Identification number; (b) benefit ratio; (c) taxable payrolls for the four calendar quarters immediately preceding the computation date and reported to the department by the cut-off date; (d) a cumulative total of taxable payrolls consisting of the employer's taxable payroll plus the taxable payrolls of all other employers preceding him or her in the array; and (e) the percentage equivalent of the cumulative total of taxable payrolls.

(4) Each employer in the array shall be assigned to one of twenty rate classes according to the percentage intervals of cumulative taxable payrolls set forth in subsection (5) of this section: PROVIDED, That if an employer's taxable payroll falls within two or more rate classes, the employer

and any other employer with the same benefit ratio shall be assigned to the lowest rate class which includes any portion of the employer's taxable payroll.

(5) The contribution rate for each employer in the array shall be the rate specified in the following table for the rate class to which he or she has been assigned, as determined under subsection (4) of this section, within the tax schedule which is to be in effect during the rate year:

Percent of Cumulative Taxable Payrolls			Schedule of Contribution Rates for Effective Tax Schedule							
From	To	Rate Class	AA	A	B	C	D	E	F	
0.00	5.00	1	0.36	0.36	0.46	0.86	1.36	1.76	2.36	
5.01	10.00	2	0.36	0.36	0.66	1.06	1.56	1.96	2.56	
10.01	15.00	3	0.46	0.46	0.86	1.26	1.66	2.16	2.76	
15.01	20.00	4	0.46	0.66	1.06	1.46	1.86	2.36	2.96	
20.01	25.00	5	0.66	0.86	1.26	1.66	2.06	2.56	3.06	
25.01	30.00	6	0.86	1.06	1.46	1.86	2.26	2.66	3.16	
30.01	35.00	7	0.96	1.26	1.66	2.06	2.46	2.86	3.26	
35.01	40.00	8	1.16	1.46	1.86	2.26	2.66	3.06	3.46	
40.01	45.00	9	1.36	1.66	2.06	2.46	2.86	3.26	3.66	
45.01	50.00	10	1.56	1.86	2.26	2.66	3.06	3.46	3.86	
50.01	55.00	11	1.86	2.16	2.46	2.86	3.26	3.66	3.96	
55.01	60.00	12	2.06	2.36	2.66	3.06	3.46	3.86	4.16	
60.01	65.00	13	2.26	2.56	2.86	3.26	3.66	4.06	4.36	
65.01	70.00	14	2.46	2.76	3.06	3.46	3.86	4.26	4.56	
70.01	75.00	15	2.76	2.96	3.26	3.66	4.06	4.46	4.66	
75.01	80.00	16	2.96	3.16	3.46	3.86	4.26	4.56	4.76	
80.01	85.00	17	3.16	3.36	3.66	4.06	4.46	4.76	4.86	
85.01	90.00	18	3.56	3.76	4.06	4.46	4.76	4.86	5.06	
90.01	95.00	19	3.96	4.16	4.46	4.86	4.96	5.06	5.26	
95.01	100.00	20	5.40	5.40	5.40	5.40	5.40	5.40	5.40	

(6) The contribution rate for each employer not qualified to be in the array shall be as follows:

(a) Employers who do not meet the definition of "qualified employer" by reason of failure to pay contributions when due shall be assigned the contribution rate of five and six-tenths percent, except employers who have an approved agency-deferred payment contract by September 30 of the previous rate year. If any employer with an approved agency-deferred payment contract fails to make any one of the succeeding deferred payments or fails to submit any succeeding tax report and payment in a timely manner, the employer's tax rate shall immediately revert to five and six-tenths percent for the current rate year;

(b) The contribution rate for employers exempt as of December 31, 1989, who are newly covered under the section 78, chapter 380, Laws of 1989 amendment to RCW 50.04.150 and not yet qualified to be in the array shall be 2.5 percent for employers whose standard industrial code is "013", "016", "017", "018", "019", "021", or "081"; and

(c) For all other employers not qualified to be in the array, the contribution rate shall be a rate equal to the average industry rate as determined by the commissioner; however, the rate may not be less than one percent. Assignment of employers by the commissioner to industrial classification, for purposes of this subsection, shall be in accordance with established classification practices found in the "Standard Industrial Classification Manual" issued by the federal office of management and budget to the third digit provided in the Standard Industrial Classification code. [1995 c 4 § 1. Prior: 1993 c 483 § 21; 1993 c 226 § 13;

1990 c 245 § 7; 1989 c 380 § 79; 1987 c 171 § 3; 1985 ex.s. c 5 § 7; 1984 c 205 § 5.]

**Effective dates—1995 c 4:** "(1) Section 1 of this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately [March 16, 1995].

(2) Section 2 of this act shall take effect January 1, 1998." [1995 c 4 § 4.]

**Expiration date—1995 c 4 § 1:** "Section 1 of this act shall expire January 1, 1998." [1995 c 4 § 5.]

**Effective dates, applicability—Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—1993 c 483:** See notes following RCW 50.04.293.

**Elevation of employer contribution rates—Report by commissioner—1993 c 226:** "Prior to any increase in the employer tax schedule as provided in section 13, chapter 226, Laws of 1993, the commissioner shall provide a report to the appropriate committees of the legislature specifying to what extent the work force training expenditures in chapter 226, Laws of 1993 elevated employer contribution rates for the effective tax schedule." [1993 c 226 § 16.]

**Findings—Purpose, intent—Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Application—1993 c 226:** See notes following RCW 50.24.018.

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective dates—1990 c 245:** See notes following RCW 50.04.030.

**Effective date—1989 c 380 §§ 78 through 81:** See note following RCW 50.04.150.

**Conflict with federal requirements—1989 c 380:** See note following RCW 50.04.150.

**Severability—1989 c 380:** See RCW 15.58.942.

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—1987 c 171:** See notes following RCW 50.62.010.

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—1985 ex.s. c 5:** See notes following RCW 50.62.010.

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Effective dates—1984 c 205:** See notes following RCW 50.20.120.

**50.29.025 Contribution rate. (Effective January 1, 1998.)** The contribution rate for each employer shall be determined under this section.

(1) A fund balance ratio shall be determined by dividing the balance in the unemployment compensation fund as of the June 30th immediately preceding the rate year by the total remuneration paid by all employers subject to contributions during the second calendar year preceding the rate year and reported to the department by the following March 31st. The division shall be carried to the fourth decimal place with the remaining fraction, if any, disregarded. The fund balance ratio shall be expressed as a percentage.

(2) The interval of the fund balance ratio, expressed as a percentage, shall determine which tax schedule in subsection (5) of this section shall be in effect for assigning tax rates for the rate year. The intervals for determining the effective tax schedule shall be:

Interval of the Fund Balance Ratio Expressed as a Percentage	Effective Tax Schedule
2.90 and above	AA
2.50 to 2.89	A
2.10 to 2.49	B
1.70 to 2.09	C
1.30 to 1.69	D
1.00 to 1.29	E
Less than 1.00	F

(3) An array shall be prepared, listing all qualified employers in ascending order of their benefit ratios. The array shall show for each qualified employer: (a) Identification number; (b) benefit ratio; (c) taxable payrolls for the four calendar quarters immediately preceding the computation date and reported to the department by the cut-off date; (d) a cumulative total of taxable payrolls consisting of the employer's taxable payroll plus the taxable payrolls of all other employers preceding him or her in the array; and (e) the percentage equivalent of the cumulative total of taxable payrolls.

(4) Each employer in the array shall be assigned to one of twenty rate classes according to the percentage intervals of cumulative taxable payrolls set forth in subsection (5) of this section: PROVIDED, That if an employer's taxable payroll falls within two or more rate classes, the employer and any other employer with the same benefit ratio shall be assigned to the lowest rate class which includes any portion of the employer's taxable payroll.

(5) The contribution rate for each employer in the array shall be the rate specified in the following tables for the rate class to which he or she has been assigned, as determined under subsection (4) of this section, within the tax schedule which is to be in effect during the rate year:

Percent of Cumulative Taxable Payrolls			Schedules of Contributions Rates for Effective Tax Schedule						
From	To	Rate Class	AA	A	B	C	D	E	F
0.00	5.00	1	0.48	0.48	0.58	0.98	1.48	1.88	2.48
5.01	10.00	2	0.48	0.48	0.78	1.18	1.68	2.08	2.68
10.01	15.00	3	0.58	0.58	0.98	1.38	1.78	2.28	2.88
15.01	20.00	4	0.58	0.78	1.18	1.58	1.98	2.48	3.08
20.01	25.00	5	0.78	0.98	1.38	1.78	2.18	2.68	3.18
25.01	30.00	6	0.98	1.18	1.58	1.98	2.38	2.78	3.28
30.01	35.00	7	1.08	1.38	1.78	2.18	2.58	2.98	3.38
35.01	40.00	8	1.28	1.58	1.98	2.38	2.78	3.18	3.58
40.01	45.00	9	1.48	1.78	2.18	2.58	2.98	3.38	3.78
45.01	50.00	10	1.68	1.98	2.38	2.78	3.18	3.58	3.98
50.01	55.00	11	1.98	2.28	2.58	2.98	3.38	3.78	4.08
55.01	60.00	12	2.18	2.48	2.78	3.18	3.58	3.98	4.28
60.01	65.00	13	2.38	2.68	2.98	3.38	3.78	4.18	4.48
65.01	70.00	14	2.58	2.88	3.18	3.58	3.98	4.38	4.68
70.01	75.00	15	2.88	3.08	3.38	3.78	4.18	4.58	4.78
75.01	80.00	16	3.08	3.28	3.58	3.98	4.38	4.68	4.88
80.01	85.00	17	3.28	3.48	3.78	4.18	4.58	4.88	4.98
85.01	90.00	18	3.68	3.88	4.18	4.58	4.88	4.98	5.18
90.01	95.00	19	4.08	4.28	4.58	4.98	5.08	5.18	5.38
95.01	100.00	20	5.40	5.40	5.40	5.40	5.40	5.40	5.40

(6) The contribution rate for each employer not qualified to be in the array shall be as follows:

(a) Employers who do not meet the definition of "qualified employer" by reason of failure to pay contributions when due shall be assigned the contribution rate of five and six-tenths percent, except employers who have an approved agency-deferred payment contract by September 30 of the previous rate year. If any employer with an approved agency-deferred payment contract fails to make any one of the succeeding deferred payments or fails to submit any succeeding tax report and payment in a timely manner, the employer's tax rate shall immediately revert to five and six-tenths percent for the current rate year;

(b) The contribution rate for employers exempt as of December 31, 1989, who are newly covered under the

section 78, chapter 380, Laws of 1989 amendment to RCW 50.04.150 and not yet qualified to be in the array shall be 2.5 percent for employers whose standard industrial code is "013", "016", "017", "018", "019", "021", or "081"; and

(c) For all other employers not qualified to be in the array, the contribution rate shall be a rate equal to the average industry rate as determined by the commissioner; however, the rate may not be less than one percent. Assignment of employers by the commissioner to industrial classification, for purposes of this subsection, shall be in accordance with established classification practices found in the "Standard Industrial Classification Manual" issued by the federal office of management and budget to the third digit provided in the Standard Industrial Classification code. [1995 c 4 § 2. Prior: 1993 c 483 § 21; 1993 c 226 § 14; 1993 c 226 § 13; 1990 c 245 § 7; 1989 c 380 § 79; 1987 c 171 § 3; 1985 ex.s. c 5 § 7; 1984 c 205 § 5.]

**Effective dates—1995 c 4:** See note following RCW 50.29.025.

**Effective dates, applicability—Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—1993 c 483:** See notes following RCW 50.04.293.

**Elevation of employer contribution rates—Report by commissioner—1993 c 226:** "Prior to any increase in the employer tax schedule as provided in section 13, chapter 226, Laws of 1993, the commissioner shall provide a report to the appropriate committees of the legislature specifying to what extent the work force training expenditures in chapter 226, Laws of 1993 elevated employer contribution rates for the effective tax schedule." [1993 c 226 § 16.]

**Effective dates—1993 c 226 §§ 10, 12, and 14:** See note following RCW 50.16.010.

**Findings—Purpose, intent—Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Application—1993 c 226:** See notes following RCW 50.24.018.

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective dates—1990 c 245:** See notes following RCW 50.04.030.

**Effective date—1989 c 380 §§ 78 through 81:** See note following RCW 50.04.150.

**Conflict with federal requirements—1989 c 380:** See note following RCW 50.04.150.

**Severability—1989 c 380:** See RCW 15.58.942.

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—1987 c 171:** See notes following RCW 50.62.010.

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—1985 ex.s. c 5:** See notes following RCW 50.62.010.

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Effective dates—1984 c 205:** See notes following RCW 50.20.120.

**50.29.026 Modification of contribution rate.** (1) Beginning with contributions assessed for rate year 1996, a qualified employer's contribution rate determined under RCW 50.29.025 may be modified as follows:

(a) Subject to the limitations of this subsection, an employer may make a voluntary contribution of an amount equal to part or all of the benefits charged to the employer's account during the two years most recently ended on June 30th that were used for the purpose of computing the employer's contribution rate. On receiving timely payment of a voluntary contribution, plus a surcharge of ten percent of the amount of the voluntary contribution, the commissioner shall cancel the benefits equal to the amount of the voluntary contribution, excluding the surcharge, and compute a new benefit ratio for the employer. The employer shall then be assigned the contribution rate applicable to the rate class within which the recomputed benefit ratio is included. The minimum amount of a voluntary contribution, excluding

the surcharge, must be an amount that will result in a recomputed benefit ratio that is in a rate class at least two rate classes lower than the rate class that included the employer's original benefit ratio.

(b) Payment of a voluntary contribution is considered timely if received by the department during the period beginning on the date of mailing to the employer the notice of contribution rate required under this title for the rate year for which the employer is seeking a modification of his or her contribution rate and ending on February 15th of that rate year.

(c) A benefit ratio may not be recomputed nor a contribution rate be reduced under this section as a result of a voluntary contribution received after the payment period prescribed in (b) of this subsection.

(2) This section does not apply to any employer who has not had an increase of at least six rate classes from the previous tax rate year. [1995 c 322 § 1.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—1995 c 322:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal unemployment tax credits to employers in this state." [1995 c 322 § 2.]

**50.29.027 Benefit ratio to be computed for rate year 1985 and thereafter.** For the rate year 1985 and each rate year thereafter, a benefit ratio shall be computed for each qualified employer by dividing the total amount of benefits charged to the account of the employer during the forty-eight consecutive months immediately preceding the computation date by the taxable payrolls of the employer for the same forty-eight month period as reported to the department by the cut-off dates. The division shall be carried to the sixth decimal place with the remaining fraction, if any, disregarded. [1984 c 205 § 4.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Effective dates—1984 c 205:** See notes following RCW 50.20.120.

**50.29.030 "Wages" defined for purpose of prorating benefit charges.** For the purpose of prorating benefit charges "wages" shall mean "wages" as defined for purpose of payment of benefits in RCW 50.04.320. [1970 ex.s. c 2 § 12.]

**Effective date—1970 ex.s. c 2:** See note following RCW 50.04.020.

*Government or retirement pension plan payments as remuneration or wages—Recovery of excess over benefits allowable, limitations: RCW 50.04.323.*

**50.29.062 Contribution rates for predecessor and successor employers.** Predecessor and successor employer contribution rates shall be computed in the following manner:

(1) If the successor is an employer, as defined in RCW 50.04.080, at the time of the transfer, its contribution rate shall remain unchanged for the remainder of the rate year in which the transfer occurs. From and after January 1 following the transfer, the successor's contribution rate for each rate year shall be based on its experience with payrolls

and benefits including the experience of the acquired business or portion of a business from the date of transfer, as of the regular computation date for that rate year.

(2) If the successor is not an employer at the time of the transfer, it shall pay contributions at the lowest rate determined under either of the following:

(a)(i) For transfers before January 1, 1997, the contribution rate of the rate class assigned to the predecessor employer at the time of the transfer for the remainder of that rate year and continuing until the successor qualifies for a different rate in its own right;

(ii) For transfers on or after January 1, 1997, the contribution rate of the rate class assigned to the predecessor employer at the time of the transfer for the remainder of that rate year. Any experience relating to the assignment of that rate class attributable to the predecessor is transferred to the successor. Beginning with the January 1 following the transfer, the successor's contribution rate shall be based on the transferred experience of the acquired business and the successor's experience after the transfer; or

(b) The contribution rate equal to the average industry rate as determined by the commissioner, but not less than one percent, and continuing until the successor qualifies for a different rate in its own right. Assignment of employers by the commissioner to industrial classification, for purposes of this subsection, must be in accordance with established classification practices found in the "Standard Industrial Classification Manual" issued by the federal office of management and budget to the third digit provided in the standard industrial classification code.

(3) If the successor is not an employer at the time of the transfer and simultaneously acquires the business or a portion of the business of two or more employers in different rate classes, its rate from the date the transfer occurred until the end of that rate year and until it qualifies in its own right for a new rate, shall be the highest rate class applicable at the time of the acquisition to any predecessor employer who is a party to the acquisition, but not less than one percent.

(4) The contribution rate on any payroll retained by a predecessor employer shall remain unchanged for the remainder of the rate year in which the transfer occurs.

(5) In all cases, from and after January 1 following the transfer, the predecessor's contribution rate for each rate year shall be based on its experience with payrolls and benefits as of the regular computation date for that rate year including the experience of the acquired business or portion of business up to the date of transfer: PROVIDED, That if all of the predecessor's business is transferred to a successor or successors, the predecessor shall not be a qualified employer until it satisfies the requirements of a "qualified employer" as set forth in RCW 50.29.010. [1996 c 238 § 1; 1995 c 56 § 1; 1989 c 380 § 81; 1984 c 205 § 6.]

**Application—1996 c 238:** "This act applies to unemployment contribution rates effective on and after January 1, 1996." [1996 c 238 § 2.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—1996 c 238:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of

federal funds by the state or the granting of federal unemployment tax credits to employers in this state." [1996 c 238 § 3.]

**Effective date—1989 c 380 §§ 78-81:** See note following RCW 50.04.150.

**Conflict with federal requirements—1989 c 380:** See note following RCW 50.04.150.

**Severability—1989 c 380:** See RCW 15.58.942.

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Effective dates—1984 c 205:** See notes following RCW 50.20.120.

**50.29.065 Quarterly notice of benefits paid and benefits charged to base year employer's experience rating account.** Within thirty days after the end of every calendar quarter, the commissioner shall notify each employer of the benefits received during that quarter by each claimant for whom he or she is the base year employer and the amount of those benefits charged to his or her experience rating account. [1984 c 205 § 10.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Effective dates—1984 c 205:** See notes following RCW 50.20.120.

**50.29.070 Notice of employer benefit charges and rate of contribution—Request for review and redetermination—Petition for hearing upon denial—Further appeal.** Within a reasonable time after the computation date each employer shall be notified of the employer's rate of contribution as determined for the succeeding rate year and factors used in the calculation.

Any employer dissatisfied with the benefit charges made to the employer's account for the twelve-month period immediately preceding the computation date or with his or her determined rate may file a request for review and redetermination with the commissioner within thirty days of the mailing of the notice to the employer, showing the reason for such request. Should such request for review and redetermination be denied, the employer may, within thirty days of the mailing of such notice of denial, file with the appeal tribunal a petition for hearing which shall be heard in the same manner as a petition for denial of refund. The appellate procedure prescribed by this title for further appeal shall apply to all denials of review and redetermination under this section. [1990 c 245 § 8; 1983 1st ex.s. c 23 § 19; 1973 1st ex.s. c 158 § 14; 1970 ex.s. c 2 § 16.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective dates—1990 c 245:** See notes following RCW 50.04.030.

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective dates—Construction—1983 1st ex.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 50.04.073.

**Effective date—1973 1st ex.s. c 158:** See note following RCW 50.08.020.

**Effective date—1970 ex.s. c 2:** See note following RCW 50.04.020.

*Appeal on denial of refund:* RCW 50.32.030, 50.32.050.

*Appeal to the courts:* RCW 50.32.120.

*Review by commissioner:* RCW 50.32.070.

**50.29.080 Redetermination and correction of employer's contribution rate, when—Effect—Rights to further review and redetermination.** The commissioner may redetermine any contribution rate if, within three years of the rate computation date he finds that the rate as originally computed was erroneous.

In the event that the redetermined rate is lower than that originally computed the difference between the amount paid

and the amount which should have been paid on the employer's taxable payroll for the rate year involved shall be established as a credit against his tax liability; however, if the redetermined rate is higher than that originally computed the difference between the amount paid and the amount which should have been paid on the employer's taxable payroll shall be assessed against the employer as contributions owing for the rate year involved.

The redetermination of an employer's contribution rate shall not affect the contribution rates which have been established for any other employer nor shall such redetermination affect any other computation made pursuant to this title.

The employer shall have the same rights to request review and redetermination as he had from his original rate determination. [1970 ex.s. c 2 § 17.]

**Effective date—1970 ex.s. c 2:** See note following RCW 50.04.020.

**50.29.085 Combined contribution rate.** For the purpose of simplification of employer reports, the "combined contribution rate" shall be used in the calculation of employer taxes. The combined contribution rate shall include the regular contribution rate as determined under RCW 50.29.025, employment and training trust fund contributions as determined under RCW 50.24.018, and special contributions required under RCW 50.24.014. A mention of the "combined contribution rate" may not be made on a tax form or publication unless the form or publication specifically identifies the specific contributions. The combined contribution rate may not be quoted on a form unless the specific component rates are also quoted. The sole purpose of the combined contribution rate is to allow an employer to perform a single calculation on a tax return rather than four separate calculations. [1993 c 226 § 15.]

**Sunset Act application:** See note following RCW 50.12.261.

**Findings—Purpose, intent—Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Application—1993 c 226:** See notes following RCW 50.24.018.

## Chapter 50.32

### REVIEW, HEARINGS AND APPEALS

#### Sections

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**50.32.010 Appeal tribunals.** The commissioner shall establish one or more impartial appeal tribunals, each of which shall consist of an administrative law judge appointed under chapter 34.12 RCW who shall decide the issues submitted to the tribunal. No administrative law judge may hear or decide any disputed claim in any case in which he is an interested party. Wherever the term "appeal tribunal" or "the appeal tribunal" is used in this title the same refers to an appeal tribunal established under the provisions of this section. Notice of any appeal or petition for hearing taken to an appeal tribunal in any proceeding under this title may be filed with such agency as the commissioner may by regulation prescribe. [1981 c 67 § 30; 1945 c 35 § 117; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-255. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 4; 1941 c 253 § 4.]

**Effective dates—Severability—1981 c 67:** See notes following RCW 34.12.010.

**50.32.020 Filing of benefit appeals.** The applicant or claimant, his or her most recent employing unit or any interested party which the commissioner by regulation prescribes, may file an appeal from any determination or redetermination with the appeal tribunal within thirty days after the date of notification or mailing, whichever is earlier, of such determination or redetermination to his or her last known address: PROVIDED, That in the event an appeal with respect to any determination is pending as of the date when a redetermination thereof is issued, such appeal, unless withdrawn, shall be treated as an appeal from such redetermination. Any appeal from a determination of denial of benefits which is effective for an indefinite period shall be deemed to be an appeal as to all weeks subsequent to the effective date of the denial for which benefits have already been denied. If no appeal is taken from any determination, or redetermination, within the time allowed by the provisions of this section for appeal therefrom, said determination, or redetermination, as the case may be, shall be conclusively deemed to be correct except as hereinbefore provided in respect to reconsideration by the commissioner of any determination. [1987 c 61 § 1; 1951 c 215 § 10; 1945 c 35 § 118; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-256. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 4; 1941 c 253 § 4; 1939 c 214 § 4; 1937 c 162 § 6.]

**50.32.025 Mailed appeal or petition—When deemed filed and received.** The appeal or petition from a determination, redetermination, order and notice of assessment, appeals decision, or commissioner's decision which is (1) transmitted through the United States mail, shall be deemed filed and received by the addressee on the date shown by the United States postal service cancellation mark stamped by the United States postal service employees upon the envelope or other appropriate wrapper containing it or, (2) mailed but not received by the addressee, or where received and the United States postal service cancellation mark is illegible, erroneous or omitted, shall be deemed filed and received on the date it was mailed, if the sender establishes by competent evidence that the appeal or petition was deposited in the United States mail on or before the date due for filing:

PROVIDED, That in the case of a metered cancellation mark by the sender and a United States postal service cancellation mark on the same envelope or other wrapper, the latter shall control: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That in any of the above circumstances, the appeal or petition must be properly addressed and have sufficient postage affixed thereto. [1975 1st ex.s. c 228 § 4; 1969 ex.s. c 200 § 1.]

**Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 228:** See note following RCW 50.04.355.

**50.32.030 Appeal from order and notice of assessment.** When an order and notice of assessment has been served upon or mailed to a delinquent employer, as heretofore provided, such employer may within thirty days thereafter file a petition in writing with the appeal tribunal, stating that such assessment is unjust or incorrect and requesting a hearing thereon. Such petition shall set forth the reasons why the assessment is objected to and the amount of contributions, if any, which said employer admits to be due the employment security department. If no such petition be filed with the appeal tribunal within thirty days, the assessment shall be conclusively deemed to be just and correct: PROVIDED, That in such cases, and in cases where payment of contributions, interest, or penalties has been made pursuant to a jeopardy assessment, the commissioner may properly entertain a subsequent application for refund. The filing of a petition on a disputed assessment with the appeal tribunal shall stay the distraint and sale proceeding provided for in this title until a final decision thereon shall have been made, but the filing of such petition shall not affect the right of the commissioner to perfect a lien, as provided by this title, upon the property of the employer. The filing of a petition on a disputed assessment shall stay the accrual of interest and penalties on the disputed contributions until a final decision shall have been made thereon.

Within thirty days after notice of denial of refund or adjustment has been mailed or delivered (whichever is the earlier) to an employer, the employer may file a petition in writing with the appeal tribunal for a hearing thereon: PROVIDED, That this right shall not apply in those cases in which assessments have been appealed from and have become final. The petitioner shall set forth the reasons why such hearing should be granted and the amount which the petitioner believes should be adjusted or refunded. If no such petition be filed within said thirty days, the determination of the commissioner as stated in said notice shall be final. [1987 c 111 § 6; 1987 c 61 § 2; 1983 1st ex.s. c 23 § 20; 1959 c 266 § 7; 1949 c 214 § 23; 1945 c 35 § 119; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9998-257.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1987 c 61 § 2 and by 1987 c 111 § 6, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section pursuant to RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Effective date—1987 c 111:** See notes following RCW 50.12.220.

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective dates—Construction—1983 1st ex.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 50.04.073.

**50.32.040 Benefit appeal procedure.** In any proceeding before an appeal tribunal involving a dispute of an individual's initial determination, all matters covered by such initial determination shall be deemed to be in issue irrespec-

tive of the particular ground or grounds set forth in the notice of appeal.

In any proceeding before an appeal tribunal involving a dispute of an individual's claim for waiting period credit or claim for benefits, all matters and provisions of this title relating to the individual's right to receive such credit or benefits for the period in question, including but not limited to the question and nature of the claimant's availability for work within the meaning of RCW 50.20.010(3) and 50.20.080, shall be deemed to be in issue irrespective of the particular ground or grounds set forth in the notice of appeal in single claimant cases. The claimant's availability for work shall be determined apart from all other matters.

In any proceeding before an appeal tribunal involving an individual's right to benefits, all parties shall be afforded an opportunity for hearing after not less than seven days' notice in accordance with RCW 34.05.434.

In any proceeding involving an appeal relating to benefit determinations or benefit claims, the appeal tribunal, after affording the parties reasonable opportunity for fair hearing, shall render its decision affirming, modifying, or setting aside the determination or decisions of the unemployment compensation division. The parties shall be duly notified of such appeal tribunal's decision together with its reasons therefor, which shall be deemed to be the final decision on the initial determination or the claim for waiting period credit or the claim for benefits unless, within thirty days after the date of notification or mailing, whichever is the earlier, of such decision, further appeal is perfected pursuant to the provisions of this title relating to review by the commissioner. [1989 c 175 § 117; 1987 c 61 § 3; 1981 c 35 § 10; 1973 c 73 § 8; 1945 c 35 § 120; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-258. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 4; 1941 c 253 § 4; 1939 c 214 § 4; 1937 c 162 § 6.]

**Effective date—1989 c 175:** See note following RCW 34.05.010.

**Severability—1981 c 35:** See note following RCW 50.22.030.

**Effective dates—1973 c 73:** See note following RCW 50.04.030.

**50.32.050 Contributions appeal procedure.** In any proceeding before an appeal tribunal involving an appeal from a disputed order and notice of assessment (for contributions, interest, or penalties due) a disputed denial of refund or adjustment (of contributions, interest, or penalties paid) or a disputed experience rating credit, the appeal tribunal, after affording the parties a reasonable opportunity for hearing, shall affirm, modify or set aside the notice of assessment, denial of refund or experience rating credit. The parties shall be duly notified of such appeal tribunal's decision together with its reasons therefor which shall be deemed to be the final decision on the order and notice of assessment, denial of refund or experience rating credit, as the case may be, unless within thirty days after the date of notification or mailing, whichever is the earlier, of such decision, further appeal is perfected pursuant to the provisions of this title relating to review by the commissioner. [1987 c 61 § 4; 1983 1st ex.s. c 23 § 21; 1949 c 214 § 24; 1945 c 35 § 121; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9998-259.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective dates—Construction—1983 1st ex.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 50.04.073.  
*Review by commissioner:* RCW 50.32.070.

**50.32.060 Conduct of appeal hearings.** The manner in which any dispute shall be presented to the appeal tribunal, and the conduct of hearings and appeals, shall be in accordance with regulations prescribed by the commissioner for determining the rights of the parties, whether or not such regulations conform to common law or statutory rules of evidence and other technical rules of procedure. A full and complete record shall be kept of all appeal tribunal proceedings. All testimony at any appeal tribunal hearing shall be recorded, but need not be transcribed unless further appeal is taken. [1945 c 35 § 122; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-260.]

**50.32.070 Petition for review by commissioner.** Within thirty days from the date of notification or mailing, whichever is the earlier, of any decision of an appeal tribunal, the commissioner on his or her own order may, or upon petition of any interested party shall, take jurisdiction of the proceedings for the purpose of review thereof. Appeal from any decision of an appeal tribunal may be perfected so as to prevent finality of such decision if, within thirty days from the date of mailing the appeal tribunal decision, or notification thereof, whichever is the earlier, a petition in writing for review by the commissioner is received by the commissioner or by such representative of the commissioner as the commissioner by regulation shall prescribe. The commissioner may also prevent finality of any decision of an appeal tribunal and take jurisdiction of the proceedings for his or her review thereof by entering an order so providing on his or her own motion and mailing a copy thereof to the interested parties within the same period allowed herein for receipt of a petition for review. The time limit provided herein for the commissioner's assumption of jurisdiction on his or her own motion for review shall be deemed to be jurisdictional. [1987 c 61 § 5; 1975 1st ex.s. c 228 § 5; 1947 c 215 § 31; 1945 c 35 § 123; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 9998-261.]

**Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 228:** See note following RCW 50.04.355.

**50.32.075 Waiver of time for appeal or petition.** For good cause shown the appeal tribunal or the commissioner may waive the time limitations for administrative appeals or petitions set forth in the provisions of this title. [1975 1st ex.s. c 228 § 16.]

**Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 228:** See note following RCW 50.04.355.

**50.32.080 Commissioner's review procedure.** After having acquired jurisdiction for review, the commissioner shall review the proceedings in question. Prior to rendering his decision, the commissioner may order the taking of additional evidence by an appeal tribunal to be made a part of the record in the case. Upon the basis of evidence submitted to the appeal tribunal and such additional evidence as the commissioner may order to be taken, the commissioner shall render his decision in writing affirming, modifying, or setting aside the decision of the appeal tribunal. Alternatively, the commissioner may order further proceedings to be held before the appeal tribunal, upon completion of which the appeal tribunal shall issue a decision in writing affirming,

modifying, or setting aside its previous decision. The new decision may be appealed under RCW 50.32.070. The commissioner shall mail his decision to the interested parties at their last known addresses. [1982 1st ex.s. c 18 § 8; 1945 c 35 § 124; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-262.]

**Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1982 1st ex.s. c 18:** See notes following RCW 50.12.200.

**50.32.090 Finality of commissioner's decision.** Any decision of the commissioner involving a review of an appeal tribunal decision, in the absence of a petition therefrom as provided in chapter 34.05 RCW, becomes final thirty days after service. The commissioner shall be deemed to be a party to any judicial action involving any such decision and shall be represented in any such judicial action by the attorney general. [1989 c 175 § 118; 1973 1st ex.s. c 158 § 15; 1945 c 35 § 125; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-263.]

**Effective date—1989 c 175:** See note following RCW 34.05.010.

**Effective date—1973 1st ex.s. c 158:** See note following RCW 50.08.020.

*Procedure for judicial review: RCW 50.32.120.*

**50.32.095 Commissioner's decisions as precedents—Publication.** The commissioner may designate certain commissioner's decisions as precedents. The commissioner's decisions designated as precedents shall be published and made available to the public by the department. [1982 1st ex.s. c 18 § 9.]

**Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1982 1st ex.s. c 18:** See notes following RCW 50.12.200.

**50.32.097 Applicability of finding, determination, etc., under Title 50 RCW to other action.** Any finding, determination, conclusion, declaration, or final order made by the commissioner, or his or her representative or delegate, or by an appeal tribunal, administrative law judge, reviewing officer, or other agent of the department for the purposes of Title 50 RCW, shall not be conclusive, nor binding, nor admissible as evidence in any separate action outside the scope of Title 50 RCW between an individual and the individual's present or prior employer before an arbitrator, court, or judge of this state or the United States, regardless of whether the prior action was between the same or related parties or involved the same facts or was reviewed pursuant to RCW 50.32.120. [1988 c 28 § 1.]

**50.32.100 Costs.** In all proceedings provided by this title prior to court review involving dispute of an individual's initial determination, or claim for waiting period credit, or for benefits, the fees of all witnesses attending such proceedings pursuant to subpoena shall be paid at the rate fixed by such regulation as the commissioner shall prescribe and such fees and all costs of such proceedings otherwise chargeable to such individual, except charges for services rendered by counsel or other agent representing such individual, shall be paid out of the unemployment compensation administration fund. In all other respects and in all other proceedings under this title the rule in civil cases as to costs and attorney fees shall apply: PROVIDED, That cost bills may be served and filed and costs shall be taxed in

accordance with such regulation as the commissioner shall prescribe. [1945 c 35 § 126; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-264.]

*Costs and attorneys' fees: Chapter 4.84 RCW.*

**50.32.110 Fees for administrative hearings.** No individual shall be charged fees of any kind in any proceeding involving the individual's application for initial determination, or claim for waiting period credit, or claim for benefits, under this title by the commissioner or his representatives, or by an appeal tribunal, or any court, or any officer thereof. Any individual in any such proceeding before the commissioner or any appeal tribunal may be represented by counsel or other duly authorized agent who shall neither charge nor receive a fee for such services in excess of an amount found reasonable by the officer conducting such proceeding. [1945 c 35 § 127; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-265.]

**50.32.120 Procedure for judicial review.** Judicial review of a decision of the commissioner involving the review of an appeals tribunal decision may be had only in accordance with the procedural requirements of RCW 34.05.570. [1973 1st ex.s. c 158 § 16; 1971 c 81 § 119; 1945 c 35 § 128; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-266. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 4; 1941 c 253 § 4; 1939 c 214 § 4; 1937 c 162 § 6.]

**Effective date—1973 1st ex.s. c 158:** See note following RCW 50.08.020.

*Appeals: Chapter 4.88 RCW.*

**50.32.130 Undertakings on seeking judicial review.** No bond of any kind shall be required of any individual seeking judicial review from a commissioner's decision affecting such individual's application for initial determination or claim for waiting period credit or for benefits.

No commissioner's decision shall be stayed by a petition for judicial review unless the petitioning employer shall first deposit an undertaking in an amount theretofore deemed by the commissioner to be due, if any, from the petitioning employer, together with interest thereon, if any, with the commissioner or in the registry of the court: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That this section shall not be deemed to authorize a stay in the payment of benefits to an individual when such individual has been held entitled thereto by a decision of the commissioner which decision either affirms, reverses, or modifies a decision of an appeals tribunal. [1973 1st ex.s. c 158 § 17; 1971 c 81 § 120; 1945 c 35 § 129; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-267. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 4; 1941 c 253 § 4.]

*Rules of court: Cf. Title 8 RAP, RAP 18.22.*

**Effective date—1973 1st ex.s. c 158:** See note following RCW 50.08.020.

**50.32.140 Interstate petitions to Thurston county.** RCW 34.05.514 to the contrary notwithstanding, petitions to the superior court from decisions of the commissioner dealing with the applications or claims relating to benefit payments which were filed outside of this state with an authorized representative of the commissioner shall be filed with the superior court of Thurston county which shall have the original venue of such appeals. [1989 c 175 § 119; 1973



1st ex.s. c 158 § 18; 1945 c 35 § 130; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-268.]

**Effective date—1989 c 175:** See note following RCW 34.05.010.

**Effective date—1973 1st ex.s. c 158:** See note following RCW 50.08.020.

**50.32.150 Jurisdiction of court.** In all court proceedings under or pursuant to this title the decision of the commissioner shall be prima facie correct, and the burden of proof shall be upon the party attacking the same.

If the court shall determine that the commissioner has acted within his power and has correctly construed the law, the decision of the commissioner shall be confirmed; otherwise, it shall be reversed or modified. In case of a modification or reversal the superior court shall refer the same to the commissioner with an order directing him to proceed in accordance with the findings of the court.

Whenever any order and notice of assessment shall have become final in accordance with the provisions of this title, the court shall upon application of the commissioner enter a judgment in the amount provided for in said order and notice of assessment, and said judgment shall have and be given the same effect as if entered pursuant to civil action instituted in said court. [1945 c 35 § 131; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-269. Prior: 1941 c 253 § 4.]

*Judgments*

*entry of: Chapter 4.64 RCW.*  
*generally: Chapter 4.56 RCW.*

**50.32.160 Attorneys' fees in courts.** It shall be unlawful for any attorney engaged in any appeal to the courts on behalf of an individual involving the individual's application for initial determination, or claim for waiting period credit, or claim for benefits to charge or receive any fee therein in excess of a reasonable fee to be fixed by the superior court in respect to the services performed in connection with the appeal taken thereto and to be fixed by the supreme court or the court of appeals in the event of appellate review, and if the decision of the commissioner shall be reversed or modified, such fee and the costs shall be payable out of the unemployment compensation administration fund. In the allowance of fees the court shall give consideration to the provisions of this title in respect to fees pertaining to proceedings involving an individual's application for initial determination, claim for waiting period credit, or claim for benefits. In other respects the practice in civil cases shall apply. [1988 c 202 § 48; 1971 c 81 § 121; 1945 c 35 § 132; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-270. Prior: 1941 c 253 § 4.]

**Severability—1988 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.24.050.

*Attorneys' fees: Chapter 4.84 RCW.*

*Costs: RCW 50.32.100.*

*Costs on appeal: Chapter 4.84 RCW.*

**50.32.170 Decision final by agreement.** No appeal from the decision of an appeal tribunal, or of the commissioner, or of any court in any proceedings provided by this title may be taken subsequent to the filing with the appeal tribunal, commissioner, or court which rendered the decision, within the time allowed for appeal, of an agreement in writing approved by all interested parties to the proceedings,

providing that no appeal will be taken from such decision. The provisions of this section shall be jurisdictional. [1945 c 35 § 133; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-271.]

**50.32.180 Remedies of title exclusive.** The remedies provided in this title for determining the justness or correctness of assessments, refunds, adjustments, or claims shall be exclusive and no court shall entertain any action to enjoin an assessment or require a refund or adjustment except in accordance with the provisions of this title. Matters which may be determined by the procedures set out in this title shall not be the subject of any declaratory judgment. [1945 c 35 § 134; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-272.]

**50.32.190 Costs, charges, and expenses.** Whenever any appeal is taken from any decision of the commissioner to any court, all expenses and costs incurred therein by said commissioner, including court reporter costs and attorneys' fees and all costs taxed against such commissioner, shall be paid out of the unemployment compensation administration fund.

Neither the commissioner nor the state shall be charged any fee for any service rendered in connection with litigation under the unemployment compensation act by the clerk of any court. [1945 c 35 § 135; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-273.]

## Chapter 50.36 PENALTIES

### Sections

- 50.36.010 Violations generally.
- 50.36.020 Violations by employers.
- 50.36.030 Concealing cause of discharge.

**50.36.010 Violations generally.** It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly give any false information or withhold any material information required under the provisions of this title. Any person who violates any of the provisions of this title which violation is declared to be unlawful, and for which no contrary provision is made, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not less than twenty dollars nor more than two hundred and fifty dollars or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than ninety days: PROVIDED, That any person who violates the provisions of RCW 50.40.010 shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

Any person who in connection with any compromise or offer of compromise wilfully conceals from any officer or employee of the state any property belonging to an employing unit which is liable for contributions, interest, or penalties, or receives, destroys, mutilates, or falsifies any book, document, or record, or makes under oath any false statement relating to the financial condition of the employing unit which is liable for contributions, shall upon conviction thereof be fined not more than five thousand dollars or be imprisoned for not more than one year, or both.

The penalty prescribed in this section shall not be deemed exclusive, but any act which shall constitute a crime under any law of this state may be the basis of prosecution under such law notwithstanding that it may also be the basis for prosecution under this section. [1953 ex.s. c 8 § 22;

1945 c 35 § 180; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-319. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 12; 1941 c 253 § 13.]

**50.36.020 Violations by employers.** Any person required under this title to collect, account for and pay over any contributions imposed by this title, who wilfully fails to collect or truthfully account for and pay over such contributions, and any person who wilfully attempts in any manner to evade or defeat any contributions imposed by this title or the payment thereof, shall, in addition to other penalties provided by law, upon conviction thereof, be fined not more than five thousand dollars, or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both, together with the costs of prosecution.

The term "person" as used in this section includes an officer or individual in the employment of a corporation, or a member or individual in the employment of a partnership, who as such officer, individual or member is under a duty to perform the act in respect of which the violation occurs. A corporation may likewise be prosecuted under this section and may be subjected to fine and payment of costs of prosecution as prescribed herein for a person. [1953 ex.s. c 8 § 23; 1945 c 35 § 181; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-320. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 12; 1941 c 253 § 13.]

*Crimes and punishment: Titles 9, 9A RCW.*

**50.36.030 Concealing cause of discharge.** Employing units or agents thereof supplying information to the employment security department pertaining to the cause of a benefit claimant's separation from work, which cause stated to the department is contrary to that given the benefit claimant by such employing unit or agent thereof at the time of his separation from the employing unit's employ, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not less than twenty dollars nor more than two hundred and fifty dollars or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than ninety days. [1951 c 265 § 13.]

**Severability—1951 c 265:** See note following RCW 50.98.070.

## Chapter 50.38

### LABOR MARKET INFORMATION AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

(Formerly: Occupational information service—Forecast)

#### Sections

50.38.010	Intent.
50.38.015	Definitions.
50.38.020	Department as state entity for occupational information— State occupational forecast, criteria.
50.38.030	State occupational forecast—Consultation with other agencies.
50.38.040	Annual report.
50.38.050	Department—Duties.
50.38.060	Department—Powers.
50.38.065	Moneys received for nonfunded labor market information costs—Disposition.
50.38.900	Effective date—1982 c 43.
50.38.901	Conflict with federal requirements—1993 c 62.
50.38.902	Effective date—1993 c 62.

**50.38.010 Intent.** It is the intent of this chapter to establish the duties and authority of the employment security department relating to labor market information and econom-

ic analysis. State and federal law mandate the use of labor market information in the planning, coordinating, management, implementation, and evaluation of certain programs. Often this labor market information is also needed in studies for the legislature and state programs, like those dealing with growth management, community diversification, export assistance, prison industries, energy, agriculture, social services, and environment. Employment, training, education, job creation, and other programs are often mandated without adequate federal or state funding for the needed labor market information. Clarification of the department's duties and authority will assist users of state and local labor market information products and services to have realistic expectations and provide the department authority to recover actual costs for labor market information products and services developed in response to individual requests. [1993 c 62 § 1; 1982 c 43 § 1.]

**50.38.015 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Labor market information" means the body of information generated from measurement and evaluation of the socioeconomic factors and variables influencing the employment process in the state and specific labor market areas. These socioeconomic factors and variables affect labor demand and supply relationships and include:

(a) Labor force information, which includes but is not limited to employment, unemployment, labor force participation, labor turnover and mobility, average hours and earnings, and changes and characteristics of the population and labor force within specific labor market areas and the state;

(b) Occupational information, which includes but is not limited to occupational supply and demand estimates and projections, characteristics of occupations, wage levels, job duties, training and education requirements, conditions of employment, unionization, retirement practices, and training opportunities;

(c) Economic information, which includes but is not limited to number of business starts and stops by industry and labor market area, information on employment growth and decline by industry and labor market area, employer establishment data, and number of labor-management disputes by industry and labor market area; and

(d) Program information, which includes but is not limited to program participant or student information gathered in cooperation with other state and local agencies along with related labor market information to evaluate the effectiveness, efficiency, and impact of state and local employment, training, education, and job creation efforts in support of planning, management, implementation, and evaluation.

(2) "Labor market area" means an economically integrated geographic area within which individuals can reside and find employment within a reasonable distance or can readily change employment without changing their place of residence. Such areas shall be identified in accordance with criteria used by the bureau of labor statistics of the department of labor in defining such areas or similar criteria established by the governor. The area generally takes the name of its community. The boundaries depend primarily

on economic and geographic factors. Washington state is divided into labor market areas, which usually include a county or a group of contiguous counties.

(3) "Labor market analysis" means the measurement and evaluation of economic forces as they relate to the employment process in the local labor market area. Variables affecting labor market relationships include, but are not limited to, such factors as labor force changes and characteristics, population changes and characteristics, industrial structure and development, technological developments, shifts in consumer demand, volume and extent of unionization and trade disputes, recruitment practices, wage levels, conditions of employment, and training opportunities.

(4) "Public records" has the same meaning as set forth in RCW 42.17.020.

(5) "Department" means the employment security department. [1993 c 62 § 2.]

**50.38.020 Department as state entity for occupational information—State occupational forecast, criteria.** The Washington state employment security department shall be the responsible state entity for the development, administration, and dissemination of Washington state occupational information, including the state occupational forecast. The generation of the forecast is subject to the following criteria:

(1) The occupational forecast shall be consistent with the state economic forecast;

(2) Standardized occupational classification codes shall be adopted, to be cross-referenced with other generally accepted occupational codes. [1982 c 43 § 2.]

**50.38.030 State occupational forecast—Consultation with other agencies.** The employment security department shall consult with the following agencies prior to the issuance of the state occupational forecast:

(1) Office of financial management;

(2) Department of community, trade, and economic development;

(3) Department of labor and industries;

(4) State board for community and technical colleges;

(5) Superintendent of public instruction;

(6) Department of social and health services;

(7) Work force training and education coordinating board; and

(8) Other state and local agencies as deemed appropriate by the commissioner of the employment security department.

These agencies shall cooperate with the employment security department, submitting information relevant to the generation of occupational forecasts. [1995 c 399 § 142; 1993 c 62 § 3; 1985 c 466 § 66; 1985 c 6 § 18; 1982 c 43 § 3.]

**Effective date—Severability—1985 c 466:** See notes following RCW 43.31.125.

**50.38.040 Annual report.** The department shall submit an annual report to the legislature and the governor that includes, but is not limited to:

(1) Identification and analysis of industries in the United States, Washington state, and local labor markets with high levels of seasonal, cyclical, and structural unemployment;

(2) The industries and local labor markets with plant closures and mass lay-offs and the number of affected workers;

(3) An analysis of the major causes of plant closures and mass lay-offs;

(4) The number of dislocated workers and persons who have exhausted their unemployment benefits, classified by industry, occupation, and local labor markets;

(5) The experience of the unemployed in their efforts to become reemployed. This should include research conducted on the continuous wage and benefit history;

(6) Five-year industry and occupational employment projections; and

(7) Annual and hourly average wage rates by industry and occupation. [1993 c 62 § 4.]

**50.38.050 Department—Duties.** The department shall have the following duties:

(1) Oversight and management of a state-wide comprehensive labor market and occupational supply and demand information system, including development of a five-year employment forecast for state and labor market areas;

(2) Produce local labor market information packages for the state's counties, including special studies and job impact analyses in support of state and local employment, training, education, and job creation programs, especially activities that prevent job loss, reduce unemployment, and create jobs;

(3) Coordinate with the office of financial management and the office of the forecast council to improve employment estimates by enhancing data on corporate officers, improving business establishment listings, expanding sample for employment estimates, and developing business entry/exit analysis relevant to the generation of occupational and economic forecasts; and

(4) In cooperation with the office of financial management, produce long-term industry and occupational employment forecasts. These forecasts shall be consistent with the official economic and revenue forecast council biennial economic and revenue forecasts. [1993 c 62 § 5.]

**50.38.060 Department—Powers.** To implement this chapter, the department has authority to:

(1) Establish mechanisms to recover actual costs incurred in producing and providing otherwise nonfunded labor market information.

(a) If the commissioner, in his or her discretion, determines that providing labor market information is in the public interest, the requested information may be provided at reduced costs.

(b) The department shall provide access to labor market information products that constitute public records available for public inspection and copying under chapter 42.17 RCW, at fees not exceeding those allowed under RCW 42.17.300 and consistent with the department's fee schedule;

(2) Receive federal set aside funds from several federal programs that are authorized to fund state and local labor market information and are required to use such information in support of their programs;

(3) Enter into agreements with other public agencies for statistical analysis, research, or evaluation studies of local, state, and federally-funded employment, training, education,

and job creation programs to increase the efficiency or quality of service provided to the public consistent with chapter 50.13 RCW;

(4) Coordinate with other state agencies to study ways to standardize federal and state multi-agency administrative records, such as unemployment insurance information and other information to produce employment, training, education, and economic analysis needed to improve labor market information products and services; and

(5) Produce agricultural labor market information and economic analysis needed to facilitate the efficient and effective matching of the local supply and demand of agricultural labor critical to an effective agricultural labor exchange in Washington state. Information collected for an agricultural labor market information effort will be coordinated with other federal, state, and local statistical agencies to minimize reporting burden through cooperative data collection efforts for statistical analysis, research, or studies. [1993 c 62 § 6.]

**50.38.065 Moneys received for nonfunded labor market information costs—Disposition.** Moneys received under RCW 50.38.060(1) to cover the actual costs of nonfunded labor market information shall be deposited in the unemployment compensation administration fund and expenditures shall be authorized only by appropriation. [1993 c 62 § 7.]

**50.38.900 Effective date—1982 c 43.** This act shall take effect July 1, 1982. [1982 c 43 § 5.]

**50.38.901 Conflict with federal requirements—1993 c 62.** If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements which are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements which are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal unemployment tax credits to employers in this state. [1993 c 62 § 10.]

**50.38.902 Effective date—1993 c 62.** This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect July 1, 1993. [1993 c 62 § 13.]

## Chapter 50.40

### MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

#### Sections

50.40.010	Waiver of rights void.
50.40.020	Exemption of benefits.
50.40.040	No vested rights.
50.40.050	Child support obligations—Disclosure—Notification of enforcement agency—Amounts deducted from payments, paid to enforcement agency—Definitions.

50.40.060 Pilot project—Purpose—Report.

50.40.070 Pilot project—Requirements—Benefits.

**50.40.010 Waiver of rights void.** Any agreement by an individual to waive, release, or commute his rights to benefits or any other rights under this title shall be void. Any agreement by an individual in the employ of any person or concern to pay all or any portion of an employer's contributions, required under this title from such employer, shall be void. No employer shall directly or indirectly make or require or accept any deduction from remuneration for services to finance the employer's contributions required from him, or require or accept any waiver of any right hereunder by any individual in his employ. [1945 c 35 § 182; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-321. Prior: 1943 c 127 § 11; 1941 c 253 § 12; 1939 c 214 § 13; 1937 c 162 § 15.]

**50.40.020 Exemption of benefits.** Any assignment, pledge, or encumbrance of any right to benefits which are or may become due or payable under this title shall be void. Such rights to benefits shall be exempt from levy, execution, attachment, or any other remedy whatsoever provided for the collection of debts, except as provided in RCW 50.40.050. Benefits received by any individual, so long as they are not commingled with other funds of the recipient, shall be exempt from any remedy whatsoever for collection of all debts except debts incurred for necessities furnished such individual or his spouse or dependents during the time when such individual was unemployed. Any waiver of any exemption provided for in this section shall be void. [1982 1st ex.s. c 18 § 10. Prior: 1982 c 201 § 7; 1945 c 35 § 183; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9998-322; prior: 1943 c 127 § 11; 1941 c 253 § 12; 1939 c 214 § 13; 1937 c 162 § 15. Formerly codified in RCW 50.40.020, part and 50.40.030, part.]

**Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1982 1st ex.s. c 18:** See notes following RCW 50.12.200.

**50.40.040 No vested rights.** The legislature reserves the right to amend or repeal all or any part of this title at any time; and there shall be no vested private right of any kind against such amendment or repeal. All the rights, privileges, or immunities conferred by this title or by acts done pursuant thereto shall exist subject to the power of the legislature to amend or repeal this title at any time. [1945 c 35 § 187; no RRS. Prior: 1941 c 253 § 1; 1939 c 214 § 1; 1937 c 162 § 3.]

**50.40.050 Child support obligations—Disclosure—Notification of enforcement agency—Amounts deducted from payments, paid to enforcement agency—Definitions.** (1) An individual filing a new claim for unemployment compensation shall, at the time of filing the claim, disclose whether or not the individual owes child support obligations as defined under subsection (7) of this section. If the individual discloses that he or she owes child support obligations and is determined to be eligible for unemployment compensation, the commissioner shall notify the state or local child support enforcement agency enforcing those obligations that the individual has been determined to be eligible for unemployment compensation.

(2) The commissioner shall deduct and withhold from any unemployment compensation payable to an individual who owes child support obligations as defined under subsection (7) of this section:

(a) The amount specified by the individual to the commissioner to be deducted and withheld under this subsection, if neither (b) nor (c) of this subsection is applicable;

(b) The amount (if any) determined pursuant to an agreement submitted to the commissioner under section 454(20)(B)(i) of the Social Security Act by the state or local child support enforcement agency, unless (c) of this subsection is applicable; or

(c) Any amount otherwise required to be so deducted and withheld from such unemployment compensation pursuant to legal process, as that term is defined in section 462(e) of the Social Security Act, properly served upon the commissioner.

(3) Any amount deducted and withheld under subsection (2) of this section shall be paid by the commissioner to the appropriate state or local child support enforcement agency.

(4) Any amount deducted and withheld under subsection (2) of this section shall be treated for all purposes as if it were paid to the individual as unemployment compensation and paid by that individual to the state or local child support enforcement agency in satisfaction of the individual's child support obligations.

(5) For the purposes of this section, "unemployment compensation" means any compensation payable under this chapter including amounts payable by the commissioner under an agreement under any federal law providing for compensation, assistance, or allowances with respect to unemployment.

(6) This section applies only if appropriate arrangements have been made for reimbursement by the state or local child support enforcement agency for the administrative costs incurred by the commissioner under this section which are attributable to child support obligations being enforced by the state or local child support enforcement agency.

(7) "Child support obligations" as used in this section means only those obligations which are being enforced pursuant to a plan described in section 454 of the Social Security Act which has been approved by the secretary of health and human services under part D of Title IV of the Social Security Act.

(8) "State or local child support enforcement agency" as used in this section means any agency of this state or a political subdivision thereof operating pursuant to a plan described in subsection (7) of this section. [1982 1st ex.s. c 18 § 11. Prior: 1982 c 201 § 3.]

**Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—1982 1st ex.s. c 18:** See notes following RCW 50.12.200.

**50.40.060 Pilot project—Purpose—Report. (Expires July 1, 1997.)** (1) The purpose of chapter 187, Laws of 1994 is to provide for a study which will review incentives that encourage workers receiving unemployment insurance benefits to seek employment opportunities and return to full-time employment with the result that the unemployment insurance trust fund is positively affected.

(2)(a) The employment security department shall undertake a pilot project to determine the effect of allowing

unemployment insurance claimants to keep a greater portion of their weekly benefits when engaged in part-time or temporary employment, as provided in RCW 50.40.070. The department shall develop a plan to implement the project, including the number of participants and the criteria for participation in the project. The plan shall be reviewed and approved by the unemployment insurance advisory committee before the pilot is implemented.

(b) The department shall report to the appropriate committees of the legislature on the pilot project by December 31, 1996. The report shall include the impact on the unemployment insurance trust fund and on claimants participating in the project. [1994 c 187 § 1.]

**Expiration date—1994 c 187 §§ 1, 2:** "Sections 1 and 2 of this act shall expire July 1, 1997." [1994 c 187 § 5.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—1994 c 187:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal unemployment tax credits to employers in this state." [1994 c 187 § 6.]

**50.40.070 Pilot project—Requirements—Benefits. (Expires July 1, 1997.)** For the purposes of the pilot project created under RCW 50.40.060, the following requirements for defining "unemployment" and level of unemployment insurance benefit deductions is as follows:

(1)(a) An individual shall be deemed to be "unemployed" in any week during which the individual performs no services and with respect to which no remuneration is payable to the individual, or in any week of less than full-time work, if the remuneration payable to the individual with respect to such week is less than one and one-half times the individual's weekly benefit amount plus fifteen dollars. The commissioner shall prescribe regulations applicable to unemployed individuals making such distinctions in the procedures as to such types of unemployment as the commissioner deems necessary.

(b) An individual shall be deemed not to be "unemployed" during any week which falls totally within a period during which the individual, pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement or individual employment contract, is employed full time in accordance with a definition of full time contained in the agreement or contract, and for which compensation for full-time work is payable. This subsection may not be applied retroactively to an individual who had no guarantee of work at the start of such period and subsequently is provided additional work by the employer; and

(2) If an eligible individual is available for work for less than a full week, he or she shall be paid his or her weekly benefit amount reduced by one-seventh of such amount for each day that he or she is unavailable for work. However, if he or she is unavailable for work for three days or more of a week, he or she shall be considered unavailable for the entire week.

Each eligible individual who is unemployed in any week shall be paid with respect to such week a benefit in an amount equal to his or her weekly benefit amount less sixty-six and two-thirds percent of that part of the remuneration,

if any, payable to him or her with respect to such week which is in excess of fifteen dollars. Such benefit, if not a multiple of one dollar, shall be reduced to the next lower multiple of one dollar. [1994 c 187 § 2.]

**Expiration date—Conflict with federal requirements—1994 c 187:** See notes following RCW 50.40.060.

### Chapter 50.44

#### SPECIAL COVERAGE PROVISIONS

##### Sections

- 50.44.010 Religious, charitable, educational or other nonprofit organizations—Exemption—Payments.
- 50.44.020 State or any of its wholly owned instrumentalities or jointly owned instrumentalities of this state and another state or this state and one or more of its political subdivisions—Exclusions—Payments.
- 50.44.030 Political subdivision or instrumentality of one or more political subdivisions of this state or one or more political subdivisions of this state and any other state—Registration—Elections for financing benefits—Pool accounts.
- 50.44.035 Local government tax.
- 50.44.037 "Institution of higher education" defined.
- 50.44.040 Services excluded under "employment" as used in RCW 50.44.010, 50.44.020, and 50.44.030.
- 50.44.050 Benefits payable, terms and conditions—"Academic year" defined.
- 50.44.053 Definition of "reasonable assurance" as used in RCW 50.44.050.
- 50.44.060 Financing benefits paid employees of nonprofit organizations—Election to make payments in lieu of contributions.
- 50.44.070 Surety bond or deposit of money or securities when election to make payments in lieu of contributions.
- 50.44.080 Construction—Compliance with federal act—1971 c 3.
- 50.44.090 Construction—Mandatory coverage of employees of political subdivision provisions of 1977 ex.s. c 292.

*Coverage of corporate officers: RCW 50.04.165.*

**50.44.010 Religious, charitable, educational or other nonprofit organizations—Exemption—Payments.** Services performed subsequent to December 31, 1971, by an individual in the employ of a religious, charitable, educational or other organization which is excluded from the term "employment" as defined in the federal unemployment tax act solely by reason of section 3306(c)(8) of that act shall be deemed services performed in employment unless such service is exempted under RCW 50.44.040.

Such organization shall make payments to the unemployment compensation fund based on such services in accordance with the provisions of RCW 50.44.060. [1971 c 3 § 18.]

**50.44.020 State or any of its wholly owned instrumentalities or jointly owned instrumentalities of this state and another state or this state and one or more of its political subdivisions—Exclusions—Payments.** Commencing with benefit years beginning on or after January 28, 1971, services performed subsequent to September 30, 1969 in the employ of this state or any of its wholly owned instrumentalities or jointly owned instrumentalities of this state and another state or this state and one or more of its political subdivisions shall be deemed services in employ-

ment unless such services are excluded from the term employment by RCW 50.44.040.

The state shall make payments in lieu of contributions with respect to benefits attributable to such employment as provided with respect to nonprofit organizations in subsections (2) and (3) of RCW 50.44.060: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That for weeks of unemployment beginning after January 1, 1979, the state shall pay in addition to the full amount of regular and additional benefits so attributable the full amount of extended benefits so attributable: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That no payment will be required from the state until the expiration of the twelve-month period following the end of the biennium in which the benefits attributable to such employment were paid. The amount of this payment shall include an amount equal to the amount of interest that would have been realized for the benefit of the unemployment compensation trust fund had such payments been received within thirty days after the day of the quarterly billing provided for in RCW 50.44.060(2)(a). [1977 ex.s. c 292 § 13; 1971 c 3 § 19.]

**Effective dates—1977 ex.s. c 292:** See note following RCW 50.04.116.

**50.44.030 Political subdivision or instrumentality of one or more political subdivisions of this state or one or more political subdivisions of this state and any other state—Registration—Elections for financing benefits—Pool accounts.** (1) All services performed for any political subdivision or instrumentality of one or more political subdivisions of this state or one or more political subdivisions of this state and any other state after December 31, 1977, will be deemed to be services in employment to the extent coverage is not exempted under RCW 50.44.040.

(2) All such units of government shall file, before December 15, 1977, a written registration with the commissioner of the employment security department. Such registration shall specify the manner in which the unit of government will finance the payment of benefits. The elections available to counties, cities and towns are the local government tax, provided for in RCW 50.44.035, or payment in lieu of contributions, as described in RCW 50.44.060. The elections available to other units of government are the contributions plan in chapters 50.24 and 50.29 RCW, or payments in lieu of contributions, described in RCW 50.44.060. Under any election the governmental unit will be charged the full amount of regular, additional, and extended benefits attributable to its account.

(3) A unit of government may switch from its current method of financing the payment of benefits by electing any other method which it would be authorized to select pursuant to the terms of subsection (2) of this section. Notification of such election must be filed with the commissioner no less than thirty days prior to the taxable year for which the new method of financing the payment of benefits is to be effective. An election under this section shall remain in effect for no less than two taxable years.

(4) Any political subdivision or instrumentality of more than one political subdivision of this state is hereby authorized to enter into agreements with other political subdivisions or instrumentalities of more than one political subdivision of this state to form pool accounts for the purpose of making payments in lieu of contributions. These accounts

shall be formed and administered in accordance with applicable regulations. The formation of such accounts shall not relieve the governmental unit of the responsibility for making required payments in the event that the pool account does not make the payments. [1981 c 35 § 11; 1977 ex.s. c 292 § 14; 1972 ex.s. c 35 § 2; 1971 c 3 § 20.]

**Severability—1981 c 35:** See note following RCW 50.22.030.

**Effective dates—1977 ex.s. c 292:** See note following RCW 50.04.116.

**50.44.035 Local government tax.** (1) Any county, city or town not electing to make payments in lieu of contributions shall pay a "local government tax." Taxes paid under this section shall be paid into an administratively identifiable account in the unemployment compensation fund. This account shall be self-sustaining. For calendar years 1978 and 1979 all such employers shall pay local government tax at the rate of one and one-quarter percent of all remuneration paid by the governmental unit for services in its employment. For each year after 1979 each such employer's rate of tax shall be determined in accordance with this section: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That whenever it appears to the commissioner that the anticipated benefit payments from the account would jeopardize reasonable reserves in this identifiable account the commissioner may at the commencement of any calendar quarter, impose an emergency excess tax of not more than one percent of remuneration paid by the participating governmental units which "excess tax" shall be paid in addition to the applicable rate computed pursuant to this section until the calendar year following the next September 1.

(2) A reserve account shall be established for each such employer.

(a) The "reserve account" of each such employer shall be credited with tax amounts paid and shall be charged with benefit amounts charged in accordance with the formula set forth in RCW 50.44.060 as now or hereafter amended except that such employer's account shall be charged for the full amount of extended benefits so attributable for weeks of unemployment commencing after January 1, 1979. Such credits and charges shall be cumulative from January 1, 1978.

(b) After the cutoff date, the "reserve ratio" of each such employer shall be computed by dividing its reserve account balance as of the computation date by the total remuneration paid during the preceding calendar year for services in its employment. This division shall be carried to four decimal places, with the remaining fraction, if any, disregarded.

(3) A "benefit cost ratio" for each such employer shall be computed by dividing its total benefit charges during the thirty-six months ending on June 30 by its total remuneration during the three preceding calendar years: PROVIDED, That after August 31 in 1979 each employer's total benefit charges for the twelve months ending on June 30 shall be divided by its total remuneration paid in the last three quarters of calendar year 1978; and after August 31 in 1980 each employer's total benefit charges for the twenty-four months ending June 30 shall be divided by its total remuneration paid in the last three calendar quarters of 1978 and the four calendar quarters of 1979. Such computations shall be

carried to four decimal places, with the remaining fraction, if any, disregarded.

(4) For each such employer its benefit cost ratio shall be subtracted from its reserve ratio. One-third of the resulting amount shall be subtracted from its benefit cost ratio. The resulting figure, expressed as a percentage and rounded to the nearest tenth of one percent, shall become its local government tax rate for the following rate year. For the rate year 1980 no tax rate shall be less than 0.6 percent nor more than 2.2 percent. For 1981 no tax rate shall be less than 0.4 percent nor more than 2.6 percent. For years after 1981 no tax rate shall be less than 0.2 percent or more than 3.0 percent. No individual rate shall be increased any more than 1.0 percent from one rate year to the next.

(5) Any county, city or town electing participation under this section at any time after December 15, 1977, shall be assigned a tax rate of one and one-quarter percent of total remuneration for the first eight quarters of the participation.

(6) Each year after 1980 the commissioner shall review the local government tax system and make recommendations to the legislature for changes in said system.

(7) "Local government tax" shall be deemed to be "contributions" to the extent that such usage is consistent with the purposes of this title. Such construction shall include but not be limited to those portions of this title and the rules and regulations enacted pursuant thereto dealing with assessments, interest, penalties, liens, collection procedures and remedies, administrative and judicial review, and the imposition of administrative, civil and criminal sanctions. [1983 1st ex.s. c 23 § 22; 1977 ex.s. c 292 § 15.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective dates—Construction—1983 1st ex.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 50.04.073.

**Effective dates—1977 ex.s. c 292:** See note following RCW 50.04.116.

#### **50.44.037 "Institution of higher education" defined.**

For the purposes of this chapter, the term "institution of higher education" means an educational institution in this state which:

(1) Admits as regular students only individuals having a certificate of graduation from a high school, or the recognized equivalent of such a certificate;

(2) Is legally authorized within this state to provide a program of education beyond high school;

(3) Provides an educational program for which it awards a bachelor's or higher degree, or provides a program which is acceptable for full credit toward such a degree, or offers a program of training to prepare students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation; and

(4) Is a public or other nonprofit institution.

Notwithstanding any of the foregoing subsections, all colleges and universities in this state are "institutions of higher education". [1977 ex.s. c 292 § 16.]

**Effective dates—1977 ex.s. c 292:** See note following RCW 50.04.116.

**50.44.040 Services excluded under "employment" as used in RCW 50.44.010, 50.44.020, and 50.44.030.** The term "employment" as used in RCW 50.44.010, 50.44.020, and 50.44.030 shall not include service performed:

(1) In the employ of (a) a church or convention or association of churches, or (b) an organization which is

operated primarily for religious purposes and which is operated, supervised, controlled, or principally supported by a church or convention or association of churches; or

(2) By a duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed minister of a church in the exercise of his ministry or by a member of a religious order in the exercise of duties required by such order; or

(3) Before January 1, 1978, in the employ of a nongovernmental educational institution, approved or accredited by the state board of education, which is not an "institution of higher education"; or

(4) In a facility conducted for the purpose of carrying out a program of (a) rehabilitation for individuals whose earning capacity is impaired by age or physical or mental deficiency or injury, or (b) providing remunerative work for individuals who because of their impaired physical or mental capacity cannot be readily absorbed in the competitive labor market, by an individual receiving such rehabilitation or remunerative work; or

(5) As part of an unemployment work-relief or work-training program assisted or financed in whole or in part by a federal agency or an agency of a state or political subdivision thereof, by an individual receiving such work-relief or work-training; or

(6) For a custodial or penal institution by an inmate of the custodial or penal institution; or

(7) In the employ of a hospital, if such service is performed by a patient of such hospital; or

(8) In the employ of a school, college, or university, if such service is performed (a) by a student who is enrolled and is regularly attending classes at such school, college, or university, or (b) by the spouse of such a student, if such spouse is advised, at the time such spouse commences to perform such service, that (i) the employment of such spouse to perform such service is provided under a program to provide financial assistance to such student by such school, college, or university, and (ii) such employment will not be covered by any program of unemployment insurance; or

(9) By an individual under the age of twenty-two who is enrolled at a nonprofit or public educational institution which normally maintains a regular faculty and curriculum and normally has a regularly organized body of students in attendance at the place where its educational activities are carried on as a student in a full time program, taken for credit at such institution, which combines academic instruction with work experience, if such service is an integral part of such program, and such institution has so certified to the employee, except that this subsection shall not apply to service performed in a program established for or on behalf of an employer or group of employers; or

(10) Before January 1, 1978, in the employ of the state or one of its instrumentalities or a political subdivision or one of its instrumentalities by an individual who is (a) occupying an elective office, or (b) who is compensated solely on a fee or per diem basis; or

(11) Before January 1, 1978, in the employ of the legislature of the state of Washington by an individual who is compensated pursuant to an agreement which provides for a guaranteed rate of compensation for irregular hours worked; or

(12) In the employ of a nongovernmental preschool which is devoted exclusively to the area of child develop-

ment training of preschool age children through an established curriculum of formal classroom or laboratory instruction which did not employ four or more individuals on each of some twenty days during the calendar year or the preceding calendar year, each day being in a different calendar week; or

(13) After December 31, 1977, in the employ of the state or any of its instrumentalities or political subdivisions of this state in any of its instrumentalities by an individual in the exercise of duties:

(a) As an elected official;

(b) As a member of the national guard or air national guard; or

(c) In a policymaking position the performance of the duties of which ordinarily do not require more than eight hours per week. [1977 ex.s. c 292 § 17; 1975 1st ex.s. c 67 § 1; 1975 c 4 § 1; 1973 c 73 § 9; 1971 c 3 § 21.]

**Effective dates—1977 ex.s. c 292:** See note following RCW 50.04.116.

**Effective dates—1973 c 73:** See note following RCW 50.04.030.

*Exemption from unemployment compensation coverage conservation corps members:* RCW 43.220.170.

*Washington service corps enrollees:* RCW 50.65.120.

**50.44.050 Benefits payable, terms and conditions—**  
**"Academic year" defined.** Except as otherwise provided in subsections (1) through (4) of this section, benefits based on services in employment covered by or pursuant to this chapter shall be payable on the same terms and subject to the same conditions as compensation payable on the basis of other service subject to this title.

(1) Benefits based on service in an instructional, research or principal administrative capacity for an educational institution shall not be paid to an individual for any week of unemployment which commences during the period between two successive academic years or between two successive academic terms within an academic year (or, when an agreement provides instead for a similar period between two regular but not successive terms within an academic year, during such period) if such individual performs such services in the first of such academic years or terms and if there is a contract or reasonable assurance that such individual will perform services in any such capacity for any educational institution in the second of such academic years or terms. Any employee of a common school district who is presumed to be reemployed pursuant to RCW 28A.405.210 shall be deemed to have a contract for the ensuing term.

(2) Benefits shall not be paid based on services in any other capacity for an educational institution for any week of unemployment which commences during the period between two successive academic years or between two successive academic terms within an academic year, if such individual performs such services in the first of such academic years or terms and there is a reasonable assurance that such individual will perform such services in the second of such academic years or terms: PROVIDED, That if benefits are denied to any individual under this subsection and that individual was not offered an opportunity to perform such services for the educational institution for the second of such academic years or terms, the individual is entitled to a retroactive payment of benefits for each week for which the individual filed a



timely claim for benefits and for which benefits were denied solely by reason of this subsection.

(3) Benefits shall not be paid based on any services described in subsections (1) and (2) of this section for any week of unemployment which commences during an established and customary vacation period or holiday recess if such individual performs such services in the period immediately before such vacation period or holiday recess, and there is a reasonable assurance that such individual will perform such services in the period immediately following such vacation period or holiday recess.

(4) Benefits shall not be paid (as specified in subsections (1), (2), or (3) of this section) based on any services described in subsections (1) or (2) of this section to any individual who performed such services in an educational institution while in the employ of an educational service district which is established pursuant to chapter 28A.310 RCW and exists to provide services to local school districts.

(5) As used in subsection (1) of this section, "academic year" means, with respect to services described in subsection (1) of this section performed by part-time faculty at community colleges and technical colleges: Fall, winter, spring, and summer quarters or comparable semesters unless, based upon objective criteria including enrollment and staffing, the quarter or comparable semester is not in fact a part of the academic year for the particular institution. [1995 c 296 § 2; 1990 c 33 § 587; 1984 c 140 § 2; 1983 1st ex.s. c 23 § 23; 1981 c 35 § 12; 1980 c 74 § 2; 1977 ex.s. c 292 § 18; 1975 1st ex.s. c 288 § 17; 1973 c 73 § 10; 1971 c 3 § 22.]

**Finding and intent—1995 c 296 § 2:** "The legislature finds that, as a general rule with limited exceptions, employees of educational institutions expect to be employed for no more than a nine or ten-month school year with a break between school years for the traditional summer vacation.

Because of the decision in *Evans v. Employment Security Department*, 72 Wn. App. 862 (1994), the legislature finds it necessary to clarify legislative intent with regard to unemployment compensation for employees of educational institutions. The 1995 c 296 § 2 amendment to RCW 50.44.050 is intended to clarify that for the part-time faculty at two-year institutions of higher education, summer quarter may be expected to be a time of employment, unless otherwise shown. However, the 1995 c 296 § 2 amendment to RCW 50.44.050 is not intended to change the general rules used by the employment security department prior to the *Evans* decision regarding unemployment compensation for other employees of educational institutions." [1995 c 296 § 4.]

**Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—Effective date—1995 c 296:** See notes following RCW 50.04.320.

**Purpose—Statutory references—Severability—1990 c 33:** See RCW 28A.900.100 through 28A.900.102.

**Effective date—Applicability—1984 c 140:** "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 [March 7, 1984]. This act shall apply to weeks of unemployment beginning on or after April 1, 1984." [1984 c 140 § 3.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective dates—Construction—1983 1st ex.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 50.04.073.

**Effective dates—Severability—1981 c 35:** See notes following RCW 50.22.030.

**Severability—Effective dates—1980 c 74:** See notes following RCW 50.04.323.

**Effective dates—1977 ex.s. c 292:** See note following RCW 50.04.116.

**Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 228:** See note following RCW 50.04.355.

**Effective dates—1973 c 73:** See note following RCW 50.04.030.

**50.44.053 Definition of "reasonable assurance" as used in RCW 50.44.050.** The term "reasonable assurance," as used in RCW 50.44.050, means a written, verbal, or implied agreement that the employee will perform services in the same capacity during the ensuing academic year or term as in the first academic year or term. However, with respect to services described in RCW 50.44.050(1) performed by part-time faculty for community colleges and technical colleges, the term "reasonable assurance" does not include an agreement that is contingent on enrollment, funding, or program changes. A person shall not be deemed to be performing services "in the same capacity" unless those services are rendered under the same terms or conditions of employment in the ensuing year as in the first academic year or term. [1995 c 296 § 3; 1985 ex.s. c 5 § 9.]

**Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—Effective date—1995 c 296:** See notes following RCW 50.04.320.

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—1985 ex.s. c 5:** See notes following RCW 50.62.010.

**50.44.060 Financing benefits paid employees of nonprofit organizations—Election to make payments in lieu of contributions.** Benefits paid to employees of "nonprofit organizations" shall be financed in accordance with the provisions of this section. For the purpose of this section and RCW 50.44.070, the term "nonprofit organization" is limited to those organizations described in RCW 50.44.010, and joint accounts composed exclusively of such organizations.

(1) Any nonprofit organization which is, or becomes subject to this title on or after January 1, 1972 shall pay contributions under the provisions of RCW 50.24.010 and chapter 50.29 RCW, unless it elects, in accordance with this subsection, to pay to the commissioner for the unemployment compensation fund an amount equal to the full amount of regular and additional benefits and one-half of the amount of extended benefits paid to individuals for weeks of unemployment that are based upon wages paid or payable during the effective period of such election to the extent that such payments are attributable to service in the employ of such nonprofit organization.

(a) Any nonprofit organization which becomes subject to this title after January 1, 1972 may elect to become liable for payments in lieu of contributions for a period of not less than twelve months beginning with the date on which such subjectivity begins by filing a written notice of its election with the commissioner not later than thirty days immediately following the date of the determination of such subjectivity.

(b) Any nonprofit organization which makes an election in accordance with paragraph (a) of this subsection will continue to be liable for payments in lieu of contributions until it files with the commissioner a written notice terminating its election not later than thirty days prior to the beginning of the taxable year for which such termination shall first be effective.

(c) Any nonprofit organization which has been paying contributions under this title for a period subsequent to January 1, 1972 may change to a reimbursable basis by filing with the commissioner not later than thirty days prior to the beginning of any taxable year a written notice of election to become liable for payments in lieu of contribu-

tions. Such election shall not be terminable by the organization for that and the next year.

(d) The commissioner may for good cause extend the period within which a notice of election, or a notice of termination, must be filed and may permit an election to be retroactive but not any earlier than with respect to benefits paid after December 31, 1969.

(e) The commissioner, in accordance with such regulations as the commissioner may prescribe, shall notify each nonprofit organization of any determination which the commissioner may make of its status as an employer and of the effective date of any election which it makes and of any termination of such election. Any nonprofit organization subject to such determination and dissatisfied with such determination may file a request for review and redetermination with the commissioner within thirty days of the mailing of the determination to the organization. Should such request for review and redetermination be denied, the organization may, within ten days of the mailing of such notice of denial, file with the appeal tribunal a petition for hearing which shall be heard in the same manner as a petition for denial of refund. The appellate procedure prescribed by this title for further appeal shall apply to all denials of review and redetermination under this paragraph.

(2) Payments in lieu of contributions shall be made in accordance with the provisions of this section including either paragraph (a) or (b) of this subsection.

(a) At the end of each calendar quarter, the commissioner shall bill each nonprofit organization or group of such organizations which has elected to make payments in lieu of contributions for an amount equal to the full amount of regular and additional benefits plus one-half of the amount of extended benefits paid during such quarter that is attributable to service in the employ of such organization.

(b)(i) Each nonprofit organization that has elected payments in lieu of contributions may request permission to make such payments as provided in this paragraph. Such method of payment shall become effective upon approval by the commissioner.

(ii) At the end of each calendar quarter, or at the end of such other period as determined by the commissioner, the commissioner shall bill each nonprofit organization for an amount representing one of the following:

(A) The percentage of its total payroll for the immediately preceding calendar year as the commissioner shall determine. Such determination shall be based each year on the average benefit costs attributable to service in the employ of nonprofit organizations during the preceding calendar year.

(B) For any organization which did not pay wages throughout the four calendar quarters of the preceding calendar year, such percentage of its payroll during such year as the commissioner shall determine.

(iii) At the end of each taxable year, the commissioner may modify the quarterly percentage of payroll thereafter payable by the nonprofit organization in order to minimize excess or insufficient payments.

(iv) At the end of each taxable year, the commissioner shall determine whether the total of payments for such year made by a nonprofit organization is less than, or in excess of, the total amount of regular and additional benefits plus one-half of the amount of extended benefits paid to individu-

als during such taxable year based on wages attributable to service in the employ of such organization. Each nonprofit organization whose total payments for such year are less than the amount so determined shall be liable for payment of the unpaid balance to the fund in accordance with paragraph (c). If the total payments exceed the amount so determined for the taxable year, all of the excess payments will be retained in the fund as part of the payments which may be required for the next taxable year, or a part of the excess may, at the discretion of the commissioner, be refunded from the fund or retained in the fund as part of the payments which may be required for the next taxable year.

(c) Payment of any bill rendered under paragraph (a) or (b) shall be made not later than thirty days after such bill was mailed to the last known address of the nonprofit organization or was otherwise delivered to it, and if not paid within such thirty days, the reimbursement payments itemized in the bill shall be deemed to be delinquent and the whole or part thereof remaining unpaid shall bear interest and penalties from and after the end of such thirty days at the rate and in the manner set forth in RCW 50.12.220 and 50.24.040.

(d) Payments made by any nonprofit organization under the provisions of this section shall not be deducted or deductible, in whole or in part, from the remuneration of individuals in the employ of the organization. Any deduction in violation of the provisions of this paragraph shall be unlawful.

(3) Each employer that is liable for payments in lieu of contributions shall pay to the commissioner for the fund the total amount of regular and additional benefits plus the amount of one-half of extended benefits paid that are attributable to service in the employ of such employer. If benefits paid to an individual are based on wages paid by more than one employer and one or more of such employers are liable for payments in lieu of contributions, the amount payable to the fund by each employer that is liable for such payments shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection.

(a) If benefits paid to an individual are based on wages paid by one or more employers that are liable for payments in lieu of contributions and on wages paid by one or more employers who are liable for contributions, the amount of benefits payable by each employer that is liable for payments in lieu of contributions shall be an amount which bears the same ratio to the total benefits paid to the individual as the total base-period wages paid to the individual by such employer bear to the total base-period wages paid to the individual by all of his base-period employers.

(b) If benefits paid to an individual are based on wages paid by two or more employers that are liable for payments in lieu of contributions, the amount of benefits payable by each such employer shall be an amount which bears the same ratio to the total benefits paid to the individual as the total base-period wages paid to the individual by such employer bear to the total base-period wages paid to the individual by all of his base-period employers. [1990 c 245 § 9; 1983 1st ex.s. c 23 § 24; 1977 ex.s. c 292 § 19; 1971 c 3 § 23.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective dates—1990 c 245:** See notes following RCW 50.04.030.

**Conflict with federal requirements—Effective dates—Construction—1983 1st ex.s. c 23:** See notes following RCW 50.04.073.

**Effective dates—1977 ex.s. c 292:** See note following RCW 50.04.116.

**50.44.070 Surety bond or deposit of money or securities when election to make payments in lieu of contributions.** In the discretion of the commissioner, any nonprofit organization that elects to become liable for payments in lieu of contributions shall be required within thirty days after the effective date of its election, to execute and file with the commissioner a surety bond approved by the commissioner or it may elect instead to deposit with the commissioner money or securities. The amount of such bond or deposit shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(1) The amount of the bond or deposit required by this subsection shall be an amount deemed by the commissioner to be sufficient to cover any reimbursement payments which may be required from the employer attributable to employment during any year for which the election is in effect but in no event shall such amount be in excess of the amount which said employer would pay for such year if he were subject to the contribution provisions of this title. The determination made pursuant to this subsection shall be based on payroll information, employment experience, and such other factors as the commissioner deems pertinent.

(2) Any bond deposited under this section shall be in force for a period of not less than two taxable years and shall be renewed with the approval of the commissioner, at such times as the commissioner may prescribe, but not less frequently than at two-year intervals as long as the organization continues to be liable for payments in lieu of contributions. The commissioner shall require adjustments to be made in a previously filed bond as he deems appropriate. If the bond is to be increased, the adjusted bond shall be filed by the organization within thirty days of the date notice of the required adjustment was mailed or otherwise delivered to it. Failure by any organization covered by such bond to pay the full amount of payments in lieu of contributions when due, together with any applicable interest and penalties provided for in this title, shall render the surety liable on said bond to the extent of the bond, as though the surety was such organization.

(3) Any deposit of money or securities in accordance with this section shall be retained by the commissioner in an escrow account until liability under the election is terminated, at which time it shall be returned to the organization, less any deductions as hereinafter provided. The commissioner may deduct from the money deposited under this section by a nonprofit organization or sell the securities it has so deposited to the extent necessary to satisfy any due and unpaid payments in lieu of contributions and any applicable interest and penalties provided for in this act. The commissioner shall require the organization within thirty days following any deduction from a money deposit or sale of deposited securities under the provisions of this subsection to deposit sufficient additional money or securities to make whole the organization's deposit at the prior level. Any cash remaining from the sale of such securities shall be a part of the organization's escrow account. The commissioner may, at any time review the adequacy of the deposit made by any

organization. If, as a result of such review, he determines that an adjustment is necessary he shall require the organization to make an additional deposit within thirty days of written notice of his determination or shall return to it such portion of the deposit as he no longer considers necessary, whichever action is appropriate. Disposition of income from securities held in escrow shall be governed by the applicable provisions of the state law.

(4) If any nonprofit organization fails to file a bond or make a deposit, or to file a bond in an increased amount or to increase or make whole the amount of a previously made deposit, as provided under this section, the commissioner may terminate such organization's election to make payments in lieu of contributions and such termination shall continue for not less than the four-consecutive-calendar-quarter period beginning with the quarter in which termination becomes effective: PROVIDED, That the commissioner may extend for good cause the applicable filing, deposit or adjustment period by not more than thirty days. [1973 c 73 § 11; 1971 c 3 § 24.]

**Effective dates—1973 c 73:** See note following RCW 50.04.030.

**50.44.080 Construction—Compliance with federal act—1971 c 3.** RCW 50.44.010 through 50.44.070 have been enacted to meet the requirements imposed by the federal unemployment tax act as amended by 91-373. Internal references in any section of chapter 3, Laws of 1971 to the provisions of that act are intended only to apply to those provisions as they existed as of January 28, 1971.

In view of the importance of compliance of chapter 3, Laws of 1971 with the federal unemployment tax act, any ambiguities contained herein should be resolved in a manner consistent with the provisions of that act. Considerable weight has been given to the commentary contained in that document entitled "Draft Legislation to Implement the Employment Security Amendments of 1970 . . . H.R. 14705", published by the United States Department of Labor, Manpower Administration, and that commentary should be referred to when interpreting the provisions of chapter 3, Laws of 1971.

Language in chapter 3, Laws of 1971 concerning the extension of coverage to employers entitled to make payments in lieu of contributions should, in a manner consistent with the foregoing paragraph, be construed so as to have a minimum financial impact on the employers subject to the experience rating provisions of this title. [1971 c 3 § 25.]

**50.44.090 Construction—Mandatory coverage of employees of political subdivision provisions of 1977 ex.s. c 292.** (1) The provisions of chapter 292, Laws of 1977 ex. sess. mandating coverage of employees of political subdivisions have been enacted to comply with the provisions of Public Law 94-566. Therefore, as provided in subsection (2), this mandatory feature shall be contingent on the existence of valid and constitutional federal law requiring the Secretary of Labor to refuse to certify as approved the employment security laws of this state if such laws did not continue such mandatory coverage.

(2) In the event the mandatory coverage feature for political subdivisions ceases to be necessary for compliance with valid and constitutional federal law, then the mandatory

feature of chapter 292, Laws of 1977 ex. sess. shall cease to be effective as of the end of the next quarter following the quarter in which the mandatory feature contained in chapter 292, Laws of 1977 ex. sess. is not necessary for such compliance.

(3) In the event mandatory coverage ceases to be effective pursuant to subsection (2), then the sections, or subsections as the case may be, of chapter 292, Laws of 1977 ex. sess. shall to the extent that they apply to coverage of employees of political subdivisions be deemed nullified and the language of the sections being amended shall be deemed reinstated as the laws of this state.

(4) Benefits paid based on the services covered during the effective life of the mandatory coverage feature shall be financed as follows:

(a) If the political subdivision was financing payment of benefits on a reimbursable basis, benefits attributable to employment with the political subdivision shall be assessed to and paid by the political subdivision;

(b) If the political subdivision is a county, city, or town which elected financing pursuant to RCW 50.44.035, such political subdivision will pay "the local government tax" for all earnings by employees through the end of the calendar quarter in which the mandatory coverage is no longer effective pursuant to subsection (2);

(c) If the political subdivision was financing benefits by the contribution method it will pay contributions on wages earned by its employees through the end of the calendar quarter in which mandatory coverage is no longer effective pursuant to subsection (2). [1977 ex.s. c 292 § 23.]

**Effective dates—1977 ex.s. c 292:** See note following RCW 50.04.116.

## Chapter 50.60

### SHARED WORK COMPENSATION PLANS— BENEFITS

Sections	
50.60.010	Legislative intent.
50.60.020	Definitions.
50.60.030	Shared work compensation plan—Criteria for approval.
50.60.040	Shared work compensation plan—Approval or rejection—Resubmission.
50.60.050	Approved shared work compensation plan—Misrepresentation—Penalties.
50.60.060	Approved shared work compensation plan—Effective date—Expiration.
50.60.070	Approved shared work compensation plan—Revocation—Review of plans.
50.60.080	Approved shared work compensation plan—Modification.
50.60.090	Shared work benefits—Eligibility.
50.60.100	Shared work benefits—Weekly amount—Maximum entitlement—Claims—Conditions of entitlement.
50.60.110	Shared work benefits—Charge to employers' experience rating accounts.
50.60.120	Shared work benefits—Exhaustee.
50.60.900	Title and rules to apply to shared work benefits—Conflict with federal requirements.
50.60.901	Rules—Report to legislature—1983 c 207.
50.60.902	Effective date—1983 c 207.

**50.60.010 Legislative intent.** In order to provide an economic climate conducive to the retention of skilled workers in industries adversely affected by general economic downturns and to supplement depressed buying power of

employees affected by such downturns, the legislature finds that the public interest would be served by the enactment of laws providing greater flexibility in the payment of unemployment compensation benefits in situations where qualified employers elect to retain employees at reduced hours rather than instituting layoffs. [1983 c 207 § 1.]

**50.60.020 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Affected unit" means a specified plant, department, shift, or other definable unit consisting of one or more employees, to which an approved shared work compensation plan applies.

(2) "Fringe benefits" include health insurance, retirement benefits under benefit pension plans as defined in section 3(35) of the employee retirement income security act of 1974, paid vacation and holidays, and sick leave, which are incidents of employment in addition to cash remuneration.

(3) "Shared work benefits" means the benefits payable to employees in an affected unit under an approved shared work compensation plan as distinguished from the benefits otherwise payable under this title.

(4) "Shared work compensation plan" means a plan of an employer, or of an employers' association, under which there is a reduction in the number of hours worked by employees rather than temporary layoffs.

(5) "Shared work employer" means an employer, one or more of whose employees are covered by a shared work compensation plan.

(6) "Usual weekly hours of work" means the normal number of hours of work for full-time employees in the affected unit when that unit is operating on a full-time basis, not to exceed forty hours and not including overtime.

(7) "Unemployment compensation" means the benefits payable under this title other than shared work benefits and includes any amounts payable pursuant to an agreement under federal law providing for compensation, assistance, or allowances with respect to unemployment.

(8) "Employers' association" means an association which is a party to a collective bargaining agreement under which there is a shared work compensation plan. [1983 c 207 § 2.]

**50.60.030 Shared work compensation plan—Criteria for approval.** An employer or employers' association wishing to participate in a shared work compensation program shall submit a written and signed shared work compensation plan to the commissioner for approval. The commissioner shall approve a shared work compensation plan only if the following criteria are met:

(1) The plan identifies the affected units to which it applies;

(2) An employee in an affected unit are identified by name, social security number, and by any other information required by the commissioner;

(3) The usual weekly hours of work for an employee in an affected unit are reduced by not less than ten percent and not more than fifty percent;

(4) Fringe benefits will continue to be provided on the same basis as before the reduction in work hours. In no

event shall the level of health benefits be reduced due to a reduction in hours;

(5) The plan certifies that the aggregate reduction in work hours is in lieu of temporary layoffs which would have affected at least ten percent of the employees in the affected units to which the plan applies and which would have resulted in an equivalent reduction in work hours;

(6) The plan applies to at least ten percent of the employees in the affected unit;

(7) The plan is approved in writing by the collective bargaining agent for each collective bargaining agreement covering any employee in the affected unit;

(8) The plan will not subsidize seasonal employers during the off season nor subsidize employers who have traditionally used part-time employees; and

(9) The employer agrees to furnish reports necessary for the proper administration of the plan and to permit access by the commissioner to all records necessary to verify the plan before approval and after approval to evaluate the application of the plan.

In addition to subsections (1) through (9) of this section, the commissioner shall take into account any other factors which may be pertinent. [1985 c 43 § 1; 1983 c 207 § 3.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—1985 c 43:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements which are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements which are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal unemployment tax credits to employers in this state." [1985 c 43 § 2.]

**Severability—1985 c 43:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1985 c 43 § 3.]

**50.60.040 Shared work compensation plan—Approval or rejection—Resubmission.** The commissioner shall approve or reject a shared work compensation plan in writing within fifteen days of its receipt. The reasons for the rejection shall be final and nonappealable, but the rejection shall not prevent an employer from submitting another plan for approval not earlier than fifteen days after the date of a previous written rejection. [1983 c 207 § 4.]

**50.60.050 Approved shared work compensation plan—Misrepresentation—Penalties.** If an approved plan or any representation for implementation of the plan is intentionally and substantially misleading or false, any individual who participated in any such misrepresentation shall be subject to criminal prosecution as well as personal liability for any amount of benefits deemed by the commissioner to have been improperly paid from the fund as a result thereof. This provision for personal liability is in addition to any remedy against individual claimants for collection of overpayment of benefits if such claimants participated in or were otherwise at fault in the overpayment. [1983 c 207 § 5.]

**50.60.060 Approved shared work compensation plan—Effective date—Expiration.** A shared work compen-

sation plan shall be effective on the date specified in the plan or on the first day of the second calendar week after the date of the commissioner's approval, whichever is later. The plan shall expire at the end of the twelfth full calendar month after its effective date, or on the date specified in the plan if that date is earlier, unless the plan is revoked before that date by the commissioner. If a plan is revoked by the commissioner, it shall terminate on the date specified in the commissioner's order of revocation. [1983 c 207 § 6.]

**50.60.070 Approved shared work compensation plan—Revocation—Review of plans.** The commissioner may revoke approval of a shared work compensation plan for good cause. The revocation order shall be in writing and shall specify the date the revocation is effective and the reasons for the revocation. Good cause for revocation shall include failure to comply with the assurances given in the plan, unreasonable revision of productivity standards for the affected unit, conduct or occurrences tending to defeat the intent and effective operation of the plan, and violation of the criteria on which approval of the plan was based.

Such action may be initiated at any time by the commissioner on his or her own motion, on the motion of any of the affected unit employees, or on the motion of the appropriate collective bargaining agents. The commissioner shall review each plan at least once within the twelve month period the plan is in effect to assure that it continues to meet the requirements of this chapter. [1983 c 207 § 7.]

**50.60.080 Approved shared work compensation plan—Modification.** An approved shared work compensation plan in effect may be modified with the approval of the commissioner. If the hours of work are increased or decreased beyond the level in the original plan, or any other condition is changed, the employer shall promptly notify the commissioner. If the changes meet the requirements for approval of a plan, the commissioner shall approve the modifications. This approval shall not change the expiration date of the original plan. If the modifications do not meet the requirements for approval, the commissioner shall revoke the plan as specified in RCW 50.60.060. [1983 c 207 § 8.]

**50.60.090 Shared work benefits—Eligibility.** An individual is eligible to receive shared work benefits with respect to any week only if, in addition to meeting the conditions of eligibility for other benefits under this title, the commissioner finds that:

(1) The individual was employed during that week as a member of an affected unit under an approved shared work compensation plan which was in effect for that week;

(2) The individual was able to work and was available for additional hours of work and for full-time work with the shared work employer; and

(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, an individual is deemed to have been unemployed in any week for which remuneration is payable to him or her as an employee in an affected unit for less than his or her normal weekly hours of work as specified under the approved shared work compensation plan in effect for that week. [1983 c 207 § 9.]

**50.60.100 Shared work benefits—Weekly amount—Maximum entitlement—Claims—Conditions of entitlement.** (1) The shared work weekly benefit amount shall be the product of the regular weekly unemployment compensation benefit amount multiplied by the percentage of reduction in the individual's usual weekly hours of work;

(2) No individual is eligible in any benefit year for more than the maximum entitlement established for benefits under this title, including benefits under this chapter, nor may an individual be paid shared work benefits for more than a total of twenty-six weeks in any twelve-month period under a shared work compensation plan;

(3) The shared work benefits paid an individual shall be deducted from the total benefit amount established for that individual's benefit year;

(4) Claims for shared work benefits shall be filed in the same manner as claims for other benefits under this title or as prescribed by the commissioner by rule;

(5) Provisions otherwise applicable to unemployment compensation claimants under this title apply to shared work claimants to the extent that they are not inconsistent with this chapter;

(6)(a) If an individual works in the same week for an employer other than the shared work employer and his or her combined hours of work for both employers are equal to or greater than the usual weekly hours of work with the shared work employer, the individual shall not be entitled to benefits under this chapter or title;

(b) If an individual works in the same week for both the shared work employer and another employer and his or her combined hours of work for both employers are less than his or her usual weekly hours of work, the benefit amount payable for that week shall be the weekly unemployment compensation benefit amount reduced by the same percentage that the combined hours are of the usual weekly hours of work. A week for which benefits are paid under this subsection shall count as a week of shared work benefits;

(7) An individual who does not work during a week for the shared work employer, and is otherwise eligible, shall be paid his or her full weekly unemployment compensation benefit amount. Such a week shall not be counted as a week for which shared work benefits were received;

(8) An individual who does not work for the shared work employer during a week but works for another employer, and is otherwise eligible, shall be paid benefits for that week under the partial unemployment compensation provisions of this title. Such a week shall not be counted as a week for which shared work benefits were received. [1983 c 207 § 10.]

**50.60.110 Shared work benefits—Charge to employers' experience rating accounts.** Shared work benefits shall be charged to employers' experience rating accounts in the same manner as other benefits under this title are charged. Employers liable for payments in lieu of contributions shall have shared work benefits attributed to their accounts in the same manner as other benefits under this title are attributed. [1983 c 207 § 11.]

**50.60.120 Shared work benefits—Exhaustee.** An individual who has received all of the shared work benefits,

or all of the combined unemployment compensation and shared work benefits, available in a benefit year shall be considered an exhaustee for purposes of the extended benefits program under chapter 50.22 RCW, and, if otherwise eligible under that chapter, shall be eligible to receive extended benefits. [1983 c 207 § 12.]

**50.60.900 Title and rules to apply to shared work benefits—Conflict with federal requirements.** Unless inconsistent with or otherwise provided by this section, this title and rules adopted under this title apply to shared work benefits. To the extent permitted by federal law, those rules may make such distinctions and requirements as may be necessary with respect to unemployed individuals to carry out the purposes of this chapter, including rules defining usual hours, days, work week, wages, and the duration of plans adopted under this chapter. To the extent that any portion of this chapter may be inconsistent with the requirements of federal law relating to the payment of unemployment insurance benefits, the conflicting provisions or interpretations of this chapter shall be deemed inoperative, but only to the extent of the conflict. If the commissioner determines that such a conflict exists, a statement to that effect shall be filed with the governor's office for transmission to both houses of the legislature. [1983 c 207 § 13.]

**50.60.901 Rules—Report to legislature—1983 c 207.** The department shall adopt such rules as are necessary to carry out the purposes of this act. The department shall make a report to the legislature by January 1, 1984 which describes the implementation of this act. [1983 c 207 § 14.]

**50.60.902 Effective date—1983 c 207.** 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 with the weeks beginning after July 31, 1983. [1983 c 207 § 16.]

## Chapter 50.62

### SPECIAL EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

#### Sections

50.62.010	Legislative findings.
50.62.020	Definitions.
50.62.030	Job service program or activity.
50.62.040	Annual report—Wage and benefit history.

**50.62.010 Legislative findings.** The legislature finds and declares that:

(1) The number of persons unemployed in the state is significantly above the national average.

(2) Persons who are unemployed represent a skilled resource to the economy and the quality of life for all persons in the state.

(3) There are jobs available in the state that can be filled by unemployed persons.

(4) A public labor exchange can appreciably expedite the employment of unemployed job seekers and filling employer vacancies thereby contributing to the overall health of the state and national economies.

(5) The Washington state job service of the employment security department has provided a proven service of assisting persons to find employment for the past fifty years.

(6) Expediting the reemployment of unemployment insurance claimants will reduce payment of claims drawn from the state unemployment insurance trust fund.

(7) Increased emphasis on assisting in the reemployment of claimants and monitoring claimants' work search efforts will positively impact employer tax rates resulting from the recently enacted experience rating legislation, chapter 205, Laws of 1984.

(8) Special employment service efforts are necessary to adequately serve agricultural employers who have unique needs in the type of workers, recruitment efforts, and the urgency of obtaining sufficient workers.

(9) Study and research of issues related to employment and unemployment provides economic information vital to the decision-making process.

(10) Older workers and the long-term unemployed experience greater difficulty finding new employment at wages comparable to their prelayoff earnings relative to all unemployment insurance claimants who return to work.

(11) After a layoff, older unemployed workers and the long-term unemployed workers fail to find unemployment insurance-covered employment at a much higher rate than other groups of unemployment insurance claimants.

The legislature finds it necessary and in the public interest to have a program of job service to assist persons drawing unemployment insurance claims to find employment, to provide employment assistance to the agricultural industry, and to conduct research into issues related to employment and unemployment. [1987 c 284 § 1; 1987 c 171 § 1; 1985 ex.s. c 5 § 1.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1987 c 171 § 1 and by 1987 c 284 § 1, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section pursuant to RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Conflict with federal requirements—1987 c 171:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements which are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements which are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal unemployment tax credits to employers in this state." [1987 c 171 § 7.]

**Severability—1987 c 171:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1987 c 171 § 8.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—1985 ex.s. c 5:** "If any part of this act shall be found to be in conflict with federal requirements which are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state, such conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of such conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act." [1985 ex.s. c 5 § 16.]

**Severability—1985 ex.s. c 5:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1985 ex.s. c 5 § 17.]

**50.62.020 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Job service" means the employment assistance program of the employment security department;

(2) "Employment assistance" means services to unemployed persons focused on and measured by the obtaining of employment;

(3) "Labor exchange" means those activities which match labor supply and labor demand, including recruitment, screening, and referral of qualified workers to employers;

(4) "Special account of the administrative contingency fund" means that fund under RCW 50.24.014 established within the administrative contingency fund of the employment security department which provides revenue for the purposes of this chapter.

(5) "Continuous wage and benefit history" means an information and research system utilizing a longitudinal data base containing information on both employment and unemployment.

(6) "Long-term unemployed" means demographic groups of unemployment insurance claimants identified by the employment security department pursuant to RCW 50.62.040(1)(e) which have the highest percentages of persons who have drawn at least fifteen weeks of unemployment insurance benefits or have the highest percentage of persons who have exhausted their unemployment insurance benefits.

(7) "Older unemployed workers" means unemployment insurance claimants who are at least fifty years of age. [1987 c 284 § 2; 1985 ex.s. c 5 § 2.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—1985 ex.s. c 5:** See notes following RCW 50.62.010.

**50.62.030 Job service program or activity:** Job service resources shall be used to assist with the reemployment of unemployed workers using the most efficient and effective means of service delivery. The job service program of the employment security department may undertake any program or activity for which funds are available and which furthers the goals of this chapter. These programs and activities shall include, but are not limited to:

(1) Giving older unemployed workers and the long-term unemployed the highest priority for all services made available under this section. The employment security department shall make the services provided under this chapter available to the older unemployed workers and the long-term unemployed as soon as they register under the employment assistance program;

(2) Supplementing basic employment services, with special job search and claimant placement assistance designed to assist unemployment insurance claimants to obtain employment;

(3) Providing employment services, such as recruitment, screening, and referral of qualified workers, to agricultural areas where these services have in the past contributed to positive economic conditions for the agricultural industry; and

(4) Providing otherwise unobtainable information and analysis to the legislature and program managers about issues related to employment and unemployment. [1995 c 135 § 4. Prior: 1987 c 284 § 3; 1987 c 171 § 2; 1985 ex.s. c 5 § 3.]

**Intent—1995 c 135:** See note following RCW 29.04.160.

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—1987 c 171:** See notes following RCW 50.62.010.

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—1985 ex.s. c 5:** See notes following RCW 50.62.010.

**50.62.040 Annual report—Wage and benefit history.** (1) Each year the employment security department shall publish an annual report on the unemployed based on research conducted on the continuous usage [wage] and benefit history and other sources that identifies:

(a) The demographic groups of unemployment insurance claimants that experience the greatest difficulty finding new employment with wages comparable to their prelayoff earnings;

(b) The demographic groups of unemployment insurance claimants that have the highest rates of failure to find unemployment insurance covered-employment after a layoff;

(c) The demographic, industry, and employment characteristics of the unemployment insurance claimant population most closely associated with the exhaustion of an unemployment claim;

(d) The demographic, industry, and employment characteristics of those locked-out workers who are eligible for unemployment compensation under RCW 50.20.090; and

(e) The demographic groups which are defined as the "long-term unemployed" for purposes of this chapter. This listing shall be updated each year.

(2) The employment security department shall continue to fund the continuing wage and benefit history at a level necessary to produce the annual report described in subsection (1) of this section. [1987 c 284 § 4.]

## Chapter 50.65

### WASHINGTON SERVICE CORPS

#### Sections

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50.65.020	Definitions.
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50.65.040	Washington service corps—Criteria for enrollment.
50.65.050	Washington service corps—List of local youth employment opportunities.
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50.65.901	Conflict with federal requirements—1983 1st ex.s. c 50.
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50.65.903	Conflict with federal requirements—1987 c 167.
50.65.904	Severability—1987 c 167.
50.65.905	Effective date—1987 c 167.
50.65.906	Conflict with federal requirements—1993 sp.s. c 7.
50.65.907	Short title—1993 sp.s. c 7.
50.65.908	Severability—1993 sp.s. c 7.

*Washington conservation corps: Chapter 43.220 RCW.*

**50.65.010 Legislative findings.** The legislature finds that:

(1) The unemployment rate in the state of Washington is the highest since the great depression, with a significantly higher rate among Washington youth.

(2) The policy of the state is to conserve and protect its natural and urban resources, scenic beauty, and historical and cultural sites.

(3) It is in the public interest to target employment projects to those activities which have the greatest benefit to the local economy.

(4) There are many unemployed young adults without hope or opportunities for entrance into the labor force who are unable to afford higher education and who create a serious strain on tax revenues in community services.

(5) The severe cutbacks in community and human services funding leave many local community service agencies without the resources to provide necessary services to those in need.

(6) The talent and energy of Washington's unemployed young adults are an untapped resource which should be challenged to meet the serious shortage in community services and promote and conserve the valuable resources of the state.

Therefore, the legislature finds it necessary and in the public interest to enact the Washington youth employment and conservation act. As part of this chapter, the Washington service corps is established as an operating program of the employment security department. The legislature desires to facilitate the potential of youth to obtain available job opportunities in both public and private agencies. [1987 c 167 § 1; 1983 1st ex.s. c 50 § 1.]

**Reviser's note:** Wherever the phrase "this act" occurred in RCW 50.65.010 through 50.65.130, it has been changed to "this chapter." "This



act" [1983 1st ex.s. c 50] consists of this chapter and three uncodified sections.

**50.65.020 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the employment security department.

(2) "Department" means the employment security department.

(3) "Enrollees" means those persons who have completed enrollment forms, completed a work agreement, and who have entered into the Washington service corps following the approval of the director of the supervising agency.

(4) "Corps" means the Washington service corps.

(5) "Work agreement" means the written agreement between the department, the enrollee and the supervising agency under this chapter for a period of up to eighteen months.

(6) "Supervising agencies" means those private or public agencies which develop and implement full-time service projects in which enrollees agree to participate.

(7) "Matching funds" means funding that is provided to the employment security department by agencies or individuals as financial support for a portion of the stipend or wage and benefits paid to the enrollee.

(8) "Financial support" means any thing of value contributed by agencies or individuals to the department for a youth employment project which is reasonably calculated to support directly the development and expansion of a particular program under this chapter and which represents an addition to any financial support previously or customarily provided by the individual or agency. "Financial support" includes, but is not limited to funds, equipment, facilities, and training.

(9) "Director" means the individual who shall serve as the director of the exchange. [1987 c 167 § 2; 1983 1st ex.s. c 50 § 2.]

**50.65.030 Washington service corps established—Commissioner's duties.** The Washington service corps is established within the employment security department. The commissioner shall:

(1) Appoint a director and other personnel as necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter;

(2) Coordinate youth employment and training efforts under the department's jurisdiction and cooperate with other agencies or departments providing youth services to ensure that funds appropriated for the purposes of this chapter will not be expended to duplicate existing services, but will increase the services of youth to the state;

(3) The employment security department is authorized to place subgrants with other federal, state, and local governmental agencies and private agencies to provide youth employment projects and to increase the numbers of youth employed;

(4) Determine appropriate financial support levels by private business, community groups, foundations, public agencies, and individuals which will provide matching funds for enrollees in service projects under work agreements. The matching funds requirement may be waived for public agencies or reduced for private agencies;

(5) Recruit enrollees who are residents of the state unemployed at the time of application and are at least eighteen years of age but have not reached their twenty-sixth birthday;

(6) Recruit supervising agencies to host the enrollees in full-time service activities which shall not exceed eleven months' duration;

(7) Assist supervising agencies in the development of scholarships and matching funds from private and public agencies, individuals, and foundations in order to support a portion of the enrollee's stipend and benefits;

(8) Develop general employment guidelines for placement of enrollees in supervising agencies to establish appropriate authority for hiring, firing, grievance procedures, and employment standards which are consistent with state and federal law;

(9) Match enrollees with appropriate public agencies and available service projects;

(10) Monitor enrollee activities for compliance with this chapter and compliance with work agreements;

(11) Assist enrollees in transition to employment upon termination from the programs, including such activities as orientation to the labor market, on-the-job training, and placement in the private sector;

(12) Establish a program for providing incentives to encourage successful completion of terms of enrollment in the service corps and the continuation of educational pursuits. Such incentives shall be in the form of educational assistance equivalent to two years of community or technical college tuition for eleven months of service. Educational assistance funding shall only be used for tuition, fees, and course-related books and supplies. Enrollees who receive educational assistance funding shall start using it within one year of their service completion and shall finish using it within four years of their service completion;

(13) Enter into agreements with the state's community and technical college system and other educational institutions or independent nonprofit agencies to provide special education in basic skills, including reading, writing, and mathematics for those participants who may benefit by participation in such classes. Participation is not mandatory but shall be strongly encouraged. [1993 c 302 § 1; 1987 c 167 § 3; 1983 1st ex.s. c 50 § 3.]

**Effective date—1993 c 302:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect July 1, 1993." [1993 c 302 § 9.]

**50.65.040 Washington service corps—Criteria for enrollment.** The commissioner may select and enroll in the Washington service corps program any person who is at least eighteen years of age but has not reached their twenty-sixth birthday, is a resident of the state, and who is not for medical, legal, or psychological reasons incapable of service. Efforts shall be made to enroll youths who are economically, socially, physically, or educationally disadvantaged. The commissioner may prescribe such additional standards and procedures in consultation with supervising agencies as may be necessary in conformance with this chapter. In addition, the commissioner may select and enroll youth fourteen to seventeen years of age on special projects during the summer and at other times during the school year that may comple-

ment and support their school curriculum or that link and support service with learning. [1993 c 302 § 2; 1987 c 167 § 4; 1983 1st ex.s. c 50 § 4.]

**Effective date—1993 c 302:** See note following RCW 50.65.030.

**50.65.050 Washington service corps—List of local youth employment opportunities.** The commissioner shall use existing local offices of the employment security department or contract with independent, private nonprofit agencies in a local community to establish the Washington service corps program and to insure coverage of the program state-wide. Each local office shall maintain a list of available youth employment opportunities in the jurisdiction covered by the local office and the appropriate forms or work agreements to enable the youths to apply for employment in private or public supervising agencies. [1987 c 167 § 5; 1983 1st ex.s. c 50 § 5.]

**50.65.060 Washington service corps—Placement under work agreements.** Placements in the Washington service corps shall be made in supervising agencies under work agreements as provided under this chapter and shall include those assignments which provide for addressing community needs and conservation problems and will assist the community in economic development efforts. Each work agreement shall:

(1) Demonstrate that the service project is appropriate for the enrollee's interests, skills, and abilities and that the project is designed to meet unmet community needs;

(2) Include a requirement of regular performance evaluation. This shall include clear work performance standards set by the supervising agency and procedures for identifying strengths, recommended improvement areas and conditions for probation or dismissal of the enrollee; and

(3) Include a commitment for partial financial support for the enrollee from private industry, public agencies, community groups, or foundations. The commissioner may establish additional standards for the development of placements for enrollees with supervising agencies and assure that the work agreements comply with those standards. This section shall not apply to conservation corps programs established by chapter 43.220 RCW.

Agencies of the state may use the Washington service corps for the purpose of employing youth qualifying under this chapter. [1993 c 302 § 3; 1987 c 167 § 6; 1983 1st ex.s. c 50 § 6.]

**Effective date—1993 c 302:** See note following RCW 50.65.030.

**50.65.065 Work agreements—Requirements.** For each enrollee, the work agreements, or combination of work agreements, developed under RCW 50.65.060 shall:

(1) Include a variety of experiences consisting of: Indoor activities; outdoor activities; and volunteer activities;

(2) Provide time for participation in a core training program common to all participants. [1993 c 302 § 4.]

**Effective date—1993 c 302:** See note following RCW 50.65.030.

**50.65.070 Enrollees not to displace current workers.** The assignment of enrollees shall not result in the displacement of currently employed workers, including partial displacement such as reduction in hours of nonovertime

work, wages, or other employment benefits. Supervising agencies that participate in the program may not terminate, lay-off, or reduce the working hours of any employee for the purpose of utilizing an enrollee with funds available. In circumstances where substantial efficiencies or a public purpose may result, supervising agencies may utilize enrollees to carry out essential agency work or contractual functions without displacing current employees. [1983 1st ex.s. c 50 § 7.]

**50.65.080 Commissioner to seek assistance for Washington service corps.** The commissioner shall seek and may accept, on behalf of the Washington service corps, charitable donations of cash and other assistance including, but not limited to, equipment and materials if the donations are available for appropriate use for the purposes set forth in this chapter. [1993 c 302 § 6; 1983 1st ex.s. c 50 § 8.]

**Effective date—1993 c 302:** See note following RCW 50.65.030.

**50.65.090 Authority for income-generating projects—Disposition of income.** The commissioner may enter into income-generating projects with public or private organizations to further the purposes of this chapter. Moneys received from contractual projects qualifying under this chapter shall be deposited in the state general fund. This section does not apply to conservation corps programs established by chapter 43.220 RCW. [1983 1st ex.s. c 50 § 9.]

**50.65.100 Work agreements—Nondiscrimination.** All parties entering into work agreements under this chapter shall agree that they will not discriminate in the providing of any service on the basis of race, creed, ethnic origin, sex, age, or political affiliation. [1983 1st ex.s. c 50 § 10.]

**50.65.110 Enrollees—Training and subsistence allowance—Medical insurance and medical aid—Notice of coverage.** The compensation received shall be considered a training and subsistence allowance. Comprehensive medical insurance, and medical aid shall be paid for the enrollees in the service corps by the commissioner in accordance with the standards and limitations of the appropriation provided for this chapter. The department shall give notice of coverage to the director of labor and industries after enrollment. The department shall not be deemed an employer of an enrollee for any other purpose.

Other provisions of law relating to civil service, hours of work, rate of compensation, sick leave, unemployment compensation, old age health and survivor's insurance, state retirement plans, and vacation leave do not apply to enrollees. [1987 c 167 § 7; 1985 c 230 § 6; 1983 1st ex.s. c 50 § 11.]

**Severability—1985 c 230:** See RCW 43.220.902.

**50.65.120 Exemption of enrollees from unemployment compensation coverage.** The services of enrollees placed with supervising agencies described in chapter 50.44 RCW are exempt from unemployment compensation coverage under RCW 50.44.040(5) and the enrollees shall be so advised by the department. [1983 1st ex.s. c 50 § 12.]

**50.65.130 Federal and private sector funds and grants.** In addition to any other power, duty, or function described by law or rule, the employment security department, through the program established under this chapter, may accept federal or private sector funds and grants and implement such programs relating to community services or employment programs and may enter into contracts respecting such funds or grants. The department may also use funds appropriated for the purposes of this chapter as matching funds for federal or private source funds to accomplish the purposes of this chapter. The Washington service corps shall be the sole recipient of federal funds for youth employment and conservation corps programs. [1987 c 167 § 8; 1983 1st ex.s. c 50 § 13.]

**50.65.138 Use of funds for enrollees and projects in distressed areas—Service corps.** Sixty percent of the general funds available to the service corps program shall be for enrollees from distressed areas and for projects in distressed areas. A distressed area shall mean:

(1) A county which has an unemployment rate which is twenty percent above the state average for the immediately preceding three years;

(2) A community which has experienced sudden and severe loss of employment; or

(3) An area within a county which area:

(a) Is composed of contiguous census tracts;

(b) Has a minimum population of five thousand persons;

(c) The median household income is at least thirty-five percent below the county's median household income, as determined from data collected for the preceding United States ten-year census; and

(d) Has an unemployment rate which is at least forty percent higher than the county's unemployment rate. For purposes of this definition, "families and unrelated individuals" has the same meaning that is ascribed to that term by the federal department of housing and urban development in its regulations authorizing action grants for economic development and neighborhood revitalization projects. [1987 c 167 § 10.]

**50.65.140 Use of funds for enrollees and members, projects in distressed areas—Youth employment exchange.** See RCW 43.220.220.

**50.65.143 Limitation on use of funds for administration—Service corps.** (1) Not more than fifteen percent of the funds available for the service corps shall be expended for administrative costs. For the purposes of this chapter, "administrative costs" include, but are not limited to, program planning and evaluation, budget development and monitoring, personnel management, contract administration, administrative payroll, development of program reports, and administrative office space costs and utilities.

(2) The fifteen percent limitation does not include costs for any of the following: Program support activities such as direct supervision of enrollees and corpsmembers, counseling, education and job training, equipment, advisory board expenses, and extraordinary recruitment and placement procedures necessary to fill project positions.

(3) The total for all items included under subsection (1) of this section and excluded under subsection (2) of this section shall not: (a) Exceed thirty percent of the appropriated funds available during a fiscal biennium for the service and conservation corps programs; or (b) result in an average cost per enrollee or corpsmember from general funds exceeding seven thousand dollars in the 1987-89 biennium and in succeeding biennia as adjusted by inflation factors established by the office of financial management for state budgeting purposes. The test included in (a) and (b) of this subsection are in the alternative, and it is only required that one of the tests be satisfied. [1987 c 167 § 11.]

**50.65.145 Limitation on use of funds.** See RCW 43.220.230.

**50.65.150 Washington service corps scholarship account—Created—Use.** The Washington service corps scholarship account is created in the custody of the state treasurer. The account shall consist of a portion of Washington service corps funding, deposited by the commissioner, in an amount sufficient to provide for the future awarding of educational assistance grants described in RCW 50.65.030. Expenditures from the account may be used only for educational assistance grants described in RCW 50.65.030. Only the commissioner or the commissioner's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to the allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but no appropriation is required for expenditures. All earnings of investments of surplus balances in the account shall be deposited to the treasury income account created in RCW 43.84.092. [1993 c 302 § 5.]

**Effective date—1993 c 302:** See note following RCW 50.65.030.

**50.65.200 Washington serves—Findings—Declaration.** The legislature finds that:

(1) Budget constraints are causing severe gaps and reductions in vital services to local communities and citizens. Some of these gaps in services can be filled by citizen volunteers through an organized program to recruit and place volunteers and to expand opportunities for volunteers to serve their communities;

(2) The federal government is proposing expansion of national services programs. These programs may require significant matching resources from states. State funds supporting the Washington serves program can serve as a required matching source to leverage additional federal national service resources;

(3) Washington state has, through the Washington service corps, successfully offered service opportunities and meaningful work experience to young adults between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five years;

(4) The need exists to expand full-time volunteer opportunities to citizens age twenty-one and over, to encourage senior citizens, college graduates, professional and technically skilled persons, and other adult citizens, to contribute their critical expertise, experience, labor, and commitment to meeting the needs of their communities;

(5) It is appropriate and in the public's interest for Washington state to create opportunities for citizens to engage in full-time, meaningful volunteer service in govern-

mental or private nonprofit agencies, institutions, programs, or activities that address the social, economic, educational, civic, cultural, or environmental needs of local communities;

(6) Through volunteer service, citizens apply their skills and knowledge to the resolution of critical problems or meeting unmet needs, gain valuable experience, refine or develop new skills, and instill a sense of civic pride and commitment to their community;

(7) There is a need to coordinate state and federally funded volunteer service programs that provide living allowances and other benefits to volunteers to maximize the benefits to volunteers and the organizations in which they serve.

It is therefore the legislature's desire to expand full-time volunteer opportunities for citizens age twenty-one and over and to provide appropriate incentives to those who serve. Such a program should be implemented state-wide and coordinated across programs. [1993 sp.s. c 7 § 1.]

**50.65.210 Washington serves—Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the employment security department.

(2) "\*Council" means the Washington council on volunteerism and citizen service authorized by chapter 43.150 RCW.

(3) "Department" means the employment security department.

(4) "Volunteer" means a person at least twenty-one years of age who, upon application and acceptance into the program, is placed in a governmental or private, nonprofit organization to perform full-time service for the benefit of the community, and who receives a living allowance and other benefits as authorized under this chapter. [1993 sp.s. c 7 § 2.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 43.150.060, which created the Washington state council on volunteerism and citizen service, was repealed by 1995 c 269 § 2302, effective July 1, 1995.

**50.65.220 Washington serves—Program—Created—Procedure—Intent.** There is hereby created within the employment security department a program for full-time community service that shall be known and referred to as the Washington serves program. The department shall recruit, train, place, and evaluate applicants to the program. The department may accept applications and enter into agreements or contracts with any governmental or private nonprofit organization appropriate for placement of volunteers under this program. The commissioner, after consultation with the council, may adopt rules as needed to carry out the intent and purposes of this program. It is the intent of the legislature that the commissioner coordinate this program with all volunteer service programs, whether funded with state or federal dollars, in order to maximize the benefits to volunteers and the communities served under the program. It is also the legislature's intent that to the extent that state funds are paid directly to persons that participate in the program, whether to reimburse, support, assist, or provide other direct payment, no volunteer may have such reimbursement, support, assistance, or other payment reduced or

withheld for having served in the program. [1993 sp.s. c 7 § 3.]

**50.65.230 Washington serves—Applicants—Eligibility.** (1) Applicants to the Washington serves program shall be at least twenty-one years of age and a resident of Washington state.

(2) Applicants may apply to serve for a period of service of one year, except that volunteers may serve for periods of service of less than one year if it is determined by the commissioner, on an individual basis, that a period of service of less than one year is necessary to meet a critical scarce skill or necessary to enable a person or organization to participate in the program.

(3) Volunteers may reapply for periods of service totaling not more than two additional years.

(4) Applicants to the program shall be committed to providing full-time service to the community. [1993 sp.s. c 7 § 4.]

**50.65.240 Washington serves—Disqualification for Washington service corps participation.** No individual may participate in the Washington serves program created by chapter 7, Laws of 1993 sp. sess., if the person has previously participated for six months or longer in the Washington service corps within the last three years. [1993 c 302 § 10.]

**Effective date—1993 c 302:** See note following RCW 50.65.030.

**50.65.250 Washington serves—Volunteers—Selection—Placement.** (1) Program volunteers shall be selected from among qualified individuals submitting applications for full-time service at such time, in such form, and containing such information as may be necessary to evaluate the suitability of each individual for service, and available placements. The commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall review the application of each individual who applies in conformance with selection criteria established by the commissioner after consultation with the council, and who, on the basis of the information provided in the application, is determined to be suitable to serve as a volunteer under the Washington serves program.

(2) Within available funds, volunteers may be placed with any public or private nonprofit organization, program, or project that qualifies to accept program volunteers according to the rules and application procedures established by the commissioner. Work shall benefit the community or state at-large and may include but is not limited to programs, projects, or activities that:

(a) Address the problems of jobless, homeless, hungry, illiterate, or functionally illiterate persons, and low-income youths;

(b) Provide support and a special focus on those project activities that address the needs of the unemployed and those in need of job training or retraining;

(c) Address significant health care problems, including services to homeless individuals and other low-income persons, especially children, through prevention and treatment;

(d) Meet the health, education, welfare, or related needs of low-income persons, particularly children and low-income minority communities;

(e) Provide care or rehabilitation services to the mentally ill, developmentally disabled, or other persons with disabilities;

(f) Address the educational and education-related needs of children, youth, families, and young adults within public educational institutions or related programs;

(g) Address alcohol and drug abuse prevention, education, and related activities; and

(h) Seek to enhance, improve, or restore the environment or that educate or advocate for a sustainable environment.

(3) Every reasonable effort shall be made to place participants in programs, projects, or activities of their choice if the agencies, programs, or activities are consistent with the intent and purposes of the Washington serves program, if there is mutual agreement between the agency, program, or activity and the volunteer, and if the volunteer's service is consistent with the intent and purpose of the program and would benefit the community or the state as a whole. [1993 sp.s. c 7 § 5.]

**50.65.260 Washington serves—Volunteers—Support.** (1) Volunteers accepted into the Washington serves program and placed in an approved agency, program, or activity, shall be provided a monthly subsistence allowance in an amount determined by the commissioner taking into consideration the allowance given to VISTA, Washington service corps, and other similar service programs. For those persons who qualify and are granted a deferment of federal student loan payments while serving in the program, the rate of compensation shall be equal to but not greater than the monthly subsistence allowance granted Volunteers In Service To America (VISTA) serving in this state, as determined by the national ACTION agency or its successor, in accordance with section 105 (b)(2) of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973, P.L. 93-113, as amended.

(2) The commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall, within available funds, ensure that each volunteer has available support to enable the volunteer to perform the work to which the volunteer is assigned. Such support may include, but is not limited to, reimbursement for travel expenses, payment for education and training expenses, including preservice and on-the-job training necessary for the performance of duties, technical assistance, and other support deemed necessary and appropriate.

(3) At the end of each volunteer's period of service of not less than one year, each volunteer may receive a postservice stipend for each month of completed service in an amount determined by the commissioner. The postservice stipend for those persons who qualify and are granted a deferment of federal student loan payments while serving in this program shall be an amount equal to but not greater than the amount or rate determined by the national ACTION agency or its successor, in accordance with section 105(b)(2) of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973, P.L. 93-113 as amended, for Volunteers In Service To America (VISTA), who are providing services in this state. Volunteers under the Washington serves program may accrue the stipend for each month of their service period of not less than one year, including any month during which they were in training. The commissioner or the commissioner's designee may, on

an individual basis, make an exception to provide a stipend to a volunteer who has served less than one year.

(4) Stipends shall be payable to the volunteer only upon completion of the period of service. Under circumstances determined by the commissioner, the stipend may be paid on behalf of the volunteer to members of the volunteer's family or others designated by the volunteer. [1993 sp.s. c 7 § 6.]

**50.65.270 Washington serves—Volunteers—Medical benefits—Benefit limits.** Within available funds, medical aid coverage under chapter 51.36 RCW and medical insurance shall be provided to all volunteers under this program. The department shall give notice of medical aid coverage to the director of labor and industries upon acceptance of the volunteer into the program. The department shall not be deemed an employer of any volunteer under the Washington serves program for any other purpose. Other provisions of law relating to civil service, hours of work, rate of compensation, sick leave, unemployment compensation, old age, health and survivor's insurance, state retirement plans, and vacation leave do not apply to volunteers under this program. [1993 sp.s. c 7 § 7.]

**50.65.280 Washington serves—Displacement of current workers prohibited.** The assignment of volunteers under the Washington serves program shall not result in the displacement of currently employed workers, including partial displacement such as would result from a reduction in hours of nonovertime work, wages, or other employment benefits. Participating agencies, programs, or activities may not terminate, lay off, or reduce the working hours of any employee for the purpose of using volunteers under the Washington serves program. In circumstances where substantial efficiencies or a public purpose may result, participating agencies may use volunteers to carry out essential agency work or contractual functions without displacing current employees. [1993 sp.s. c 7 § 8.]

**50.65.290 Washington serves—Volunteers—Unemployment compensation coverage limited.** The services of volunteers placed with participating agencies described in chapter 50.44 RCW are not eligible for unemployment compensation coverage. Each volunteer shall be so advised by the commissioner or the commissioner's designee. [1993 sp.s. c 7 § 9.]

**50.65.300 Washington serves—Volunteers—Assistance to defer student loan payments.** The commissioner or the commissioner's designee may assist any volunteer serving full-time under the Washington serves program in obtaining a service deferment of federally funded student loan payments during his or her period of service. [1993 sp.s. c 7 § 10.]

**50.65.310 Washington serves—Volunteers—Subsequent development of skills and experience—Recognition.** The commissioner or the commissioner's designee may provide or arrange for educational, vocational, or job counseling for program volunteers at the end of their period of service to (1) encourage volunteers to use the skills and experience which they have derived from their training

and service, and (2) promote the development of appropriate opportunities for the use of such skills and experience, and the placement therein of such volunteers. The commissioner or the commissioner's designee may also assist volunteers in developing a plan for gainful employment.

The commissioner shall provide for an appropriate means of recognition or certification of volunteer service. [1993 sp.s. c 7 § 11.]

**50.65.320 Washington serves—Service placement—Work agreements—Contracts—Rules for agencies—Financial support for organizations.** The executive administrator of the Washington serves program shall recruit and develop service placements and may enter into work agreements or contracts as needed to implement the Washington serves program. The commissioner, after consultation with the council, may adopt rules for participating agencies which rules may include, but are not limited to: Supervision of volunteers, reasonable work space or other working environment conditions, ongoing training, the handling of grievances or disputes, performance evaluations, frequency of agency contacts, and liability insurance coverage. The commissioner shall determine financial support levels for organizations receiving volunteer placements that will provide matching funds for enrollees in service projects under work agreements. [1993 sp.s. c 7 § 12.]

**50.65.330 Washington serves—Gifts, grants, endowments—Matching funds.** The department may receive such gifts, grants, and endowments from private or public sources that may be made from time to time, in trust or otherwise, for the use and benefit of the Washington serves program and spend the same or any income therefrom according to the terms of the gifts, grants, or endowments.

The department may also use funds appropriated for the purposes of this chapter as matching funds for federal or private source funds to accomplish the purposes of this chapter. [1993 sp.s. c 7 § 13.]

**50.65.331 Washington serves—Commissioner's report.** The commissioner shall report to the appropriate committees of the legislature on the success and impact of the Washington serves program by January 1, 1996. [1993 sp.s. c 7 § 17.]

**50.65.901 Conflict with federal requirements—1983 1st ex.s. c 50.** If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements which are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state, such conflicting part of this act is declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements which are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state. [1983 1st ex.s. c 50 § 16.]

**50.65.902 Severability—1983 1st ex.s. c 50.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1983 1st ex.s. c 50 § 17.]

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**50.65.903 Conflict with federal requirements—1987 c 167.** If any part of this chapter is found to be in conflict with federal requirements which are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state, such conflicting part of this chapter is declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this chapter. The rules under this chapter shall meet federal requirements which are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state. [1987 c 167 § 12.]

**50.65.904 Severability—1987 c 167.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1987 c 167 § 13.]

**50.65.905 Effective date—1987 c 167.** 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 June 30, 1987. [1987 c 167 § 15.]

**50.65.906 Conflict with federal requirements—1993 sp.s. c 7.** If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements which are prescribed conditions to the receipt of federal funds or participation in any federal program, such conflicting part of this act is declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of the act. Rules adopted pursuant to this act shall meet federal requirements which are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state. [1993 sp.s. c 7 § 14.]

**50.65.907 Short title—1993 sp.s. c 7.** Sections 1 through 13 of this act may be known and cited as the Washington serves act. [1993 sp.s. c 7 § 15.]

**50.65.908 Severability—1993 sp.s. c 7.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1993 sp.s. c 7 § 18.]

## Chapter 50.67

### WASHINGTON STATE JOB TRAINING COORDINATING COUNCIL

#### Sections

50.67.010	Council created.
50.67.020	Membership of council—Assistance to work force training and education coordinating board.
50.67.030	Washington youthbuild program—Council to advise.
50.67.900	Effective dates—Severability—1991 c 238.

**50.67.010 Council created.** (1) There is hereby created the Washington state job training coordinating council for so long as a state council is required by federal law or regulation as a condition for receipt of federal funds.

The council shall perform all duties of state job training coordinating council as specified in the federal job training partnership act, P.L. 97-300, as amended, including the preparation of a coordination and special services plan for a two-year period, consistent with the state comprehensive plan for work force training and education prepared by the work force training and education coordinating board as provided for in RCW 28C.18.060.

(2) The work force training and education coordinating board shall monitor the need for the council as described in subsection (1) of this section, and, if that need no longer exists, propose legislation to terminate the council. [1991 c 238 § 14.]

**50.67.020 Membership of council—Assistance to work force training and education coordinating board.**

(1) Current members of the Washington state job training coordinating council appointed pursuant to P.L. 97-300, as amended, shall serve as the state council for purposes of this chapter until new appointments are made consistent with this section.

(2) New appointments to the state council shall be made by July 1, 1991. Members of the Washington state job training council shall be appointed by the governor as required by federal law and shall be representative of the population of the state with regard to sex, race, ethnic background, and geographical distribution. To the maximum extent feasible, the governor shall give consideration to providing overlapping membership with the membership of the work force training and education coordinating board. One voting member of the council shall be a representative of the administrators for the service delivery areas established under P.L. 97-300. One voting member of the council shall be a representative of the private industry councils established under P.L. 97-300.

(3) The Washington state job training coordinating council shall provide staff and allocate funds to the work force training and education coordinating board, as appropriate, to carry out the overlapping functions of the two bodies. [1991 c 238 § 15.]

**50.67.030 Washington youthbuild program—Council to advise.** In addition to its duties under this chapter, the Washington state job training coordinating council shall advise the employment security department and the department of community, trade, and economic development on the development and implementation of the Washington youthbuild program created under chapter 50.72 RCW. [1994 sp.s. c 3 § 8.]

**50.67.900 Effective dates—Severability—1991 c 238.** See RCW 28B.50.917 and 28B.50.918.

**Chapter 50.70**

**PROGRAMS FOR DISLOCATED FOREST PRODUCTS WORKERS**

Sections

50.70.010	Definitions.
50.70.020	Purpose—Displacement of employed workers prohibited.
50.70.030	Employment opportunities—Benefits.

(1996 Ed.)

50.70.040	Recruitment—Career orientation services—Career counseling.
50.70.050	Department of natural resources duties.
50.70.900	Severability—1991 c 315.
50.70.901	Conflict with federal requirements—1991 c 315.
50.70.902	Effective date—1991 c 315.

*Community college programs for dislocated forest products workers: RCW 28B.50.258 and 28B.50.259.*

*Emergency mortgage and rental assistance program—Rural natural resources impact areas—Grants and loans: RCW 43.63A.600 through 43.63A.640.*

*Employment security department training and service programs for dislocated forest products workers: RCW 50.12.270.*

*Enrollment of persons in timber impact areas in basic health plan: RCW 70.47.115.*

*Grants for services in rural natural resources impact areas: RCW 43.20A.750.*

*Higher education program for dislocated forest products workers: RCW 28B.80.570 through 28B.80.585.*

*Skagit river salmon recovery plan: RCW 75.50.130.*

*Unemployment compensation additional benefit period for rural natural resources impact areas: RCW 50.22.090.*

**50.70.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Department" means the employment security department.

(2) "Dislocated forest products worker" means a forest products worker who: (a)(i) Has been terminated or received notice of termination from employment and is unlikely to return to employment in the individual's principal occupation or previous industry because of a diminishing demand for his or her skills in that occupation or industry; or (ii) is self-employed and has been displaced from his or her business because of the diminishing demand for the business's services or goods; and (b) at the time of last separation from employment, resided in or was employed in a rural natural resources impact area.

(3) "Forest products worker" means a worker in the forest products industries affected by the reduction of forest fiber enhancement, transportation, or production. The workers included within this definition shall be determined by the employment security department, but shall include workers employed in the industries assigned the major group standard industrial classification codes "24" and "26" and the industries involved in the harvesting and management of logs, transportation of logs and wood products, processing of wood products, and the manufacturing and distribution of wood processing and logging equipment. The commissioner may adopt rules further interpreting these definitions. For the purposes of this subsection, "standard industrial classification code" means the code identified in RCW 50.29.025(6)(c).

(4) "Dislocated salmon fishing worker" means a salmon products worker who: (a)(i) Has been terminated or received notice of termination from employment and is unlikely to return to employment in the individual's principal occupation or previous industry because of a diminishing demand for his or her skills in that occupation or industry; or (ii) is self-employed and has been displaced from his or her business because of the diminishing demand for the business's services or goods; and (b) at the time of last separation from

employment, resided in or was employed in a rural natural resources impact area.

(5) "Salmon fishing worker" means a worker in the salmon industry affected by 1994 or future salmon disasters. The workers included within this definition shall be determined by the employment security department, but shall include workers employed in the industries involved in the commercial and recreational harvesting of salmon including buying and processing salmon. The commissioner may adopt rules further interpreting these definitions.

(6) "Program" means the employment and career orientation program for dislocated forest products workers administered by the employment security department in conjunction with the department of natural resources.

(7) "Enrollee" means any person enrolled in the program.

(8) "Project" means the natural resource worker project.

(9) "Rural natural resources impact area" means:

(a) A nonmetropolitan county, as defined by the 1990 decennial census, that meets two of the five criteria set forth in subsection (10) of this section; or

(b) A nonurbanized area, as defined by the 1990 decennial census, that is located in a metropolitan county that meets two of the five criteria set forth in subsection (10) of this section.

(10) For the purposes of designating rural natural resources impact areas, the following criteria shall be considered:

(a) A lumber and wood products employment location quotient at or above the state average;

(b) A commercial salmon fishing employment location quotient at or above the state average;

(c) Projected or actual direct lumber and wood products job losses of one hundred positions or more;

(d) Projected or actual direct commercial salmon fishing job losses of one hundred positions or more; and

(e) An unemployment rate twenty percent or more above the state average. The counties that meet these criteria shall be determined by the employment security department for the most recent year for which data is available. For the purposes of administration of programs under this chapter, the United States post office five-digit zip code delivery areas will be used to determine residence status for eligibility purposes. For the purpose of this definition, a zip code delivery area that is located wholly or partially in an urbanized area or within two miles of an urbanized area is considered urbanized. The office of financial management shall make available a zip code listing of the areas to all agencies and organizations providing services under this chapter. [1995 c 226 § 31; 1992 c 21 § 1; 1991 c 315 § 5.]

**Sunset Act application:** See note following RCW 43.31.601.

**Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—Effective date—1995 c 226:** See notes following RCW 43.31.601.

**Intent—1991 c 315:** See note following RCW 50.12.270.

**50.70.020 Purpose—Displacement of employed workers prohibited.** It is the purpose of this chapter to establish programs that offer dislocated forest and salmon products workers, in rural natural resources impact areas, opportunities for forest-related employment that utilizes their

unique skills. Employment under the program shall not result in the displacement or partial displacement of currently employed workers. This includes, but is not limited to, state employees or currently or normally contracted service employees. [1995 c 226 § 32; 1991 c 315 § 6.]

**Sunset Act application:** See note following RCW 43.31.601.

**Severability—Conflict with federal requirements—Effective date—1995 c 226:** See notes following RCW 43.31.601.

**Intent—1991 c 315:** See note following RCW 50.12.270.

**50.70.030 Employment opportunities—Benefits.** (1)

Employment opportunities under the program shall consist of activities that improve the value of state lands and waters. These activities may include, but are not limited to, thinning and precommercial thinning, pruning, slash removal, reforestation, fire suppression, trail maintenance, maintenance of recreational facilities, dike repair, development and maintenance of tourist facilities, and stream enhancement.

(2) Enrollees in the program shall receive medical and dental benefits as provided under chapter 41.05 RCW, but are exempt from the provisions of chapter 41.06 RCW. Each week, enrollees shall not work more than thirty-two hours in this program and must participate in eight hours of career orientation as established in RCW 50.70.040. Participation in the program is limited to six months. [1991 c 315 § 7.]

**Intent—1991 c 315:** See note following RCW 50.12.270.

**50.70.040 Recruitment—Career orientation services—Career counseling.** (1) The department shall recruit program applicants and provide employment opportunities by:

(a) Notifying dislocated forest products workers who are receiving unemployment benefits, or dislocated forest products workers who have exhausted unemployment benefits, of their eligibility for the program.

(b) Establishing procedures for dislocated forest products workers to apply to the program.

(c) Developing a pool of workers eligible to enroll in the program.

(d) Contracting with the department of natural resources to provide employment opportunities for not less than two hundred eligible enrollees.

(2) The department shall provide career orientation services to enrollees in the program. The career orientation services shall include, but are not limited to, counseling on employment options and assistance in accessing retraining programs, and assistance in accessing social service programs.

(3) The department shall provide at least eight hours of career counseling each week for program enrollees. [1991 c 315 § 8.]

**Intent—1991 c 315:** See note following RCW 50.12.270.

**50.70.050 Department of natural resources duties.**

(1) The department of natural resources shall enroll candidates in the program from a pool of eligible workers developed by the department.

(2) The department of natural resources shall provide compensation for enrollees. [1991 c 315 § 9.]

**Intent—1991 c 315:** See note following RCW 50.12.270.



**50.70.900 Severability—1991 c 315.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1991 c 315 § 31.]

**50.70.901 Conflict with federal requirements—1991 c 315.** If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements which are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements which are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal unemployment tax credits to employers in this state. [1991 c 315 § 32.]

**50.70.902 Effective date—1991 c 315.** This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately [May 21, 1991], except for section 4 of this act, which shall take effect July 1, 1991. [1991 c 315 § 33.]

**Chapter 50.72**

**YOUTHBUILD PROGRAM**

Sections

- 50.72.010 Legislative findings.
- 50.72.020 Definitions.
- 50.72.030 Commissioner's duties—Education and employment training grants.
- 50.72.040 Education and employment training grants—Eligible activities.
- 50.72.050 Program participation time limits—Program educational services and activities requirement.
- 50.72.060 Grant applications—Requirements.
- 50.72.070 Grant applicants—Information required—Evaluation reports.

*Washington state job training coordinating council to advise on Washington youthbuild program: RCW 50.67.030.*

**50.72.010 Legislative findings.** (1) The legislature finds that there is a need to:

(a) Expand the supply of permanent affordable housing for homeless individuals, low and very low-income persons, and special need populations by utilizing the energies and talents of economically disadvantaged youth;

(b) Provide economically disadvantaged youth with opportunities for meaningful work and service to their communities in helping to meet the housing needs of homeless individuals, low and very low-income persons, and special need populations;

(c) Enable economically disadvantaged youth to obtain the education and employment skills necessary to achieve economic self-sufficiency; and

(d) Foster the development of leadership skills and commitment to community development among youth in designated community empowerment zones.

(2) The legislature declares that the purpose of the Washington youthbuild program is to:

(a) Help disadvantaged youth who have dropped out of school to obtain the education and employment skills necessary to achieve economic self-sufficiency and develop leadership skills and a commitment to community development in designated community empowerment zones; and

(b) Provide funding assistance to entities implementing programs that provide comprehensive education and skills training programs designed to lead to self-sufficiency for economically disadvantaged youth. [1994 sp.s. c 3 § 1.]

**50.72.020 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Applicant" means a public or private nonprofit organization agency eligible to provide education and employment training under federal or state employment training programs.

(2) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of employment security.

(3) "Department" means the employment security department.

(4) "Low income" has the same meaning as in RCW 43.185A.010.

(5) "Participant" means an individual that:

(a) Is sixteen to twenty-four years of age, inclusive;

(b) Is or is a member of a very low-income household;

and

(c) Is neither attending any school nor subject to a compulsory attendance law and who has not received a secondary school diploma or a certificate of equivalency for such diploma.

(6) "Very low income" means a person or household whose income is at or below fifty percent of the median family income, adjusted for household size, for the county where the household is located.

(7) "Youthbuild" means any program that provides disadvantaged youth with opportunities for employment, education, leadership development, entrepreneurial skills development, and training in the construction or rehabilitation of housing for special need populations, very low-income households, or low-income households. [1994 sp.s. c 3 § 2.]

**50.72.030 Commissioner's duties—Education and employment training grants.** The Washington youthbuild program is established within the department. The commissioner, in cooperation and consultation with the director of the department of community, trade, and economic development, shall:

(1) Make grants, up to the lesser of three hundred thousand dollars or twenty-five percent of the total costs of the youthbuild activities, to applicants eligible to provide education and employment training under federal or state employment training programs, for the purpose of carrying out a wide range of multidisciplinary activities and services to assist economically disadvantaged youth under the federal opportunities for youth: Youthbuild program (106 Stat. 3723; 42 U.S.C. Sec. 8011), or locally developed youthbuild-type programs for economically disadvantaged youth; and

(2) Coordinate youth employment and training efforts under the department's jurisdiction and cooperate with other agencies and departments providing youth services to ensure that funds appropriated for the purposes of this chapter will be used to supplement funding from federal, state, local, or private sources. [1994 sp.s. c 3 § 3.]

**50.72.040 Education and employment training grants—Eligible activities.** (1) Grants made under this chapter shall be used to fund an applicant's activities to implement a comprehensive education and employment skills training program.

(2) Activities eligible for assistance under this chapter include:

(a) Education and job skills training services and activities that include:

(i) Work experience and skills training, coordinated to the maximum extent feasible, with preapprenticeship and apprenticeship programs in construction and rehabilitation trades;

(ii) Services and activities designed to meet the educational needs of participants, including basic skills instruction and remedial education, bilingual education for participants with limited-English proficiency, secondary education services and activities designed to lead to the attainment of a high school diploma or its equivalent, and counseling and assistance in attaining postsecondary education and required financial aid;

(b) Counseling services and related activities;

(c) Activities designed to develop employment and leadership skills;

(d) Support services and need-based stipends necessary to enable the participant to participate in the program and to assist participants through support services in retaining employment;

(e) Wage stipends and benefits provided to participants; and

(f) Administrative costs of the applicant, not to exceed five percent of the amount of assistance provided under this chapter. [1994 sp.s. c 3 § 4.]

**50.72.050 Program participation time limits—Program educational services and activities requirement.**

(1) An individual selected as a participant in the youthbuild program under this chapter may be offered full-time participation for a period of not less than six months and not more than twenty-four months.

(2) An applicant's program that is selected for funding under this chapter shall be structured so that fifty percent of the time spent by the participants in the youthbuild program is devoted to educational services and activities, such as those outlined in RCW 50.72.040. [1994 sp.s. c 3 § 5.]

**50.72.060 Grant applications—Requirements.** (1) An application for a grant under this chapter shall be submitted by the applicant in such form and in accordance with the requirements as determined by the commissioner.

(2) The application for a grant under this chapter shall contain at a minimum:

(a) The amount of the grant request and its proposed use;

(b) A description of the applicant and a statement of its qualifications, including a description of the applicant's past experience with housing rehabilitation or construction with youth and youth education and employment training programs, and its relationship with local unions and apprenticeship programs and other community groups;

(c) A description of the proposed site for the program;

(d) A description of the educational and job training activities, work opportunities, and other services that will be provided to participants;

(e) A description of the proposed construction or rehabilitation activities to be undertaken and the anticipated schedule for carrying out such activities;

(f) A description of the manner in which eligible participants will be recruited and selected, including a description of arrangements which will be made with federal or state agencies, community-based organizations, local school districts, the courts of jurisdiction for status and youth offenders, shelters for homeless individuals and other agencies that serve homeless youth, foster care agencies, and other appropriate public and private agencies;

(g) A description of the special outreach efforts that will be undertaken to recruit eligible young women, including young women with dependent children;

(h) A description of how the proposed program will be coordinated with other federal, state, local, and private resources and programs, including vocational, adult, and bilingual education programs, and job training programs;

(i) Assurances that there will be a sufficient number of adequately trained supervisory personnel in the program who have attained the level of journeyman or have served an apprenticeship through the Washington state apprenticeship training council;

(j) A description of the applicant's relationship with building contractor groups and trade unions regarding their involvement in training, and the relationship of the youthbuild program with established apprenticeship and training programs;

(k) A description of activities that will be undertaken to develop the leadership skills of the participants;

(l) A description of the commitments for any additional resources to be made available to the local program from the applicant, from recipients of other federal, state, local, or private sources; and

(m) Other factors the commissioner deems necessary. [1994 sp.s. c 3 § 6.]

**50.72.070 Grant applicants—Information required—Evaluation reports.**

(1) An applicant selected for funding under this chapter shall provide the department information on program and participant accomplishments. The information shall be provided in progress and final reports as requested by the department.

(2) The department shall prepare an initial evaluation report, which shall be made available to the governor and appropriate legislative committees, on or before December 1, 1995, on the progress of individual programs funded under this chapter. A final evaluation report shall be prepared on individual programs at the time of their completion. The final evaluation report shall include, but is not limited to, information on the effectiveness of the program,

the status of program participants, and recommendations on program administration at the state and local level. [1994 sp.s. c 3 § 7.]

## Chapter 50.98 CONSTRUCTION

### Sections

- 50.98.010 Saving clause—1945 c 35.
- 50.98.020 Appointments and regulations continued.
- 50.98.030 Actions commenced under prior laws.
- 50.98.040 Acts repealed.
- 50.98.050 Conflicting acts repealed.
- 50.98.060 Repealed acts not reenacted.
- 50.98.070 Separability of provisions—1945 c 35.
- 50.98.080 Effective date—1945 c 35.
- 50.98.100 Base year wages to include remuneration paid for previously uncovered services.
- 50.98.110 Compliance with federal unemployment tax act—Internal references—Interpretation.

**50.98.010 Saving clause—1945 c 35.** If any provisions of this act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances, is held invalid, the remainder of the act and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby. [1945 c 35 § 184; no RRS.]

**50.98.020 Appointments and regulations continued.** The repeal of any acts or parts of acts by this act shall not affect the appointment or employment of any individual or salary, wages, compensation, powers or duties relating to such individual which would continue in effect except for such repeal. Rules and regulations adopted pursuant to the provisions of any acts or parts of acts repealed by this act consistent with the provisions of this act are not affected by such repeal and are hereby continued in full force and effect. [1945 c 35 § 185; no RRS.]

**50.98.030 Actions commenced under prior laws.** Any action or proceeding had or commenced in any civil or criminal cause prior to the effective date of this act may be prosecuted and continued with the same effect and under the same provisions of the law in effect at the time the action or proceeding was had or commenced: PROVIDED, That no appeal taken subsequent to the effective date of this act will be effective or valid unless there is compliance with the requirements of this act relating to appeals. [1945 c 35 § 186; no RRS.]

**50.98.040 Acts repealed.** The following acts and parts of acts relating to unemployment compensation are hereby repealed: Chapter 162, Session Laws of 1937; chapter 12, Session Laws of 1939; chapter 214, Session Laws of 1939; section 6 of chapter 201, Session Laws of 1941; chapter 253, Session Laws of 1941; chapter 65, Session Laws of 1943; chapter 127, Session Laws of 1943; chapter 226, Session Laws of 1943. [1945 c 35 § 188; no RRS.]

**50.98.050 Conflicting acts repealed.** All acts or parts of acts in conflict with or in derogation of this act or any

part of this act are hereby repealed insofar as the same are in conflict with or in derogation of this act or any part thereof. [1945 c 35 § 189; no RRS.]

**50.98.060 Repealed acts not reenacted.** The repeal of any acts or parts of acts hereby shall not be construed to reenact or revive any act or parts of acts repealed or superseded by the acts or parts of acts hereby repealed. [1945 c 35 § 190; no RRS.]

**50.98.070 Separability of provisions—1945 c 35.** If any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this act should be held to be invalid or unconstitutional the invalidity or unconstitutionality thereof shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause or phrase of this act. [1945 c 35 § 191; no RRS.]

**Severability—1951 c 265:** "If any section, sentence, clause or word of this act shall be held unconstitutional, the invalidity of such section, sentence, clause or word shall not affect the validity of any other portion of this act, it being the intent of this legislative assembly to enact the remainder of this act notwithstanding such part so declared unconstitutional should or may be so declared." [1951 c 265 § 14.]

**50.98.080 Effective date—1945 c 35.** An emergency exists and this act is necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare and shall take effect on the first day of July, 1945. [1945 c 35 § 192; no RRS.]

**50.98.100 Base year wages to include remuneration paid for previously uncovered services.** (1) Effective with benefit years beginning on and after January 1, 1978, base year wages shall include remuneration paid for previously uncovered services: PROVIDED, That the maximum benefits payable to an individual as computed for the benefit year will be reduced to the extent that benefits were paid on the basis of identical calendar quarters of the previously uncovered services with respect to a claim filed by the individual under Title II of the Emergency Jobs and Unemployment Assistance Act of 1974. Benefits will be paid, subject to the provisions of this title, based upon the previously uncovered services to the extent that the unemployment compensation trust fund will be reimbursed for the cost thereof by the federal government under section 121 of PL 94-566 and regulations published by the secretary of labor relating thereto.

(2) For the purposes of this section, the term "previously uncovered services" means services performed before January 1, 1978, which are not employment as defined in Title 50 RCW at any time during the one year period ending December 31, 1975, and which:

(a) Is agricultural labor as defined in RCW 50.04.150 and covered by RCW 50.04.155 or domestic services as defined in and covered by RCW 50.04.160; or

(b) Is service performed by an employee of this state or a political subdivision of this state newly covered by chapter 292, Laws of 1977 ex. sess. or by an employee of a nonprofit educational institution which is not an institution of higher education as provided in RCW 50.44.040(3).

(3) Any nonprofit organization or governmental entity electing to make payments in lieu of contributions shall not be liable to make payments with respect to benefits paid any individual whose base year wages include wages for previ-

ously uncovered services as defined in subsection (2) (a) and (b) of this section to the extent that the unemployment compensation fund is reimbursed for the benefits under section 121 of PL 94-566.

(4) Benefits paid any individual whose base year wages include wages for previously uncovered services as defined in subsection (2) (a) and (b) of this section shall not be charged to the experience rating account of any contribution paying employer to the extent that the unemployment compensation fund is reimbursed for the benefits under section 121 of PL 94-566. [1977 ex.s. c 292 § 20.]

**Effective dates—1977 ex.s. c 292:** See note following RCW 50.04.116.

**50.98.110 Compliance with federal unemployment tax act—Internal references—Interpretation.** Chapter 292, Laws of 1977 ex. sess. has been enacted to meet the requirements imposed by the federal unemployment tax act as amended by PL 94-566. Internal references in any section of chapter 292, Laws of 1977 ex. sess. to the provisions of that act are intended only to apply to those provisions as they existed as of \*the effective date of chapter 292, Laws of 1977 ex. sess.

In view of the importance of compliance of chapter 292, Laws of 1977 ex. sess. with the federal unemployment tax act, any ambiguities contained herein should be resolved in a manner consistent with the provisions of that act. Considerable weight has been given to the commentary contained in that document entitled "Draft Language and Commentary to Implement the Unemployment Compensation Amendments of 1976 PL 94-566", published by the United States department of labor, employment and training administration, and that commentary should be referred to when interpreting the provisions of chapter 292, Laws of 1977 ex. sess. [1977 ex.s. c 292 § 21.]

**\*Reviser's note:** For the effective dates of 1977 ex.s. c 292, see note following RCW 50.04.116.

# Title 51

## INDUSTRIAL INSURANCE

### Chapters

- 51.04** General provisions.
- 51.08** Definitions.
- 51.12** Employments and occupations covered.
- 51.14** Self-insurers.
- 51.16** Assessment and collection of premiums—  
Payrolls and records.
- 51.24** Actions at law for injury or death.
- 51.28** Notice and report of accident—Application  
for compensation.
- 51.32** Compensation—Right to and amount.
- 51.36** Medical aid.
- 51.44** Funds.
- 51.48** Penalties.
- 51.52** Appeals.
- 51.60** Pilot projects to reduce long-term disability  
rate.
- 51.98** Construction.

*Autopsies in industrial deaths: RCW 68.50.103.*

*Civil defense workers, compensation for: Chapter 38.52 RCW.*

*Coal mining code: Chapter 78.40 RCW.*

*Constitutional protection of employees: State Constitution Art. 2 § 35.*

*Department of labor and industries: Chapter 43.22 RCW.*

*Drug-free workplace programs*

*rules and report to legislature: RCW 49.82.140.*

*workers' compensation premium discount: RCW 49.82.030,  
49.82.040.*

*Ferry system employees in extrahazardous employment: RCW 47.64.070.*

*Fisheries patrol officers, compensation insurance and medical aid: RCW  
75.08.206.*

*Labor regulations, generally: Title 49 RCW.*

*Lien of employees for contributions to benefit plans: Chapter 60.76 RCW.*

*Occupational and environmental research facility at University of Washing-  
ton: RCW 28B.20.450 through 28B.20.458.*

*Supervisor of industrial insurance: RCW 43.22.020.*

*Trusts, duration for employee's benefits: Chapter 49.64 RCW.*

*Unemployment compensation: Title 50 RCW.*

*Victims of crimes, benefits: Chapter 7.68 RCW.*

### Chapter 51.04

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### Sections

- 51.04.010 Declaration of police power—Jurisdiction of courts abol-  
ished.
- 51.04.020 Powers and duties.
- 51.04.030 Medical aid—Rules—Adoption of maximum fees—  
Maintenance of records and payment of medical bills.
- 51.04.040 Subpoena power of director—Enforcement by superior  
court.
- 51.04.050 Testimony of physicians not privileged.
- 51.04.060 No evasion of benefits or burdens.
- 51.04.070 Minor worker is sui juris—Guardianship expense.
- 51.04.080 Sending notices, orders, warrants to claimants.
- 51.04.082 Notices and orders—Mail or personal service.

51.04.085 Transmission of amounts payable to claimants, beneficiaries  
or suppliers to their accounts.

51.04.090 Effect of adjudication of applicability.

51.04.100 Statutes of limitation saved.

51.04.105 Continuation of medical aid contracts.

51.04.110 Workers' compensation advisory committee—Members,  
terms, compensation—Duties—Expenses—Study.

51.04.120 Certificate of coverage required—Contents.

*Public assistance recipient receiving industrial insurance compensation,  
recovery by department: RCW 74.04.530 through 74.04.580.*

**51.04.010 Declaration of police power—Jurisdiction of courts abolished.** The common law system governing the remedy of workers against employers for injuries received in employment is inconsistent with modern industrial conditions. In practice it proves to be economically unwise and unfair. Its administration has produced the result that little of the cost of the employer has reached the worker and that little only at large expense to the public. The remedy of the worker has been uncertain, slow and inadequate. Injuries in such works, formerly occasional, have become frequent and inevitable. The welfare of the state depends upon its industries, and even more upon the welfare of its wage worker. The state of Washington, therefore, exercising herein its police and sovereign power, declares that all phases of the premises are withdrawn from private controversy, and sure and certain relief for workers, injured in their work, and their families and dependents is hereby provided regardless of questions of fault and to the exclusion of every other remedy, proceeding or compensation, except as otherwise provided in this title; and to that end all civil actions and civil causes of action for such personal injuries and all jurisdiction of the courts of the state over such causes are hereby abolished, except as in this title provided. [1977 ex.s. c 350 § 1; 1972 ex.s. c 43 § 1; 1961 c 23 § 51.04.010. Prior: 1911 c 74 § 1; RRS § 7673.]

**51.04.020 Powers and duties.** The director shall:

- (1) Establish and adopt rules governing the administration of this title;
- (2) Ascertain and establish the amounts to be paid into and out of the accident fund;
- (3) Regulate the proof of accident and extent thereof, the proof of death and the proof of relationship and the extent of dependency;
- (4) Supervise the medical, surgical, and hospital treatment to the intent that it may be in all cases efficient and up to the recognized standard of modern surgery;
- (5) Issue proper receipts for moneys received and certificates for benefits accrued or accruing;
- (6) Investigate the cause of all serious injuries and report to the governor from time to time any violations or laxity in performance of protective statutes or regulations coming under the observation of the department;

(7) Compile statistics which will afford reliable information upon which to base operations of all divisions under the department;

(8) Make an annual report to the governor of the workings of the department;

(9) Be empowered to enter into agreements with the appropriate agencies of other states relating to conflicts of jurisdiction where the contract of employment is in one state and injuries are received in the other state, and insofar as permitted by the Constitution and laws of the United States, to enter into similar agreements with the provinces of Canada. [1994 c 164 § 24; 1977 c 75 § 77; 1963 c 29 § 1; 1961 c 23 § 51.04.020. Prior: 1957 c 70 § 3; prior: (i) 1921 c 182 § 9; 1911 c 74 § 24; RRS § 7703. (ii) 1947 c 247 § 1, part; 1911 c 74 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7676f, part.]

**Severability—1963 c 29:** "If any provision of this act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1963 c 29 § 2.] This applies to RCW 51.04.020.

*Assignment of wage claims:* RCW 49.48.040.

*Electricians, installations:* Chapters 19.28, 19.29 RCW.

*Farm labor contractors:* Chapter 19.30 RCW.

*Health and safety, underground workers:* Chapter 49.24 RCW.

*Minimum wage act:* Chapter 49.46 RCW.

*Seasonal labor disputes:* Chapter 49.40 RCW.

*Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act:* Chapter 49.17 RCW.

**51.04.030 Medical aid—Rules—Adoption of maximum fees—Maintenance of records and payment of medical bills.** The director shall supervise the providing of prompt and efficient care and treatment, including care provided by physician assistants governed by the provisions of chapters 18.57A and 18.71A RCW, acting under a supervising physician, and including chiropractic care, to workers injured during the course of their employment at the least cost consistent with promptness and efficiency, without discrimination or favoritism, and with as great uniformity as the various and diverse surrounding circumstances and locations of industries will permit and to that end shall, from time to time, establish and adopt and supervise the administration of printed forms, rules, regulations, and practices for the furnishing of such care and treatment: **PROVIDED**, That, the department may recommend to an injured worker particular health care services and providers where specialized treatment is indicated or where cost effective payment levels or rates are obtained by the department: **AND PROVIDED FURTHER**, That the department may enter into contracts for goods and services including, but not limited to, durable medical equipment so long as state-wide access to quality service is maintained for injured workers.

The director shall, in consultation with interested persons, establish and, in his or her discretion, periodically change as may be necessary, and make available a fee schedule of the maximum charges to be made by any physician, surgeon, chiropractor, hospital, druggist, physicians' assistants as defined in chapters 18.57A and 18.71A RCW, acting under a supervising physician or other agency or person rendering services to injured workers. The department shall coordinate with other state purchasers of health care services to establish as much consistency and uniformity in billing and coding practices as possible, taking

into account the unique requirements and differences between programs. No service covered under this title shall be charged or paid at a rate or rates exceeding those specified in such fee schedule, and no contract providing for greater fees shall be valid as to the excess. The establishment of such a schedule, exclusive of conversion factors, does not constitute "agency action" as used in RCW 34.05.010(3), nor does such a fee schedule constitute a "rule" as used in RCW 34.05.010(15).

The director or self-insurer, as the case may be, shall make a record of the commencement of every disability and the termination thereof and, when bills are rendered for the care and treatment of injured workers, shall approve and pay those which conform to the adopted rules, regulations, established fee schedules, and practices of the director and may reject any bill or item thereof incurred in violation of the principles laid down in this section or the rules, regulations, or the established fee schedules and rules and regulations adopted under it. [1994 c 164 § 25. Prior: 1993 c 515 § 1; 1993 c 159 § 1; 1989 c 189 § 1; 1986 c 200 § 8; 1980 c 14 § 1; prior: 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 2; 1977 ex.s. c 239 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 74; 1961 c 23 § 51.04.030; prior: (i) 1917 c 28 § 6; RRS § 7715. (ii) 1919 c 129 § 3; 1917 c 29 § 7; RRS § 7716. (iii) 1923 c 136 § 10; RRS § 7719.]

**51.04.040 Subpoena power of director—Enforcement by superior court.** The director and his or her authorized assistants shall have power to issue subpoenas to enforce the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production and examination of books, papers, photographs, tapes, and records before the department in connection with any claim made to the department, any billing submitted to the department, or the assessment or collection of premiums. The superior court shall have the power to enforce any such subpoena by proper proceedings. [1987 c 316 § 1; 1986 c 200 § 9; 1977 ex.s. c 323 § 1; 1961 c 23 § 51.04.040. Prior: 1915 c 188 § 7; RRS § 7699.]

**Severability—1977 ex.s. c 323:** "If any provision of this 1977 amendatory act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1977 ex.s. c 323 § 29.]

**Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 323:** "This 1977 amendatory 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 on July 1, 1977." [1977 ex.s. c 323 § 30.]

**51.04.050 Testimony of physicians not privileged.** In all hearings, actions or proceedings before the department or the board of industrial insurance appeals, or before any court on appeal from the board, any physician having theretofore examined or treated the claimant may be required to testify fully regarding such examination or treatment, and shall not be exempt from so testifying by reason of the relation of physician to patient. [1961 c 23 § 51.04.050. Prior: 1915 c 188 § 4; RRS § 7687.]

*Nurse-patient privilege subject to RCW 51.04.050:* RCW 5.62.030.

**51.04.060 No evasion of benefits or burdens.** No employer or worker shall exempt himself or herself from the burden or waive the benefits of this title by any contract, agreement, rule or regulation, and any such contract, agreement, rule or regulation shall be pro tanto void. [1977

ex.s. c 350 § 3; 1961 c 23 § 51.04.060. Prior: 1911 c 74 § 11; RRS § 7685.]

**51.04.070 Minor worker is sui juris—Guardianship expense.** A minor shall be deemed sui juris for the purpose of this title, and no other person shall have any cause of action or right to compensation for an injury to such minor worker, except as expressly provided in this title, but in the event of any disability payments becoming due under this title to a minor worker, under the age of eighteen, such disability payments shall be paid to his or her parent, guardian or other person having legal custody of his or her person until he or she reaches the age of eighteen. Upon the submission of written authorization by any such parent, guardian, or other person, any such disability payments may be paid directly to such injured worker under the age of eighteen years. If it is necessary to appoint a legal guardian to receive such disability payments, there shall be paid from the accident fund or by the self-insurer, as the case may be, toward the expenses of such guardianship a sum not to exceed three hundred dollars. [1980 c 14 § 2. Prior: 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 4; 1977 ex.s. c 323 § 2; 1961 c 23 § 51.04.070; prior: 1959 c 308 § 1; 1957 c 70 § 4; prior: 1927 c 310 § 5, part; 1919 c 131 § 5, part; 1911 c 74 § 6, part; RRS § 7680, part.]

**Severability—Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 323:** See notes following RCW 51.04.040.

**51.04.080 Sending notices, orders, warrants to claimants.** On all claims under this title, claimants' written notices, orders, or warrants shall not be forwarded to, or in care of, any representative of the claimant, but shall be forwarded directly to the claimant until such time as there has been entered an order on the claim appealable to the board of industrial insurance appeals. [1972 ex.s. c 43 § 2; 1961 c 23 § 51.04.080. Prior: 1959 c 308 § 2; 1957 c 70 § 5; prior: 1947 c 56 § 1, part; 1927 c 310 § 7, part; 1923 c 136 § 4, part; 1921 c 182 § 6, part; 1919 c 131 § 6, part; 1911 c 74 § 10, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7684, part.]

**51.04.082 Notices and orders—Mail or personal service.** Any notice or order required by this title to be mailed to any employer may be served in the manner prescribed by law for personal service of summons and complaint in the commencement of actions in the superior courts of the state, but if the notice or order is mailed, it shall be addressed to the address of the employer as shown by the records of the department, or, if no such address is shown, to such address as the department is able to ascertain by reasonable effort. Failure of the employer to receive such notice or order whether served or mailed shall not release the employer from any tax or any increases or penalties thereon. [1986 c 9 § 2.]

**51.04.085 Transmission of amounts payable to claimants, beneficiaries or suppliers to their accounts.** The department may, at any time, on receipt of written authorization, transmit amounts payable to a claimant, beneficiary, or any supplier of goods or services to the account of such person in a bank or other financial institu-

tion regulated by state or federal authority. [1977 ex.s. c 323 § 26.]

**Severability—Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 323:** See notes following RCW 51.04.040.

**51.04.090 Effect of adjudication of applicability.** If any employer shall be adjudicated to be outside the lawful scope of this title, the title shall not apply to him or her or his or her worker, or if any worker shall be adjudicated to be outside the lawful scope of this title because of remoteness of his or her work from the hazard of his or her employer's work, any such adjudication shall not impair the validity of this title in other respects, and in every such case an accounting in accordance with the justice of the case shall be had of moneys received. If the provisions for the creation of the accident fund, or the provisions of this title making the compensation to the worker provided in it exclusive of any other remedy on the part of the worker shall be held invalid the entire title shall be thereby invalidated. In other respects an adjudication of invalidity of any part of this title shall not affect the validity of the title as a whole or any other part thereof. [1977 ex.s. c 350 § 5; 1961 c 23 § 51.04.090. Prior: 1911 c 74 § 27; RRS § 7706.]

**51.04.100 Statutes of limitation saved.** If the provisions of this title relative to compensation for injuries to or death of workers become invalid because of any adjudication, or be repealed, the period intervening between the occurrence of an injury or death, not previously compensated for under this title by lump payment or completed monthly payments, and such repeal or the rendition of the final adjudication of invalidity shall not be computed as a part of the time limited by law for the commencement of any action relating to such injury or death: PROVIDED, That such action be commenced within one year after such repeal or adjudication; but in any such action any sum paid out of the accident fund to the worker on account of injury, to whom the action is prosecuted, shall be taken into account or disposed of as follows: If the defendant employer shall have paid without delinquency into the accident fund the payment provided by this title, such sums shall be credited upon the recovery as payment thereon, otherwise the sum shall not be so credited but shall be deducted from the sum collected and be paid into the said fund from which they had been previously disbursed. [1977 ex.s. c 350 § 6; 1961 c 23 § 51.04.100. Prior: 1911 c 74 § 28; RRS § 7707.]

**51.04.105 Continuation of medical aid contracts.** The obligations of all medical aid contracts approved by the supervisor prior to the repeal of any section of this title pertaining to medical aid contracts shall continue until the expiration of such contracts notwithstanding any such repeal and all provisions of this title pertaining to the operation of medical aid contracts and the control and supervision of such contracts which were in effect at the time of such approval shall, notwithstanding any other provision of law, remain in full force and effect. [1977 ex.s. c 323 § 25.]

**Severability—Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 323:** See notes following RCW 51.04.040.

**51.04.110 Workers' compensation advisory committee—Members, terms, compensation—Duties—Expenses—Study.** The director shall appoint a workers' compensation advisory committee composed of ten members: Three representing subject workers, three representing subject employers, one representing self-insurers, one representing workers of self-insurers, and two ex officio members, without a vote, one of whom shall be the chairman of the board of industrial appeals and the other the representative of the department. The member representing the department shall be chairman. This committee shall conduct a continuing study of any aspects of workers' compensation as the committee shall determine require their consideration. The committee shall report its findings to the department or the board of industrial insurance appeals for such action as deemed appropriate. The members of the committee shall be appointed for a term of three years commencing on July 1, 1971 and the terms of the members representing the workers and employers shall be staggered so that the director shall designate one member from each such group initially appointed whose term shall expire on June 30, 1972 and one member from each such group whose term shall expire on June 30, 1973. The members shall serve without compensation, but shall be entitled to travel expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 as now existing or hereafter amended. The committee may hire such experts, if any, as it shall require to discharge its duties, and may utilize such personnel and facilities of the department and board of industrial insurance appeals as it shall need without charge. All expenses of this committee shall be paid by the department. [1982 c 109 § 2; 1980 c 14 § 3. Prior: 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 7; 1977 c 75 § 78; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34 § 150; 1975 ex.s. c 224 § 1; 1972 ex.s. c 43 § 37; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 67.]

**Effective date—Severability—1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34:** See notes following RCW 2.08.115.

**Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 224:** "This 1975 amendatory act shall take effect on July 1, 1975." [1975 1st ex.s. c 224 § 20.]

*Managed care pilot projects:* RCW 43.72.860.

**51.04.120 Certificate of coverage required—Contents.** Any employer other than a self-insurer subject to this title shall, under such rules as the department shall prescribe, apply for and obtain from the department a certificate of coverage. The certificate shall be personal and nontransferable and shall be valid as long as the employer continues in business and pays the taxes due the state. In case the employer maintains more than one place of business, a separate certificate of coverage for each place at which business is transacted shall be required. Each certificate shall be numbered and shall show the name, residence, and place and character of business of the employer and such other information as the department deems necessary and shall be posted conspicuously at the place of business for which it is issued. Where a place of business of the employer is changed, the employer must notify the department within thirty days of the new address and a new certificate shall be issued for the new place of business. No employer may engage in any business for which taxes are due under this title without having a certificate of coverage in compliance with this section, except that the department, by general rule, may provide for

the issuance of a certificate of coverage to employers with temporary places of business. [1986 c 9 § 1.]

*Penalties for engaging in business without certificate of coverage:* RCW 51.48.103.

## Chapter 51.08 DEFINITIONS

### Sections

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**51.08.010 Meaning of words.** Unless the context indicates otherwise, words used in this title shall have the meaning given in this chapter. [1961 c 23 § 51.08.010. Prior: 1939 c 41 § 2, part; 1929 c 132 § 1, part; 1927 c 310 § 2, part; 1921 c 182 § 2, part; 1919 c 131 § 2, part; 1917 c 120 § 1, part; 1911 c 74 § 3, part; RRS § 7675, part.]

**51.08.012 "Accredited school."** For the purposes of this title, "accredited school" means a school or course of instruction which is:

(1) Approved by the state superintendent of public instruction, the state board of education, the \*state board for community college education, or the state division of vocational education of the \*\*coordinating council for occupational education; or

(2) Regulated or licensed as to course content by any agency of the state or under any occupational licensing act of the state, or recognized by the apprenticeship council under an agreement registered with the apprenticeship council pursuant to chapter 49.04 RCW. [1975 1st ex.s. c 224 § 2; 1969 ex.s. c 77 § 3.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) The state board for community college education was renamed the state board for community and technical colleges by 1991 c 238 § 30.

\*\* (2) The coordinating council for occupational education was abolished by 1975 1st ex.s. c 174 § 9.



**Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 224:** See note following RCW 51.04.110.

**51.08.013 "Acting in the course of employment."**

(1) "Acting in the course of employment" means the worker acting at his or her employer's direction or in the furtherance of his or her employer's business which shall include time spent going to and from work on the jobsite, as defined in RCW 51.32.015 and 51.36.040, insofar as such time is immediate to the actual time that the worker is engaged in the work process in areas controlled by his or her employer, except parking area. It is not necessary that at the time an injury is sustained by a worker he or she is doing the work on which his or her compensation is based or that the event is within the time limits on which industrial insurance or medical aid premiums or assessments are paid.

(2) "Acting in the course of employment" does not include:

(a) Time spent going to or coming from the employer's place of business: (i) In commuter ride sharing, as defined in RCW 46.74.010(1), notwithstanding any participation by the employer in the ride-sharing arrangement; or (ii) on a public transport system using a pass provided in whole or part by the employer.

(b) An employee's participation in social activities, recreational or athletic activities, events or competitions, and parties or picnics, whether or not the employer pays some or all of the costs thereof, unless: (i) The participation is during the employee's working hours, not including paid leave; (ii) the employee was paid monetary compensation by the employer to participate; or (iii) the employee was ordered or directed by the employer to participate or reasonably believed the employee was ordered or directed to participate. [1995 c 179 § 1; 1993 c 138 § 1; 1979 c 111 § 15; 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 8; 1961 c 107 § 3.]

**Severability—1979 c 111:** See note following RCW 46.74.010.

**51.08.014 "Agriculture."** "Agriculture" means the business of growing or producing any agricultural or horticultural produce or crop, including the raising of any animal, bird, or insect, or the milk, eggs, wool, fur, meat, honey, or other substances obtained therefrom. [1971 ex.s. c 289 § 75.]

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.08.015 "Amount," "payment," "premium," "contribution," "assessment."** Wherever and whenever in any of the provisions of this title relating to any payments by an employer or worker the words "amount" and/or "amounts," "payment" and/or "payments," "premium" and/or "premiums," "contribution" and/or "contributions," and "assessment" and/or "assessments" appear said words shall be construed to mean taxes, which are the money payments by an employer or worker which are required by this title to be made to the state treasury for the accident fund, the medical aid fund, the supplemental pension fund, or any other fund created by this title. [1977 ex.s. c 350 § 9; 1972 ex.s. c 43 § 3; 1961 c 23 § 51.08.015. Prior: 1959 c 308 § 25.]

**51.08.018 "Average monthly wage."** For purposes of this title, the average monthly wage in the state shall be the average annual wage as determined under RCW 50.04.355 as now or hereafter amended divided by twelve. [1977 ex.s. c 323 § 3; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 15.]

**Severability—Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 323:** See notes following RCW 51.04.040.

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.08.020 "Beneficiary."** "Beneficiary" means a husband, wife, child, or dependent of a worker in whom shall vest a right to receive payment under this title: PROVIDED, That a husband or wife of an injured worker, living separate and apart in a state of abandonment, regardless of the party responsible therefor, for more than one year at the time of the injury or subsequently, shall not be a beneficiary. A spouse who has lived separate and apart from the other spouse for the period of two years and who has not, during that time, received, or attempted by process of law to collect, funds for maintenance, shall be deemed living in a state of abandonment. [1977 ex.s. c 350 § 10; 1973 1st ex.s. c 154 § 91; 1961 c 23 § 51.08.020. Prior: 1957 c 70 § 6; prior: (i) 1939 c 41 § 2, part; 1929 c 132 § 1, part; 1927 c 310 § 2, part; 1921 c 182 § 2, part; 1919 c 131 § 2, part; 1917 c 120 § 1, part; 1911 c 74 § 3, part; RRS § 7675, part. (ii) 1949 c 219 § 1, part; 1947 c 246 § 1, part; 1929 c 132 § 2, part; 1927 c 310 § 4, part; 1923 c 136 § 2, part; 1919 c 131 § 4, part; 1917 c 28 § 1, part; 1913 c 148 § 1, part; 1911 c 74 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7679, part.]

**Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 154:** See note following RCW 2.12.030.

**51.08.030 "Child."** "Child" means every natural born child, posthumous child, stepchild, child legally adopted prior to the injury, child born after the injury where conception occurred prior to the injury, and dependent child in the legal custody and control of the worker, all while under the age of eighteen years, or under the age of twenty-three years while permanently enrolled at a full time course in an accredited school, and over the age of eighteen years if the child is a dependent as a result of a physical, mental, or sensory handicap. [1986 c 293 § 1; 1980 c 14 § 4. Prior: 1977 ex.s. c 323 § 4; 1977 ex.s. c 80 § 36; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 42 § 37; 1972 ex.s. c 65 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 77 § 1; 1961 c 23 § 51.08.030; prior: 1957 c 70 § 7; prior: (i) 1939 c 41 § 2, part; 1929 c 132 § 1, part; 1927 c 310 § 2, part; 1921 c 182 § 2, part; 1919 c 131 § 2, part; 1917 c 120 § 1, part; 1911 c 74 § 3, part; RRS § 7675, part. (ii) 1941 c 209 § 3, part; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7679, part.]

**Severability—Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 323:** See notes following RCW 51.04.040.

**Purpose—Intent—Severability—1977 ex.s. c 80:** See notes following RCW 4.16.190.

**Severability—Construction—1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 42:** See RCW 26.26.900, 26.26.905.

**51.08.040 "Department."** "Department" means department of labor and industries. [1961 c 23 § 51.08.040.]

*Department of labor and industries: Chapter 43.22 RCW.*

**51.08.050 "Dependent."** "Dependent" means any of the following named relatives of a worker whose death results from any injury and who leaves surviving no widow, widower, or child, viz: father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, stepfather, stepmother, grandson, granddaughter, brother, sister, half-sister, half-brother, niece, nephew, who at the time of the accident are actually and necessarily dependent in whole or in part for their support upon the earnings of the worker: PROVIDED, That unless otherwise provided by treaty, aliens other than father or mother, not residing within the United States at the time of the accident, are not included. [1977 ex.s. c 350 § 11; 1961 c 23 § 51.08.050. Prior: 1957 c 70 § 8; prior: 1939 c 41 § 2, part; 1929 c 132 § 1, part; 1927 c 310 § 2, part; 1921 c 182 § 2, part; 1919 c 131 § 2, part; 1917 c 120 § 1, part; 1911 c 74 § 3, part; RRS § 7675, part.]

**51.08.060 "Director."** "Director" means the director of labor and industries. [1961 c 23 § 51.08.060.]

**51.08.070 "Employer"—Exception.** "Employer" means any person, body of persons, corporate or otherwise, and the legal representatives of a deceased employer, all while engaged in this state in any work covered by the provisions of this title, by way of trade or business, or who contracts with one or more workers, the essence of which is the personal labor of such worker or workers. Or as a separate alternative, persons or entities are not employers when they contract or agree to remunerate the services performed by an individual who meets the tests set forth in subsections (1) through (6) of RCW 51.08.195.

For the purposes of this title, a contractor registered under chapter 18.27 RCW or licensed under chapter 19.28 RCW is not an employer when:

(1) Contracting with any other person, firm, or corporation currently engaging in a business which is registered under chapter 18.27 RCW or licensed under chapter 19.28 RCW;

(2) The person, firm, or corporation has a principal place of business which would be eligible for a business deduction for internal revenue service tax purposes other than that furnished by the contractor for which the business has contracted to furnish services;

(3) The person, firm, or corporation maintains a separate set of books or records that reflect all items of income and expenses of the business; and

(4) The work which the person, firm, or corporation has contracted to perform is:

(a) The work of a contractor as defined in RCW 18.27.010; or

(b) The work of installing wires or equipment to convey electric current or installing apparatus to be operated by such current as it pertains to the electrical industry as described in chapter 19.28 RCW. [1991 c 246 § 2; 1981 c 128 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 12; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 1; 1961 c 23 § 51.08.070. Prior: 1957 c 70 § 9; prior: (i) 1939 c 41 § 2, part; 1929 c 132 § 1, part; 1927 c 310 § 2, part; 1921 c 182 § 2, part; 1919 c 131 § 2, part; 1917 c 120 § 1, part; 1911 c 74 § 3, part; RRS § 7675, part. (ii) 1949 c 219 § 1, part; 1947 c 246 § 1, part; 1929 c 132 § 2, part; 1927 c 310 § 4, part; 1923 c 136 § 2, part; 1919 c 131 § 4, part; 1917 c 28

§ 1, part; 1913 c 148 § 1, part; 1911 c 74 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7679, part.]

**Effective date—Conflict with federal requirements—1991 c 246:** See notes following RCW 51.08.195.

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.08.095 "Health services provider"—"Provider."** "Health services provider" or "provider" means any person, firm, corporation, partnership, association, agency, institution, or other legal entity providing any kind of services related to the treatment of an industrially injured worker. [1986 c 200 § 12.]

**51.08.100 "Injury."** "Injury" means a sudden and tangible happening, of a traumatic nature, producing an immediate or prompt result, and occurring from without, and such physical conditions as result therefrom. [1961 c 23 § 51.08.100. Prior: 1959 c 308 § 3; 1957 c 70 § 12; prior: 1939 c 41 § 2, part; 1929 c 132 § 1, part; 1927 c 310 § 2, part; 1921 c 182 § 2, part; 1919 c 131 § 2, part; 1917 c 120 § 1, part; 1911 c 74 § 3, part; RRS § 7675, part.]

**51.08.110 "Invalid."** "Invalid" means one who is physically or mentally incapacitated from earning. [1961 c 23 § 51.08.110. Prior: 1957 c 70 § 13; prior: 1939 c 41 § 2, part; 1929 c 132 § 1, part; 1927 c 310 § 2, part; 1921 c 182 § 2, part; 1919 c 131 § 2, part; 1917 c 120 § 1, part; 1911 c 74 § 3, part; RRS § 7675, part.]

**51.08.140 "Occupational disease."** "Occupational disease" means such disease or infection as arises naturally and proximately out of employment under the mandatory or elective adoption provisions of this title. [1961 c 23 § 51.08.140. Prior: 1959 c 308 § 4; 1957 c 70 § 16; prior: 1951 c 236 § 1; 1941 c 235 § 1, part; 1939 c 135 § 1, part; 1937 c 212 § 1, part; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7679-1, part.]

**51.08.142 "Occupational disease"—Exclusion of mental conditions caused by stress.** The department shall adopt a rule pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW that claims based on mental conditions or mental disabilities caused by stress do not fall within the definition of occupational disease in RCW 51.08.140. [1988 c 161 § 16.]

**51.08.150 "Permanent partial disability."** "Permanent partial disability" means the loss of either one foot, one leg, one hand, one arm, one eye, one or more fingers, one or more toes, any dislocation where ligaments were severed where repair is not complete, or any other injury known in surgery to be permanent partial disability. [1961 c 23 § 51.08.150. Prior: 1957 c 70 § 17; prior: 1949 c 219 § 1, part; 1947 c 246 § 1, part; 1929 c 132 § 2, part; 1927 c 310 § 4, part; 1923 c 136 § 2, part; 1919 c 131 § 4, part; 1917 c 28 § 1, part; 1913 c 148 § 1, part; 1911 c 74 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7679, part.]

**51.08.160 "Permanent total disability."** "Permanent total disability" means loss of both legs, or arms, or one leg and one arm, total loss of eyesight, paralysis or other

condition permanently incapacitating the worker from performing any work at any gainful occupation. [1977 ex.s. c 350 § 13; 1961 c 23 § 51.08.160. Prior: 1957 c 70 § 18; prior: 1949 c 219 § 1, part; 1947 c 246 § 1, part; 1929 c 132 § 2, part; 1927 c 310 § 4, part; 1923 c 136 § 2, part; 1919 c 131 § 4, part; 1917 c 28 § 1, part; 1913 c 148 § 1, part; 1911 c 74 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7679, part.]

**51.08.173 "Self-insurer."** "Self-insurer" means an employer or group of employers which has been authorized under this title to carry its own liability to its employees covered by this title. [1983 c 174 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 80.]

**Effective date—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.08.175 "State fund"—"State of Washington industrial insurance fund."** "State fund" means those funds held by the state or any agency thereof for the purposes of this title. The "state of Washington industrial insurance fund" means the department when acting as the agency to insure the industrial insurance obligation of employers. The terms "state fund" and "state of Washington industrial insurance fund" shall be deemed synonymous when applied to the functions of the department connected with the insuring of employers who secure the payment of industrial insurance benefits through the state. The director shall manage the state fund and the state of Washington industrial insurance fund and shall have such powers as are necessary to carry out its functions and may reinsure any risk insured by the state fund. [1977 ex.s. c 323 § 5; 1972 ex.s. c 43 § 5; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 88.]

**Severability—Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 323:** See notes following RCW 51.04.040.

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.08.177 "Successor."** "Successor" means any person to whom a taxpayer quitting, selling out, exchanging, or disposing of a business sells or otherwise conveys, directly or indirectly, in bulk and not in the ordinary course of the taxpayer's business, a major part of the materials, supplies, merchandise, inventory, fixtures, or equipment of the taxpayer. [1986 c 9 § 3.]

**51.08.178 "Wages"—Monthly wages as basis of compensation—Computation thereof.** (1) For the purposes of this title, the monthly wages the worker was receiving from all employment at the time of injury shall be the basis upon which compensation is computed unless otherwise provided specifically in the statute concerned. In cases where the worker's wages are not fixed by the month, they shall be determined by multiplying the daily wage the worker was receiving at the time of the injury:

(a) By five, if the worker was normally employed one day a week;

(b) By nine, if the worker was normally employed two days a week;

(c) By thirteen, if the worker was normally employed three days a week;

(d) By eighteen, if the worker was normally employed four days a week;

(e) By twenty-two, if the worker was normally employed five days a week;

(f) By twenty-six, if the worker was normally employed six days a week;

(g) By thirty, if the worker was normally employed seven days a week.

The term "wages" shall include the reasonable value of board, housing, fuel, or other consideration of like nature received from the employer as part of the contract of hire, but shall not include overtime pay except in cases under subsection (2) of this section. However, tips shall also be considered wages only to the extent such tips are reported to the employer for federal income tax purposes. The daily wage shall be the hourly wage multiplied by the number of hours the worker is normally employed. The number of hours the worker is normally employed shall be determined by the department in a fair and reasonable manner, which may include averaging the number of hours worked per day.

(2) In cases where (a) the worker's employment is exclusively seasonal in nature or (b) the worker's current employment or his or her relation to his or her employment is essentially part-time or intermittent, the monthly wage shall be determined by dividing by twelve the total wages earned, including overtime, from all employment in any twelve successive calendar months preceding the injury which fairly represent the claimant's employment pattern.

(3) If, within the twelve months immediately preceding the injury, the worker has received from the employer at the time of injury a bonus as part of the contract of hire, the average monthly value of such bonus shall be included in determining the worker's monthly wages.

(4) In cases where a wage has not been fixed or cannot be reasonably and fairly determined, the monthly wage shall be computed on the basis of the usual wage paid other employees engaged in like or similar occupations where the wages are fixed. [1988 c 161 § 12; 1980 c 14 § 5. Prior: 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 14; 1977 ex.s. c 323 § 6; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 14.]

**Severability—Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 323:** See notes following RCW 51.04.040.

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.08.180 "Worker"—Exceptions.** (1) "Worker" means every person in this state who is engaged in the employment of an employer under this title, whether by way of manual labor or otherwise in the course of his or her employment; also every person in this state who is engaged in the employment of or who is working under an independent contract, the essence of which is his or her personal labor for an employer under this title, whether by way of manual labor or otherwise, in the course of his or her employment, or as a separate alternative, a person is not a worker if he or she meets the tests set forth in subsections (1) through (6) of RCW 51.08.195: PROVIDED, That a person is not a worker for the purpose of this title, with respect to his or her activities attendant to operating a truck which he or she owns, and which is leased to a common or contract carrier.

(2) For the purposes of this title, any person, firm, or corporation currently engaging in a business which is registered under chapter 18.27 RCW or licensed under chapter 19.28 RCW is not a worker when:

(a) Contracting to perform work for any contractor registered under chapter 18.27 RCW or licensed under chapter 19.28 RCW;

(b) The person, firm, or corporation has a principal place of business which would be eligible for a business deduction for internal revenue service tax purposes other than that furnished by the contractor for which the business has contracted to furnish services;

(c) The person, firm, or corporation maintains a separate set of books or records that reflect all items of income and expenses of the business; and

(d) The work which the person, firm, or corporation has contracted to perform is:

(i) The work of a contractor as defined in RCW 18.27.010; or

(ii) The work of installing wires or equipment to convey electric current or installing apparatus to be operated by such current as it pertains to the electrical industry as described in chapter 19.28 RCW.

(3) Any person, firm, or corporation registered under chapter 18.27 RCW or licensed under chapter 19.28 RCW including those performing work for any contractor registered under chapter 18.27 RCW or licensed under chapter 19.28 RCW is a worker when the contractor supervises or controls the means by which the result is accomplished or the manner in which the work is performed.

(4) For the purposes of this title, any person participating as a driver or back-up driver in commuter ride sharing, as defined in RCW 46.74.010(1), is not a worker while driving a ride-sharing vehicle on behalf of the owner or lessee of the vehicle. [1991 c 246 § 3; 1987 c 175 § 3; 1983 c 97 § 1; 1982 c 80 § 1; 1981 c 128 § 2; 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 15; 1961 c 23 § 51.08.180. Prior: 1957 c 70 § 20; prior: (i) 1939 c 41 § 2, part; 1929 c 132 § 1, part; 1927 c 310 § 2, part; 1921 c 182 § 2, part; 1919 c 131 § 2, part; 1917 c 120 § 1, part; 1911 c 74 § 3, part; RRS § 7675, part. (ii) 1937 c 211 § 2; RRS § 7674-1.]

**Effective date—Conflict with federal requirements—1991 c 246:** See notes following RCW 51.08.195.

**51.08.185 "Employee."** "Employee" shall have the same meaning as "worker" when the context would so indicate, and shall include all officers of the state, state agencies, counties, municipal corporations, or other public corporations, or political subdivisions. [1977 ex.s. c 350 § 16; 1972 ex.s. c 43 § 4.]

**51.08.195 Employer and worker—Alternative exception.** As a separate alternative to the definition of "employer" under RCW 51.08.070 and the definition of "worker" under RCW 51.08.180, services performed by an individual for remuneration shall not constitute employment subject to this title if it is shown that:

(1) The individual has been and will continue to be free from control or direction over the performance of the service, both under the contract of service and in fact; and

(2) The service is either outside the usual course of business for which the service is performed, or the service is performed outside all of the places of business of the enterprise for which the service is performed, or the individual is responsible, both under the contract and in fact, for the costs of the principal place of business from which the service is performed; and

(3) The individual is customarily engaged in an independently established trade, occupation, profession, or business, of the same nature as that involved in the contract of service, or the individual has a principal place of business for the business the individual is conducting that is eligible for a business deduction for federal income tax purposes; and

(4) On the effective date of the contract of service, the individual is responsible for filing at the next applicable filing period, both under the contract of service and in fact, a schedule of expenses with the internal revenue service for the type of business the individual is conducting; and

(5) On the effective date of the contract of service, or within a reasonable period after the effective date of the contract, the individual has established an account with the department of revenue, and other state agencies as required by the particular case, for the business the individual is conducting for the payment of all state taxes normally paid by employers and businesses and has registered for and received a unified business identifier number from the state of Washington; and

(6) On the effective date of the contract of service, the individual is maintaining a separate set of books or records that reflect all items of income and expenses of the business which the individual is conducting. [1991 c 246 § 1.]

**Effective date—1991 c 246:** "This act shall take effect January 1, 1992." [1991 c 246 § 10.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—1991 c 246:** "If any part of this act is found to be in conflict with federal requirements which are a prescribed condition to the allocation of federal funds to the state or the eligibility of employers in this state for federal unemployment tax credits, the conflicting part of this act is hereby declared to be inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict, and such finding or determination shall not affect the operation of the remainder of this act. The rules under this act shall meet federal requirements which are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal funds by the state or the granting of federal unemployment tax credits to employers in this state." [1991 c 246 § 9.]

## Chapter 51.12

### EMPLOYMENTS AND OCCUPATIONS COVERED

#### Sections

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- 51.12.020 Employments excluded.
- 51.12.025 Persons working on parents' family farms—Optional exclusion from coverage.
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- 51.12.160 Foreign degree-granting institutions—Employee services localized in country of domicile.
- 51.12.170 Student volunteers.

*Ferry system employees: RCW 47.64.070.*

*Health and safety of underground workers: Chapter 49.24 RCW.*

**51.12.010 Employments included—Declaration of policy.** There is a hazard in all employment and it is the purpose of this title to embrace all employments which are within the legislative jurisdiction of the state.

This title shall be liberally construed for the purpose of reducing to a minimum the suffering and economic loss arising from injuries and/or death occurring in the course of employment. [1972 ex.s. c 43 § 6; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 2; 1961 c 23 § 51.12.010. Prior: 1959 c 55 § 1; 1955 c 74 § 2; prior: (i) 1947 c 281 § 1, part; 1943 c 210 § 1, part; 1939 c 41 § 1, part; 1937 c 211 § 1, part; 1927 c 310 § 1, part; 1921 c 182 § 1, part; 1919 c 131 § 1, part; 1911 c 74 § 2, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7674, part. (ii) 1923 c 128 § 1, part; RRS § 7674a, part.]

**51.12.020 Employments excluded.** The following are the only employments which shall not be included within the mandatory coverage of this title:

(1) Any person employed as a domestic servant in a private home by an employer who has less than two employees regularly employed forty or more hours a week in such employment.

(2) Any person employed to do gardening, maintenance, repair, remodeling, or similar work in or about the private home of the employer.

(3) A person whose employment is not in the course of the trade, business, or profession of his or her employer and is not in or about the private home of the employer.

(4) Any person performing services in return for aid or sustenance only, received from any religious or charitable organization.

(5) Sole proprietors or partners.

(6) Any child under eighteen years of age employed by his or her parent or parents in agricultural activities on the family farm.

(7) Jockeys while participating in or preparing horses for race meets licensed by the Washington horse racing commission pursuant to chapter 67.16 RCW.

(8)(a) Except as otherwise provided in (b) of this subsection, any bona fide officer of a corporation voluntarily elected or voluntarily appointed in accordance with the articles of incorporation or bylaws of the corporation, who at all times during the period involved is also a bona fide director, and who is also a shareholder of the corporation. Only such officers who exercise substantial control in the daily management of the corporation and whose primary responsibilities do not include the performance of manual labor are included within this subsection.

(b) Alternatively, a corporation that is not a "public company" as defined in \*RCW 23B.01.400(19) may exempt eight or fewer bona fide officers, who are voluntarily elected or voluntarily appointed in accordance with the articles of incorporation or bylaws of the corporation and who exercise substantial control in the daily management of the corporation, from coverage under this title without regard to the officers' performance of manual labor if the exempted officer is a shareholder of the corporation, or may exempt any number of officers if all the exempted officers are related by blood within the third degree or marriage. If a corporation that is not a "public company" elects to be covered under subsection (8)(a) of this section, the corporation's election must be made on a form prescribed by the department and under such reasonable rules as the department may adopt.

(c) Determinations respecting the status of persons performing services for a corporation shall be made, in part, by reference to Title 23B RCW and to compliance by the corporation with its own articles of incorporation and bylaws. For the purpose of determining coverage under this title, substance shall control over form, and mandatory coverage under this title shall extend to all workers of this state, regardless of honorary titles conferred upon those actually serving as workers.

(d) A corporation may elect to cover officers who are exempted by this subsection in the manner provided by RCW 51.12.110.

(9) Services rendered by a musician or entertainer under a contract with a purchaser of the services, for a specific engagement or engagements when such musician or entertainer performs no other duties for the purchaser and is not regularly and continuously employed by the purchaser. A purchaser does not include the leader of a group or recognized entity who employs other than on a casual basis musicians or entertainers.

(10) Services performed by a newspaper carrier selling or distributing newspapers on the street or from house to house.

(11) Services performed by an insurance agent, insurance broker, or insurance solicitor, as defined in RCW 48.17.010, 48.17.020, and 48.17.030, respectively.

(12) Services performed by a booth renter as defined in RCW 18.16.020. However, a person exempted under this subsection may elect coverage under RCW 51.32.030. [1991 c 324 § 18; 1991 c 246 § 4; 1987 c 316 § 2; 1983 c 252 § 1; 1982 c 63 § 15; 1981 c 128 § 3; 1979 c 128 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 323 § 7; 1973 c 124 § 1; 1972 ex.s. c 43 § 7; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 3; 1961 c 23 § 51.12.020. Prior: 1955 c 74 § 3; prior: 1947 c 281 § 1, part; 1943 c 210 § 1, part; 1939 c 41 § 1, part; 1937 c 211 § 1, part; 1927 c 310 § 1, part; 1921 c 182 § 1, part; 1919 c 131 § 1, part; 1911 c 74 § 2, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7674, part.]

**Reviser's note:** (1) This section was amended by 1991 c 246 § 4 and by 1991 c 324 § 18, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section pursuant to RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

\* (2) RCW 23B.01.400 was amended by 1991 c 269 § 35 changing subsection (19) to subsection (20).

**Severability—1991 c 324:** See RCW 18.16.910.

**Effective date—Conflict with federal requirements—1991 c 246:** See notes following RCW 51.08.195.

**Effective dates—Implementation—1982 c 63:** See note following RCW 51.32.095.

**Severability—Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 323:** See notes following RCW 51.04.040.

**51.12.025 Persons working on parents' family farms—Optional exclusion from coverage.** (1) The parent or parents of a person at least eighteen years of age but under twenty-one years of age may elect to exclude from mandatory coverage under this title the parent's employment of that person in agricultural activities on their family farm if:

(a) The person resides with his or her parent or parents or resides on their family farm; and

(b) The parent or parents file a written notice with the department electing exclusion from coverage.

(2) A parent or parents who have elected to exclude a person under this subsection may subsequently obtain coverage for that person under RCW 51.12.110. [1996 c 8 § 1.]

**51.12.035 Volunteers, inclusion for medical aid benefit purposes—"Volunteer" defined.** (1) Volunteers shall be deemed employees and/or workers, as the case may be, for all purposes relating to medical aid benefits under chapter 51.36 RCW.

A "volunteer" shall mean a person who performs any assigned or authorized duties for the state or any agency thereof, except emergency services workers as described by chapter 38.52 RCW, brought about by one's own free choice, receives no wages, and is registered and accepted as a volunteer by the state or any agency thereof, prior to the occurrence of the injury or the contraction of an occupational disease, for the purpose of engaging in authorized volunteer service: PROVIDED, That such person shall be deemed to be a volunteer although he or she may be granted maintenance and reimbursement for actual expenses necessarily incurred in performing his or her assigned or authorized duties.

Any and all premiums or assessments due under this title on account of such volunteer service shall be the obligation of and be paid by the state or any agency thereof which has registered and accepted the services of volunteers.

(2) Volunteers may be deemed employees and/or workers, as the case may be, for all purposes relating to medical aid benefits under chapter 51.36 RCW at the option of any city, county, town, special district, municipal corporation, or political subdivision of any type, or any private nonprofit charitable organization, when any such unit of local government or any such nonprofit organization has given notice of covering all of its volunteers to the director prior to the occurrence of the injury or contraction of an occupational disease.

A "volunteer" shall mean a person who performs any assigned or authorized duties for any such unit of local government, or any such organization, except emergency services workers as described by chapter 38.52 RCW, or fire fighters covered by chapter 41.24 RCW, brought about by one's own free choice, receives no wages, and is registered and accepted as a volunteer by any such unit of local government, or any such organization which has given such notice, for the purpose of engaging in authorized volunteer services: PROVIDED, That such person shall be deemed to

be a volunteer although he or she may be granted maintenance and reimbursement for actual expenses necessarily incurred in performing his or her assigned or authorized duties: PROVIDED FURTHER, That juveniles performing community services under chapter 13.40 RCW may not be granted coverage as volunteers under this section.

Any and all premiums or assessments due under this title on account of such volunteer service for any such unit of local government, or any such organization shall be the obligation of and be paid by such organization which has registered and accepted the services of volunteers and exercised its option to secure the medical aid benefits under chapter 51.36 RCW for such volunteers. [1981 c 266 § 3; 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 17; 1975 1st ex.s. c 79 § 1; 1974 ex.s. c 171 § 44; 1971 c 20 § 1.]

**51.12.045 Offenders performing community service.** Offenders performing community services pursuant to court order or under RCW 13.40.080 may be deemed employees and/or workers under this title at the option of the state, county, city, town, or nonprofit organization under whose authorization the services are performed. Any premiums or assessments due under this title for community services work shall be the obligation of and be paid for by the state agency, county, city, town, or nonprofit organization for which the offender performed the community services. Coverage commences when a state agency, county, city, town, or nonprofit organization has given notice to the director that it wishes to cover offenders performing community services before the occurrence of an injury or contraction of an occupational disease. [1986 c 193 § 1; 1984 c 24 § 4; 1981 c 266 § 1.]

*Counties, cities, and towns authorized to treat offenders as employees or workers under Title 51 RCW: RCW 35.21.209, 35A.21.220, 36.16.139.*

**51.12.050 State, county, and municipal work—Liability for premiums.** Whenever the state, county, any municipal corporation, or other taxing district shall engage in any work, or let a contract therefor, in which workers are employed for wages, this title shall be applicable thereto. The employer's payments into the accident fund shall be made from the treasury of the state, county, municipality, or other taxing district. If the work is being done by contract, the payroll of the contractor and the subcontractor shall be the basis of computation and, in the case of contract work consuming less than one year in performance, the required payment into the accident fund shall be based upon the total payroll. The contractor and any subcontractor shall be subject to the provisions of this title, and the state for its general fund, the county, municipal corporation, or other taxing district shall be entitled to collect from the contractor the full amount payable to the accident fund and the contractor, in turn, shall be entitled to collect from the subcontractor his or her proportionate amount of the payment.

Whenever and so long as, by state law, city charter, or municipal ordinance, provision is made for employees or peace officers injured in the course of employment, such employees shall not be entitled to the benefits of this title and shall not be included in the payroll of the municipality under this title: PROVIDED, That whenever any state law, city charter, or municipal ordinance only provides for

payment to the employee of the difference between his or her actual wages and that received under this title such employees shall be entitled to the benefits of this title and may be included in the payroll of the municipality. [1977 ex.s. c 350 § 18; 1972 ex.s. c 43 § 8; 1961 c 23 § 51.12.050. Prior: 1955 c 74 § 6; prior: (i) 1923 c 136 § 5, part; 1921 c 182 § 8, part; 1915 c 188 § 6, part; 1911 c 74 § 17, part; RRS § 7692, part. (ii) 1923 c 128 § 1, part; RRS § 7674a, part.]

**51.12.060 Federal projects.** The application of this title and related safety laws is hereby extended to all lands and premises owned or held by the United States of America, by deed or act of cession, by purchase or otherwise, which are within the exterior boundaries of the state of Washington, and to all projects, buildings, constructions, improvements, and property belonging to the United States of America, which are within the exterior boundaries of the state, in the same way and to the same extent as if said premises were under the exclusive jurisdiction of the state, and as fully as is permitted under the provisions of that act of the congress of the United States approved June 25, 1936, granting to the several states jurisdiction and authority to apply their state workers' compensation laws on all property and premises belonging to the United States of America, being 49 United States Statutes at large 1938, title 40, section 290 United States code, 1958 edition: PROVIDED, That this title shall not apply to employees of the United States of America. [1977 ex.s. c 350 § 19; 1961 c 23 § 51.12.060. Prior: 1937 c 147 § 1; RRS § 7676-2.]

**51.12.070 Work done by contract—Liability for premiums—Subcontractors.** The provisions of this title shall apply to all work done by contract; the person, firm, or corporation who lets a contract for such work shall be responsible primarily and directly for all premiums upon the work. The contractor and any subcontractor shall be subject to the provisions of this title and the person, firm, or corporation letting the contract shall be entitled to collect from the contractor the full amount payable in premiums and the contractor in turn shall be entitled to collect from the subcontractor his proportionate amount of the payment.

For the purposes of this section, a contractor registered under chapter 18.27 RCW or licensed under chapter 19.28 RCW shall not be responsible for any premiums upon the work of any subcontractor if:

(1) The subcontractor is currently engaging in a business which is registered under chapter 18.27 RCW or licensed under chapter 19.28 RCW;

(2) The subcontractor has a principal place of business which would be eligible for a business deduction for internal revenue service tax purposes other than that furnished by the contractor for which the business has contracted to furnish services;

(3) The subcontractor maintains a separate set of books or records that reflect all items of income and expenses of the business; and

(4) The subcontractor has contracted to perform:

(a) The work of a contractor as defined in RCW 18.27.010; or

(b) The work of installing wires or equipment to convey electric current or installing apparatus to be operated by such current as it pertains to the electrical industry as described in chapter 19.28 RCW.

It shall be unlawful for any county, city or town to issue a construction building permit to any person who has not submitted to the department an estimate of payroll and paid premium thereon as provided by chapter 51.16 RCW of this title or proof that such person has qualified as a self-insurer. [1981 c 128 § 4; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 81; 1965 ex.s. c 20 § 1; 1961 c 23 § 51.12.070. Prior: 1955 c 74 § 7; prior: 1923 c 136 § 5, part; 1921 c 182 § 8, part; 1915 c 188 § 6, part; 1911 c 74 § 17, part; RRS § 7692, part.]

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.12.080 Interstate, foreign and intrastate railway employees.** Inasmuch as it has proved impossible in the case of employees of common carriers by railroad, engaged in maintenance and operation of railroads doing interstate, foreign and intrastate commerce, and in maintenance and construction of their equipment, to separate and distinguish the connection of such employees with interstate or foreign commerce from their connection with intrastate commerce, and such employees have, in fact, received no compensation under this title, the provisions of this title shall not apply to work performed by such employees in the maintenance and operation of such railroads or performed in the maintenance or construction of their equipment, or to the employees of such common carriers by railroad engaged therein, but nothing herein shall be construed as excluding from the operation of this title railroad construction work, or the employees engaged thereon: PROVIDED, That common carriers by railroad engaged in such interstate or foreign commerce and in intrastate commerce shall, in all cases where liability does not exist under the laws of the United States, be liable in damages to any person suffering injury while employed by such carrier, or in case of the death of such employee, to the surviving spouse and child, or children, and if no surviving spouse or child or children, then to the parents, minor sisters, or minor brothers, residents of the United States at the time of such death, and who were dependent upon such deceased for support, to the same extent and subject to the same limitations as the liability now existing, or hereafter created, by the laws of the United States governing recoveries by railroad employees injured while engaged in interstate commerce: PROVIDED FURTHER, That if any interstate common carrier by railroad shall also be engaged in one or more intrastate enterprises or industries (including street railways and power plants) other than its railroad, the foregoing provisions of this section shall not exclude from the operation of the other sections of this title or bring under the foregoing proviso of this section any work of such other enterprise or industry, the payroll of which may be clearly separable and distinguishable from the payroll of the maintenance or operation of such railroad, or of the maintenance or construction of its equipment: PROVIDED FURTHER, That nothing in this section shall be construed as relieving an independent contractor engaged through or by his employees in performing work for a common carrier by railroad, from the duty of complying with the terms of this title, nor as depriving any employee of

such independent contractor of the benefits of this title. [1973 1st ex.s. c 154 § 92; 1972 ex.s. c 43 § 9; 1961 c 23 § 51.12.080. Prior: 1925 ex.s. c 84 § 1; 1919 c 67 § 1; 1917 c 29 § 19; 1911 c 74 § 18; RRS § 7693.]

**Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 154:** See note following RCW 2.12.030.

**51.12.090 Intrastate and interstate commerce.** The provisions of this title shall apply to employers and workers (other than railways and their workers) engaged in intrastate and also in interstate or foreign commerce, for whom a rule of liability or method of compensation now exists under or may hereafter be established by the congress of the United States, only to the extent that the payroll of such workers may and shall be clearly separable and distinguishable from the payroll of workers engaged in interstate or foreign commerce: **PROVIDED**, That as to workers whose payroll is not so clearly separable and distinguishable the employer shall in all cases be liable in damages for injuries to the same extent and under the same circumstances as is specified in the case of railroads in the first proviso of RCW 51.12.080: **PROVIDED FURTHER**, That nothing in this title shall be construed to exclude goods or materials and/or workers brought into this state for the purpose of engaging in work. [1983 c 170 § 1; 1982 c 63 § 16; 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 20; 1972 ex.s. c 43 § 10; 1961 c 23 § 51.12.090. Prior: 1959 c 308 § 10; 1919 c 67 § 3; RRS § 7695.]

**Effective dates—Implementation—1982 c 63:** See note following RCW 51.32.095.

**51.12.095 Common carrier employees—Owners and operators of trucks.** (1) Common or contract carriers doing business in this state that are engaged exclusively in interstate or foreign commerce, or any combination thereof, shall provide coverage under this title for their Washington employees, unless the employer has furnished workers' compensation insurance coverage under the laws of another state for the coverage of employees in this state: **PROVIDED**, That any common or contract carrier or its successor that formerly had coverage under this title and by virtue of being exclusively engaged in interstate or foreign commerce, or any combination thereof, withdrew its acceptance of liability under this title by filing written notice with the director of the withdrawal of its acceptance prior to January 2, 1987, shall be governed by the provisions of this section that were in effect as of that date.

(2) A person who is domiciled in this state and who owns and operates a truck engaged in intrastate, interstate, or foreign commerce, or any combination thereof, may elect coverage under this title in the manner provided by RCW 51.32.030, whether or not the truck is leased to a common or contract carrier. [1989 c 368 § 1; 1983 c 170 § 2.]

**Effective date—1989 c 368:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect July 1, 1989." [1989 c 368 § 2.]

**51.12.100 Maritime occupations—Segregation of payrolls—Common enterprise.** (1) The provisions of this title shall not apply to a master or member of a crew of any vessel, or to employers and workers for whom a right or obligation exists under the maritime laws or federal

employees' compensation act for personal injuries or death of such workers.

(2) If an accurate segregation of payrolls of workers for whom such a right or obligation exists under the maritime laws cannot be made by the employer, the director is hereby authorized and directed to fix from time to time a basis for the approximate segregation of the payrolls of employees to cover the part of their work for which no right or obligation exists under the maritime laws for injuries or death occurring in such work, and the employer, if not a self-insurer, shall pay premiums on that basis for the time such workers are engaged in their work.

(3) Where two or more employers are simultaneously engaged in a common enterprise at one and the same site or place in maritime occupations under circumstances in which no right or obligation exists under the maritime laws for personal injuries or death of such workers, such site or place shall be deemed for the purposes of this title to be the common plant of such employers.

(4) In the event payments are made under this title prior to the final determination under the maritime laws or federal employees' compensation act, such benefits shall be repaid by the worker or beneficiary if recovery is subsequently made under the maritime laws or federal employees' compensation act. [1991 c 88 § 3; 1988 c 271 § 2; 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 21; 1975 1st ex.s. c 224 § 3; 1972 ex.s. c 43 § 11; 1961 c 23 § 51.12.100. Prior: 1931 c 79 § 1; 1925 ex.s. c 111 § 1; RRS § 7693a.]

**Effective date—Applicability—1988 c 271 §§ 1-4:** See note following RCW 51.12.102.

**Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 224:** See note following RCW 51.04.110.

*Ferry system employees in extrahazardous employment:* RCW 47.64.070.

**51.12.102 Benefits resulting from asbestos-related disease in maritime workers.** (1) The department shall furnish the benefits provided under this title to any worker or beneficiary who may have a right or claim for benefits under the maritime laws of the United States resulting from an asbestos-related disease if (a) there are objective clinical findings to substantiate that the worker has an asbestos-related claim for occupational disease and (b) the worker's employment history has a prima facie indicia of injurious exposure to asbestos fibers while employed in the state of Washington in employment covered under this title. The department shall render a decision as to the liable insurer and shall continue to pay benefits until the liable insurer initiates payments or benefits are otherwise properly terminated under this title.

(2) The benefits authorized under subsection (1) of this section shall be paid from the medical aid fund, with the self-insurers and the state fund each paying a pro rata share, based on number of worker hours, of the costs necessary to fund the payments. For the purposes of this subsection only, the employees of self-insured employers shall pay an amount equal to one-half of the share charged to the self-insured employer.

(3) If the department determines that the benefits paid under subsection (1) of this section are owed to the worker or beneficiary by a self-insurer or the state fund, then the self-insurer or state fund shall reimburse the medical aid fund for all benefits paid and costs incurred by the fund.



(4) If the department determines that the benefits paid under subsection (1) of this section are owed to the worker or beneficiary by a federal program other than the federal social security, old age survivors, and disability insurance act, 42 U.S.C. or an insurer under the maritime laws of the United States:

(a) The department shall pursue the federal program insurer on behalf of the worker or beneficiary to recover from the federal program insurer the benefits due the worker or beneficiary and on its own behalf to recover the benefits previously paid to the worker or beneficiary and costs incurred;

(b) For the purpose of pursuing recovery under this subsection, the department shall be subrogated to all of the rights of the worker or beneficiary receiving compensation under subsection (1) of this section; and

(c) The department shall not pursue the worker or beneficiary for the recovery of benefits paid under subsection (1) of this section unless the worker or beneficiary receives recovery from the federal program insurer, in addition to receiving benefits authorized under this section. The director may exercise his or her discretion to waive, in whole or in part, the recovery of any such benefits where the recovery would be against equity and good conscience.

(d) Actions pursued against federal program insurers determined by the department to be liable for benefits under this section may be prosecuted by special assistant attorneys general. The attorney general shall select special assistant attorneys general from a list compiled by the department and the Washington state bar association. The attorney general, in conjunction with the department and the Washington state bar association, shall adopt rules and regulations outlining the criteria and the procedure by which private attorneys may have their names placed on the list of attorneys available for appointment as special assistant attorneys general to litigate actions under this subsection. Attorneys' fees and costs shall be paid in conformity with applicable federal and state law. Any legal costs remaining as an obligation of the department shall be paid from the medical aid fund.

(5) The provisions of subsection (1) of this section shall not apply if the worker or beneficiary refuses, for whatever reason, to assist the department in making a proper determination of coverage. If a worker or beneficiary refuses to cooperate with the department, self-insurer, or federal program insurer by failing to provide information that, in the opinion of the department, is relevant in determining the liable insurer, or if a worker refuses to submit to medical examination, or obstructs or fails to cooperate with the examination, or if the worker or beneficiary fails to cooperate with the department in pursuing benefits from the federal program insurer, the department shall reject the application for benefits. No information obtained under this section is subject to release by subpoena or other legal process.

(6) The amount of any third party recovery by the worker or beneficiary shall be subject to a lien by the department to the full extent that the medical aid fund has not been otherwise reimbursed by another insurer. Reimbursement shall be made immediately to the medical aid fund upon recovery from the third party suit. If the department determines that the benefits paid under subsection (1) of this section are owed to the worker or beneficiary by a federal program insurer, the department shall not partici-

pate in the costs or attorneys' fees incurred in bringing the third party suit. [1993 c 168 § 1; 1988 c 271 § 1.]

**Applicability—1993 c 168:** "This act applies to all claims without regard to the date of injury or date of filing of the claim." [1993 c 168 § 2.]

**Effective date—1993 c 168:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect July 1, 1993." [1993 c 168 § 3.]

**Report to legislature—1988 c 271 § 1:** "The department of labor and industries shall conduct a study of the program established by RCW 51.12.102. The department's study shall include the use of benefits under the program and the cost of the program. The department shall report the results of the study to the economic development and labor committee of the senate and the commerce and labor committee of the house of representatives, or the appropriate successor committees, at the start of the 1993 regular legislative session." [1988 c 271 § 4.]

**Effective date—Applicability—1988 c 271 §§ 1-4:** "Sections 1 through 4 of this act shall take effect July 1, 1988, and shall apply to all claims filed on or after that date or pending a final determination on that date." [1988 c 271 § 5.]

**51.12.110 Elective adoption—Withdrawal—Cancellation.** Any employer who has in his or her employment any person or persons excluded from mandatory coverage pursuant to RCW 51.12.020 may file notice in writing with the director, on such forms as the department may provide, of his or her election to make such persons otherwise excluded subject to this title. The employer shall forthwith display in a conspicuous manner about his or her works, and in a sufficient number of places to reasonably inform his or her workers of the fact, printed notices furnished by the department stating that he or she has so elected. Said election shall become effective upon the filing of said notice in writing. The employer and his or her workers shall be subject to all the provisions of this title and entitled to all of the benefits thereof: PROVIDED, That those who have heretofore complied with the foregoing conditions and are carried and considered by the department as within the purview of this title shall be deemed and considered as having fully complied with its terms and shall be continued by the department as entitled to all of the benefits and subject to all of the liabilities without other or further action. Any employer who has complied with this section may withdraw his or her acceptance of liability under this title by filing written notice with the director of the withdrawal of his or her acceptance. Such withdrawal shall become effective thirty days after the filing of such notice or on the date of the termination of the security for payment of compensation, whichever last occurs. The employer shall, at least thirty days before the effective date of the withdrawal, post reasonable notice of such withdrawal where the affected worker or workers work and shall otherwise notify personally the affected workers. Withdrawal of acceptance of this title shall not affect the liability of the department or self-insurer for compensation for any injury occurring during the period of acceptance.

The department shall have the power to cancel the elective adoption coverage if any required payments or reports have not been made. Cancellation by the department shall be no later than thirty days from the date of notice in writing by the department advising of cancellation being made. [1991 c 246 § 5; 1982 c 63 § 17; 1980 c 14 § 6. Prior: 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 22; 1977 ex.s. c 323 § 8; 1971

ex.s. c 289 § 85; 1961 c 23 § 51.12.110; prior: 1959 c 308 § 11; 1929 c 132 § 5; 1923 c 136 § 6; 1911 c 74 § 19; RRS § 7696.]

**Effective date—Conflict with federal requirements—1991 c 246:** See notes following RCW 51.08.195.

**Effective dates—Implementation—1982 c 63:** See note following RCW 51.32.095.

**Severability—Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 323:** See notes following RCW 51.04.040.

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.12.120 Extra territorial coverage—Injuries incurred outside state—Injuries incurred in employ of nondomiciled employer—Conflicts of jurisdiction—Agreements.** (1) If a worker, while working outside the territorial limits of this state, suffers an injury on account of which he or she, or his or her beneficiaries, would have been entitled to compensation under this title had such injury occurred within this state, such worker, or his or her beneficiaries, shall be entitled to compensation under this title: **PROVIDED,** That if at the time of such injury:

(a) His or her employment is principally localized in this state; or

(b) He or she is working under a contract of hire made in this state for employment not principally localized in any state; or

(c) He or she is working under a contract of hire made in this state for employment principally localized in another state whose workers' compensation law is not applicable to his or her employer; or

(d) He or she is working under a contract of hire made in this state for employment outside the United States and Canada.

(2) The payment or award of compensation or other recoveries, including settlement proceeds, under the workers' compensation law of another state, territory, province, or foreign nation to a worker or his or her beneficiaries otherwise entitled on account of such injury to compensation under this title shall not be a bar to a claim for compensation under this title: **PROVIDED,** That claim under this title is timely filed. If compensation is paid or awarded under this title, the total amount of compensation or other recoveries, including settlement proceeds, paid or awarded the worker or beneficiary under such other workers' compensation law shall be credited against the compensation due the worker or beneficiary under this title.

(3) If a worker or beneficiary is entitled to compensation under this title by reason of an injury sustained in this state while in the employ of an employer who is domiciled in another state and who has neither opened an account with the department nor qualified as a self-insurer under this title, such an employer or his or her insurance carrier shall file with the director a certificate issued by the agency which administers the workers' compensation law in the state of the employer's domicile, certifying that such employer has secured the payment of compensation under the workers' compensation law of such other state and that with respect to said injury such worker or beneficiary is entitled to the benefits provided under such law. In such event:

(a) The filing of such certificate shall constitute appointment by the employer or his or her insurance carrier of the

director as its agent for acceptance of the service of process in any proceeding brought by any claimant to enforce rights under this title;

(b) The director shall send to such employer or his or her insurance carrier, by registered or certified mail to the address shown on such certificate, a true copy of any notice of claim or other process served on the director by the claimant in any proceeding brought to enforce rights under this title;

(c)(i) If such employer is a self-insurer under the workers' compensation law of such other state, such employer shall, upon submission of evidence or security, satisfactory to the director, of his or her ability to meet his or her liability to such claimant under this title, be deemed to be a qualified self-insurer under this title;

(ii) If such employer's liability under the workers' compensation law of such other state is insured, such employer's carrier, as to such claimant only, shall be deemed to be subject to this title: **PROVIDED,** That unless its contract with said employer requires it to pay an amount equivalent to the compensation benefits provided by this title, the insurer's liability for compensation shall not exceed its liability under the workers' compensation law of such other state;

(d) If the total amount for which such employer's insurer is liable under (c)(ii) above is less than the total of the compensation to which such claimant is entitled under this title, the director may require the employer to file security satisfactory to the director to secure the payment of compensation under this title;

(e) If such employer has neither qualified as a self-insurer nor secured insurance coverage under the workers' compensation law of another state, such claimant shall be paid compensation by the department; and

(f) Any such employer shall have the same rights and obligations as other employers subject to this title and where he or she has not provided coverage or sufficient coverage to secure the compensation provided by this title to such claimant, the director may impose a penalty payable to the department of a sum not to exceed fifty percent of the cost to the department of any deficiency between the compensation provided by this title and that afforded such claimant by such employer or his or her insurance carrier if any.

(4) As used in this section:

(a) A person's employment is principally localized in this or another state when (i) his or her employer has a place of business in this or such other state and he or she regularly works at or from such place of business, or (ii) if clause (i) foregoing is not applicable, he or she is domiciled in and spends a substantial part of his or her working time in the service of his or her employer in this or such other state;

(b) "Workers' compensation law" includes "occupational disease law" for the purposes of this section.

(5) A worker whose duties require him or her to travel regularly in the service of his or her employer in this and one or more other states may agree in writing with his or her employer that his or her employment is principally localized in this or another state, and, unless such other state refuses jurisdiction, such agreement shall govern as to any injury occurring after the effective date of the agreement.

(6) The director shall be authorized to enter into agreements with the appropriate agencies of other states and

provinces of Canada which administer their workers' compensation law with respect to conflicts of jurisdiction and the assumption of jurisdiction in cases where the contract of employment arises in one state or province and the injury occurs in another, and when any such agreement has been executed and promulgated as a regulation of the department under chapter 34.05 RCW, it shall bind all employers and workers subject to this title and the jurisdiction of this title shall be governed by this regulation. [1995 c 199 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 23; 1972 ex.s. c 43 § 12; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 82.]

**Severability—1995 c 199:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1995 c 199 § 8.]

#### **51.12.130 Registered apprentices or trainees. (1)**

All persons registered as apprentices or trainees with the state apprenticeship council and participating in supplemental and related instruction classes conducted by a school district, a community college, a vocational school, or a local joint apprenticeship committee, shall be considered as workers of the state apprenticeship council and subject to the provisions of Title 51 RCW, for the time spent in actual attendance at such supplemental and related instruction classes.

(2) The assumed wage rate for all apprentices or trainees during the hours they are participating in supplemental and related instruction classes, shall be three dollars per hour. This amount shall be used for purposes of computations of premiums. For purposes of computing disability compensation payments, the actual wage rate during employment shall be used.

(3) Only those apprentices or trainees who are registered with the state apprenticeship council prior to their injury or death and who incur such injury or death while participating in supplemental and related instruction classes shall be entitled to benefits under the provisions of Title 51 RCW.

(4) The filing of claims for benefits under the authority of this section shall be the exclusive remedy of apprentices or trainees and their beneficiaries for injuries or death compensable under the provisions of Title 51 RCW against the state, its political subdivisions, the school district, community college, or vocational school and their members, officers or employees or any employer regardless of negligence.

(5) This section shall not apply to any apprentice or trainee who has earned wages for the time spent in participating in supplemental and related instruction classes. [1988 c 140 § 1; 1987 c 185 § 31; 1973 c 110 § 1.]

**Intent—1987 c 185:** "In 1977, in two separate pieces of legislation relating to industrial insurance, the Washington legislature changed certain references from "workmen's" or "workman's" compensation to "workers'" compensation. The purpose of this act is to correct remaining obsolete references to "workmen's compensation" and "workmen." [1987 c 185 § 1.]

**Severability—1987 c 185:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1987 c 185 § 41.]

#### **51.12.140 Volunteer law enforcement officers. (1)**

As used in this section:

(a) "Municipal corporation" means any city, town, or county authorized by law to maintain and operate a law enforcement department;

(b) "Law enforcement department" means any regularly organized police department, sheriff's department, department of public safety, or other similar organization which has as its primary purpose the enforcement of state or local penal laws and the preservation of public order, which consists wholly of volunteer law enforcement officers or a combination of volunteer and paid law enforcement officers, and which is duly organized and maintained by a municipal corporation;

(c) "Volunteer law enforcement officer" means a person who is a member of a law enforcement department and who (i) performs assigned or authorized duties for the law enforcement department by his or her own free choice; (ii) serves in a position that is not basically clerical or secretarial in nature; (iii) is registered and accepted as a volunteer by the law enforcement department; and (iv) receives no monetary remuneration other than maintenance and reimbursement for actual expenses necessarily incurred in performing assigned duties; and

(d) "Performance of duty" includes any work in and about the volunteer law enforcement officers' quarters, police station, or any other place under the direction or general orders of the officer having the authority to order a volunteer law enforcement officer to perform the work; providing law enforcement assistance; patrol; drill; and any work of an emergency nature performed in accordance with the rules of the law enforcement department.

(2) Any municipal corporation maintaining and operating a law enforcement department may elect to provide coverage under this title for all of its volunteer law enforcement officers for death or disability occurring in the performance of their duties as volunteer law enforcement officers. Any municipal corporation electing to provide the coverage shall file a written notice of coverage with the director.

(3) Coverage under this section shall be for all the applicable death, disability, and medical aid benefits of this title and shall be effective only for injuries which occur and occupational diseases which are contracted after the notice of coverage has been filed with the director.

Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit a municipal corporation from covering its volunteer law enforcement officers and other volunteers under RCW 51.12.035(2), as now or hereafter amended, for medical aid benefits only.

(4) Volunteer law enforcement officers for whom municipal corporations have given notice of coverage under this section shall be deemed workers or employees, as the case may be, and the performance of their duties shall be deemed employment or in the course of employment, as the case may be, for all purposes of this title except where expressly excluded or where the context clearly requires otherwise.

(5) All premiums, assessments, contributions, and penalties due under this title because coverage is provided under this section shall be the obligation of and be paid by the municipal corporation giving the notice of coverage to the director.

(6) Any municipal corporation electing coverage under this section shall maintain a time log in which the number of hours worked by each of its volunteer law enforcement officers is recorded. The log shall be made available for inspection upon the request of any authorized employee of the department.

(7) Any municipal corporation electing coverage under this section may withdraw the coverage by filing a written notice of the withdrawal with the director. The withdrawal shall become effective thirty days after filing the notice or on the date of the termination of the security for payment of compensation, whichever occurs later. At least thirty days before the effective date of the withdrawal, the municipal corporation shall notify each of its volunteer law enforcement officers of the withdrawal. Withdrawal of coverage under this section shall not affect the liability of the department or self-insurer for compensation for any injury occurring during the period in which coverage was provided. [1977 ex.s. c 113 § 1.]

**Severability—1977 ex.s. c 113:** "If any provision of this act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1977 ex.s. c 113 § 2.]

**51.12.150 Musicians and entertainers.** Any musician or entertainer who performs as a member of a group or recognized entity is deemed an employee of the group or entity and the leader of the group or entity shall be required to properly register as an employer with the department and pay industrial insurance premiums on behalf of his or her employees. If a musician or entertainer is a sole performer or performs as a partner in a group or entity, or performs on a casual basis, the musician or entertainer shall be exempted from mandatory coverage of this title. However, any such sole performer, partner, or casual performer may elect to be covered under this title and shall be subject to all the provisions and entitled to all the benefits under this title. [1983 c 252 § 2.]

*Employments excluded—Musicians and entertainers: RCW 51.12.020.*

**51.12.160 Foreign degree-granting institutions—Employee services localized in country of domicile.** The services of employees of a foreign degree-granting institution who are nonimmigrant aliens under the immigration laws of the United States, shall, for the purposes of RCW 51.12.120, be considered to be localized or principally localized, in the country of domicile of the foreign degree-granting institution as defined in RCW 28B.90.010 in those instances where the income of those employees would be exempt from taxation by virtue of the terms and provisions of any treaty between the United States and the country of domicile of the foreign degree-granting institution. However, a foreign degree-granting institution is not precluded from otherwise establishing that a nonimmigrant employee's services are, for the purpose of such statutes, principally located in its country of domicile. [1993 c 181 § 9.]

**51.12.170 Student volunteers.** (1) An employer covered under this title may elect to include student volunteers as employees or workers for all purposes relating to medical aid benefits under chapter 51.36 RCW. The em-

ployer shall give notice of its intent to cover all of its student volunteers to the director prior to the occurrence of the injury or contraction of an occupational disease.

(2) A student volunteer is an enrolled student in a public school as defined in RCW 28A.150.010 who is participating as a volunteer under a program authorized by the public school. The student volunteer shall perform duties for the employer without wages. The student volunteer shall be deemed to be a volunteer even if the student is granted maintenance and reimbursement for actual expenses necessarily incurred in performing his or her assigned or authorized duties. A person who earns wages for the services performed is not a student volunteer.

(3) Any and all premiums or assessments due under this title on account of service by a student volunteer shall be paid by the employer who has registered and accepted the services of volunteers and has exercised its option to secure the medical aid benefits under chapter 51.36 RCW for the student volunteers. [1994 c 246 § 1.]

**Effective date—Implementation—1994 c 246 § 1:** "Section 1 of this act shall take effect October 1, 1994. The department of labor and industries may take such steps as are necessary to ensure that this section is implemented on its effective date." [1994 c 246 § 3.]

## Chapter 51.14 SELF-INSURERS

### Sections

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51.14.150	School districts, ESDs, or hospitals as self-insurers—Authorized—Organization—Qualifications.
51.14.160	School districts, ESDs, or hospitals as self-insurers—Rules—Scope.

**51.14.010 Duty to secure payment of compensation—Options.** Every employer under this title shall secure the payment of compensation under this title by:

(1) Insuring and keeping insured the payment of such benefits with the state fund; or

(2) Qualifying as a self-insurer under this title. [1971 ex.s. c 289 § 26.]

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.14.020 Qualification as self-insurer—Application for certification—Security deposit or letter of credit—Reinsurance—Rules.** (1) An employer may qualify as a self-insurer by establishing to the director's satisfaction that he or she has sufficient financial ability to make certain the prompt payment of all compensation under this title and all assessments which may become due from such employer. Each application for certification as a self-insurer submitted by an employer shall be accompanied by payment of a fee of one hundred fifty dollars or such larger sum as the director shall find necessary for the administrative costs of evaluation of the applicant's qualifications. Any employer who has formerly been certified as a self-insurer and thereafter ceases to be so certified may not apply for certification within three years of ceasing to have been so certified.

(2)(a) A self-insurer may be required by the director to supplement existing financial ability by depositing in an escrow account in a depository designated by the director, money and/or corporate or governmental securities approved by the director, or a surety bond written by any company admitted to transact surety business in this state, or provide an irrevocable letter of credit issued by a federally or state chartered commercial banking institution authorized to conduct business in the state of Washington filed with the department. The money, securities, bond, or letter of credit shall be in an amount reasonably sufficient in the director's discretion to insure payment of reasonably foreseeable compensation and assessments but not less than the employer's normal expected annual claim liabilities and in no event less than one hundred thousand dollars. In arriving at the amount of money, securities, bond, or letter of credit required under this subsection, the director shall take into consideration the financial ability of the employer to pay compensation and assessments and his or her probable continuity of operation. However, a letter of credit shall be acceptable only if the self-insurer has a net worth of not less than five hundred million dollars as evidenced in an annual financial statement prepared by a qualified, independent auditor using generally accepted accounting principles. The money, securities, bond, or letter of credit so deposited shall be held by the director solely for the payment of compensation by the self-insurer and his or her assessments. In the event of default the self-insurer loses all right and title to, any interest in, and any right to control the surety. The amount of surety may be increased or decreased from time to time by the director. The income from any securities deposited may be distributed currently to the self-insurer.

(b) The letter of credit option authorized in (a) of this subsection shall not apply to self-insurers authorized under RCW 51.14.150 or to self-insurers who are counties, cities, or municipal corporations.

(3) Securities or money deposited by an employer pursuant to subsection (2) of this section shall be returned to him or her upon his or her written request provided the employer files the bond required by such subsection.

(4) If the employer seeking to qualify as a self-insurer has previously insured with the state fund, the director shall require the employer to make up his or her proper share of

any deficit or insufficiency in the state fund as a condition to certification as a self-insurer.

(5) A self-insurer may reinsure a portion of his or her liability under this title with any reinsurer authorized to transact such reinsurance in this state: PROVIDED, That the reinsurer may not participate in the administration of the responsibilities of the self-insurer under this title. Such reinsurance may not exceed eighty percent of the liabilities under this title.

(6) For purposes of the application of this section, the department may adopt separate rules establishing the security requirements applicable to units of local government. In setting such requirements, the department shall take into consideration the ability of the governmental unit to meet its self-insured obligations, such as but not limited to source of funds, permanency, and right of default.

(7) The director shall adopt rules to carry out the purposes of this section including, but not limited to, rules respecting the terms and conditions of letters of credit and the establishment of the appropriate level of net worth of the self-insurer to qualify for use of the letter of credit. Only letters of credit issued in strict compliance with the rules shall be deemed acceptable. [1995 c 31 § 1; 1990 c 209 § 1; 1986 c 57 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 323 § 9; 1972 ex.s. c 43 § 16; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 27.]

**Effective date—1990 c 209 § 1:** "Section 1 of this act shall take effect January 1, 1991." [1990 c 209 § 3.]

**Intent—1986 c 57:** See note following RCW 51.14.077.

**Severability—Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 323:** See notes following RCW 51.04.040.

**51.14.030 Certification of employer as self-insurer—Requirements.** The director may issue a certification that an employer is qualified as a self-insurer when such employer meets the following requirements:

(1) He or she has fulfilled the requirements of RCW 51.14.020.

(2) He or she has submitted to the department a payroll report for the preceding consecutive twelve month period.

(3) He or she has submitted to the department a sworn itemized statement accompanied by an independent audit of the employer's books demonstrating to the director's satisfaction that the employer has sufficient liquid assets to meet his or her estimated liabilities as a self-insurer.

(4) He or she has demonstrated to the department the existence of the safety organization maintained by him or her within his or her establishment that indicates a record of accident prevention.

(5) He or she has submitted to the department a description of the administrative organization to be maintained by him or her to manage industrial insurance matters including:

(a) The reporting of injuries;

(b) The authorization of medical care;

(c) The payment of compensation;

(d) The handling of claims for compensation;

(e) The name and location of each business location of the employer; and

(f) The qualifications of the personnel of the employer to perform this service.

Such certification shall remain in effect until withdrawn by the director or surrendered by the employer with the approval of the director. An employer's qualification as a

self-insurer shall become effective on the date of certification or any date specified in the certificate after the date of certification. [1977 ex.s. c 323 § 10; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 28.]

**Severability—Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 323:** See notes following RCW 51.04.040.

**51.14.040 Surety liability—Termination.** (1) The surety on a bond filed by a self-insurer pursuant to this title may terminate its liability thereon by giving the director written notice stating when, not less than thirty days thereafter, such termination shall be effective.

(2) In case of such termination, the surety shall remain liable, in accordance with the terms of the bond, with respect to future compensation for injuries to employees of the self-insurer occurring prior to the termination of the surety's liability.

(3) If the bond is terminated for any reason other than the employer's terminating his status as a self-insurer, the employer shall, prior to the date of termination of the surety's liability, otherwise comply with the requirements of this title.

(4) The liability of a surety on any bond filed pursuant to this section shall be released and extinguished and the bond returned to the employer or surety provided either such liability is secured by another bond filed, or money or securities deposited as required by this title. [1971 ex.s. c 289 § 29.]

**51.14.050 Termination of self-insurer status—Notice—Financial requirements.** (1) Any employer may at any time terminate his status as a self-insurer by giving the director written notice stating when, not less than thirty days thereafter, such termination shall be effective, provided such termination shall not be effective until the employer either shall have ceased to be an employer or shall have filed with the director for state industrial insurance coverage under this title.

(2) An employer who ceases to be a self-insurer, and who so files with the director, must maintain money, securities or surety bonds deemed sufficient in the director's discretion to cover the entire liability of such employer for injuries or occupational diseases to his employees which occurred during the period of self-insurance: PROVIDED, That the director may agree for the medical aid and accident funds to assume the obligation of such claims, in whole or in part, and shall adjust the employer's premium rate to provide for the payment of such obligations on behalf of the employer. [1971 ex.s. c 289 § 30.]

**51.14.060 Default by self-insurer—Director authorized to sue, sell securities, fulfill employer obligations—Liability for reimbursement.** (1) The director may, in cases of default upon any obligation under this title by the self-insurer, after ten days notice by certified mail to the defaulting self-insurer of the intention to do so, bring suit upon such bond or collect the interest and principal of any of the securities as they may become due or sell the securities or any of them as may be required or apply the money deposited, all in order to pay compensation and discharge the obligations of the defaulting self-insurer under this title.

(2) The director shall be authorized to fulfill the defaulting self-insured employer's obligations under this title from the defaulting self-insured employer's deposit or from other funds provided under this title for the satisfaction of claims against the defaulting self-insured employer. The defaulting self-insured employer is liable to and shall reimburse the director for the amounts necessary to fulfill the obligations of the defaulting self-insured employer that are in excess of the amounts received by the director from any bond filed, or securities or money deposited, by the defaulting self-insured employer pursuant to chapter 51.14 RCW. The amounts to be reimbursed shall include all amounts paid or payable as compensation under this title together with administrative costs, including attorneys' fees, and shall be considered taxes due the state of Washington. [1986 c 57 § 2; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 31.]

**Intent—1986 c 57:** See note following RCW 51.14.077.

**51.14.070 Payment of compensation upon default.** Whenever compensation due under this title is not paid because of an uncorrected default of a self-insurer, such compensation shall be paid from the medical aid and accidents funds, and any moneys obtained by the director from the bonds or other security provided under RCW 51.14.020 shall be deposited to the appropriate fund for the payment of compensation and administrative costs, including attorneys' fees. [1986 c 57 § 3; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 36.]

**Intent—1986 c 57:** See note following RCW 51.14.077.

**51.14.073 Default by self-insurer—Lien created—Priority—Assessment.** (1) In all cases of probate, insolvency, assignment for the benefit of creditors, or bankruptcy, the claim of the state for the amounts necessary to fulfill the obligations of a defaulting self-insured employer together with administrative costs and attorneys' fees is a lien prior to all other liens or claims and on a parity with prior tax liens and the mere existence of a default by a self-insured employer is sufficient to create the lien without any prior or subsequent action by the state. All administrators, receivers, and assignees for the benefit of creditors shall notify the director of such administration, receivership, or assignment within thirty days of their appointment or qualification.

(2) Separate and apart and in addition to the lien established by this section, the department may issue an assessment, as provided for in RCW 51.48.120, for the amount necessary to fulfill the defaulting self-insured employer's obligations, including all amounts paid and payable as compensation under this title and administrative costs, including attorneys' fees. [1986 c 57 § 4.]

**Intent—1986 c 57:** See note following RCW 51.14.077.

**51.14.077 Self-insurers' insolvency trust—Insolvency assessments—Rules.** (1) A self-insurers' insolvency trust is established to provide for the unsecured benefits paid to the injured workers of self-insured employers under this title for insolvent or defaulting self-insured employers and for the department's associated administrative costs, including attorneys' fees. The self-insurers' insolvency trust shall be funded by an insolvency assessment which shall be levied on a post-insolvency basis and after the defaulting self-insured employer's security deposit, assets,

and reinsurance, if any, have been exhausted. Insolvency assessments shall be imposed on all self-insured employers, except school districts, cities, and counties. The manner of imposing and collecting assessments to the insolvency fund shall be set forth in rules adopted by the department to ensure that self-insured employers pay into the fund in proportion to their claim costs. The department's rules shall provide that self-insured employers who have surrendered their certification shall be assessed for a period of not more than three calendar years following the termination date of their certification.

(2) The director shall adopt rules to carry out the purposes of this section, including but not limited to:

(a) Governing the formation of the self-insurers' insolvency trust for the purpose of this chapter;

(b) Governing the organization and operation of the self-insurers' insolvency trust to assure compliance with the requirements of this chapter;

(c) Requiring adequate accountability of the collection and disbursement of funds in the self-insurers' insolvency trust; and

(d) Any other provisions necessary to carry out the requirements of this chapter. [1986 c 57 § 6.]

**Intent—1986 c 57:** "It is the intent of the legislature to provide for the continuation of workers' compensation benefits in the event of the failure of a self-insured employer to meet its compensation obligations when the employer's security deposit, assets, and reinsurance are inadequate. The legislature finds and declares that the establishment of a self-insurers' insolvency trust is necessary to assure that benefit payments to injured workers of self-insured employers will not become the responsibility of the state fund." [1986 c 57 § 5.]

#### **51.14.080 Withdrawal of certification—Grounds.**

Certification of a self-insurer shall be withdrawn by the director upon one or more of the following grounds:

(1) The employer no longer meets the requirements of a self-insurer; or

(2) The self-insurer's deposit is insufficient; or

(3) The self-insurer intentionally or repeatedly induces employees to fail to report injuries, induces claimants to treat injuries in the course of employment as off-the-job injuries, persuades claimants to accept less than the compensation due, or unreasonably makes it necessary for claimants to resort to proceedings against the employer to obtain compensation; or

(4) The self-insurer habitually fails to comply with rules and regulations of the director regarding reports or other requirements necessary to carry out the purposes of this title; or

(5) The self-insurer habitually engages in a practice of arbitrarily or unreasonably refusing employment to applicants for employment or discharging employees because of nondisabling bodily conditions; or

(6) The self-insurer fails to pay an insolvency assessment under the procedures established pursuant to RCW 51.14.077. [1986 c 57 § 7; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 32.]

**Intent—1986 c 57:** See note following RCW 51.14.077.

**51.14.090 Petition by employees for hearing to withdraw certification or for corrective action—Grounds—Notice—Appeal—Rules.** (1) Upon the petition of any employee or union or association having a substantial

number of employees in the employ of the self-insurer the director or the director's designee may, in the director or designee's sole discretion, hold a hearing to determine whether or not there are grounds for the withdrawal of certification of a self-insurer or for corrective action by the department.

(2) The director shall serve upon the self-insurer and upon any employee or union or association having a substantial number of employees in the employ of said self-insurer, personally or by certified mail, a notice of intention to withdraw, or not to withdraw, certification of the self-insurer, which notice shall describe the nature and location or locations of the plants or operations involved; and the specific nature of the reasons for the decision. Similar notice shall be provided for decisions regarding corrective actions. The corrective action notice shall also include a directive to the self-insurer specifying the program deficiencies to be eliminated.

(3) If the decision is to withdraw certification, it shall include: The period of time within which the ground or grounds therefor existed or arose; and the date, not less than ninety days after the self-insurer's receipt of the notice, when the certification will be withdrawn.

(4) An appeal of any action taken by the director under this section may be taken by the self-insurer, or by any employee or union or association having a substantial number of employees in the employ of the self-insurer. Proceedings on the appeal shall be as prescribed in this title. Appeal by a self-insurer of notice of intention to withdraw certification or to take corrective action shall not act as a stay of the withdrawal or corrective action, unless the board or court, for good cause shown, orders otherwise.

(5) The director may adopt rules to carry out the purposes of this section. [1996 c 58 § 1; 1983 c 21 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 33.]

**51.14.095 Corrective action against employer authorized—Appeal.** (1) The director shall take corrective action against a self-insured employer if the director determines that:

(a) The employer is not following proper industrial insurance claims procedures;

(b) The employer's accident prevention program is inadequate; or

(c) Any condition described in RCW 51.14.080 (1) through (5) exists.

(2) Corrective actions may be taken upon the director's initiative or in response to a petition filed under RCW 51.14.090. Corrective actions which may be taken by the director shall include:

(a) Probationary certification for a period of time determined by the director;

(b) Mandatory training for employers in areas including claims management, safety procedures, and administrative reporting requirements; and

(c) Monitoring of the activities of the employer to determine progress towards compliance.

The director shall adopt rules defining the corrective actions which may be taken in response to a given condition.

Corrective actions shall be limited to those described in (a), (b), and (c) of this subsection.

(3) Upon the termination of the corrective action, the director shall review the employer's program for compliance with state statutes and regulations. A written report regarding the employer's compliance shall be provided to the employer and to any party to a petition filed under RCW 51.14.090. If the director determines that compliance has been attained, no further action shall be taken. If compliance has not been attained, the director may take additional corrective action as defined in this section, or proceed toward decertification as described in RCW 51.14.080.

(4) An employer may appeal any action taken by the director under this section. Proceedings during the appeal shall be as prescribed in this title. An appeal by a self-insurer shall not act as a stay of the corrective action, unless the board or court, for good cause shown, orders otherwise.

(5) This section shall not be construed to limit the responsibilities or authority of the department under RCW 51.14.080 or 51.14.090. [1983 c 21 § 2.]

**51.14.100 Notice of compliance with title to be posted—Penalty.** (1) Every employer subject to the provisions of this title shall post and keep posted in a conspicuous place or places in and about his place or places of business a reasonable number of typewritten or printed notices of compliance substantially identical to a form prescribed by the director, stating that such employer is subject to the provisions of this title. Such notice shall advise whether the employer is self-insured or has insured with the department, and shall designate a person or persons on the premises to whom report of injury shall be made.

(2) Any employer who has failed to open an account with the department or qualify as a self-insurer shall not post or permit to be posted on or about his place of business or premises any notice of compliance with this title and any wilful violation of this subsection by any officer or supervisory employee of an employer shall be a misdemeanor. [1971 ex.s. c 289 § 34.]

**51.14.110 Employer's duty to maintain records, furnish information.** Every self-insurer shall maintain a record of all payments of compensation made under this title. The self-insurer shall furnish to the director all information he has in his possession as to any disputed claim, upon forms approved by the director. [1971 ex.s. c 289 § 35.]

**51.14.120 Provision of copy of claim file—Notice of protest or appeal—Medical report with request for closure of claim.** (1) The self-insurer shall provide, when authorized under RCW 51.28.070, a copy of the employee's claim file at no cost within fifteen days of receipt of a request by the employee or the employee's representative. If the self-insured employer determines that release of the claim file to an unrepresented worker in whole or in part, may not be in the worker's best interests, the employer must submit a request for denial with an explanation along with a copy of that portion of the claim file not previously provided within twenty days after the request from the worker. In the case of second or subsequent requests, a reasonable charge for copying may be made. The self-insurer shall provide the entire contents of the claim file

unless the request is for only a particular portion of the file. Any new material added to the claim file after the initial request shall be provided under the same terms and conditions as the initial request.

(2) The self-insurer shall transmit notice to the department of any protest or appeal by an employee relating to the administration of an industrial injury or occupational disease claim under this chapter within five working days of receipt. The date that the protest or appeal is received by the self-insurer shall be deemed to be the date the protest is received by the department for the purpose of RCW 51.52.050.

(3) The self-insurer shall submit a medical report with the request for closure of a claim under this chapter. [1993 c 122 § 2.]

**51.14.130 Request for allowance or denial of claim—Time allowed.** The self-insurer shall request allowance or denial of a claim within sixty days from the date that the claim is filed. If the self-insurer fails to act within sixty days, the department shall promptly intervene and adjudicate the claim. [1993 c 122 § 3.]

**51.14.140 Violations of disclosure or request for allowance or denial—Order by director.** Failure of a self-insurer to comply with RCW 51.14.120 and 51.14.130 shall subject the self-insurer to a penalty under RCW 51.48.080, which shall accrue for the benefit of the employee. The director shall issue an order conforming with RCW 51.52.050 determining whether a violation has occurred within thirty days of a request by an employee. [1993 c 122 § 4.]

**51.14.150 School districts, ESDs, or hospitals as self-insurers—Authorized—Organization—Qualifications.** (1) For the purposes of this section, "hospital" means a hospital as defined in RCW 70.41.020(2) or a psychiatric hospital regulated under chapter 71.12 RCW, but does not include beds utilized by a comprehensive cancer center for cancer research.

(2)(a) Any two or more employers which are school districts or educational service districts, or (b) any two or more employers which are hospitals, and are owned or operated by a state agency or municipal corporation of this state, or (c) any two or more employers which are hospitals, no-one of which is owned or operated by a state agency or municipal corporation of this state, may enter into agreements to form self-insurance groups for the purposes of this chapter.

(3) No more than one group may be formed under subsection (2)(b) of this section and no more than one group may be formed under subsection (2)(c) of this section.

(4) The self-insurance groups shall be organized and operated under rules promulgated by the director under RCW 51.14.160. Such a self-insurance group shall be deemed an employer for the purposes of this chapter, and may qualify as a self-insurer if it meets all the other requirements of this chapter. [1993 c 158 § 1; 1983 c 174 § 2; 1982 c 191 § 7.]

**Effective date—Severability—1982 c 191:** See notes following RCW 28A.315.270.

*Educational service district as self-insurer—Authority:* RCW 28A.310.440.



*School district as self-insurer—Authority: RCW 28A.320.070.*

**51.14.160 School districts, ESDs, or hospitals as self-insurers—Rules—Scope.** The director shall promulgate rules to carry out the purposes of RCW 51.14.150:

- (1) Governing the formation of self-insurance groups for the purposes of this chapter;
- (2) Governing the organization and operation of the groups to assure their compliance with the requirements of this chapter;
- (3) Requiring adequate monetary reserves, determined under accepted actuarial practices, to be maintained by each group to assure financial solvency of the group; and
- (4) Requiring each group to carry adequate reinsurance. [1983 c 174 § 3; 1982 c 191 § 8.]

**Effective date—Severability—1982 c 191:** See notes following RCW 28A.315.270.

## Chapter 51.16

### ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION OF PREMIUMS—PAYROLLS AND RECORDS

#### Sections

- 51.16.035 Classification of occupations or industries—Premium rates fixed, readjusted—Rules and regulations authorized—Employer group plans.
- 51.16.040 Occupational diseases—Compensation and benefits.
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- 51.16.200 Payment of tax by employer quitting or disposing of business—Liability of successor.
- 51.16.210 Horse racing employment—Premium assessments.

**51.16.035 Classification of occupations or industries—Premium rates fixed, readjusted—Rules and regulations authorized—Employer group plans.** The department shall classify all occupations or industries in accordance with their degree of hazard and fix therefor basic rates of premium which shall be the lowest necessary to maintain actuarial solvency of the accident and medical aid funds in accordance with recognized insurance principles. The department shall formulate and adopt rules and regulations governing the method of premium calculation and collection and providing for a rating system consistent with

recognized principles of workers' compensation insurance which shall be designed to stimulate and encourage accident prevention and to facilitate collection. The department may annually, or at such other times as it deems necessary to maintain solvency of the funds, readjust rates in accordance with the rating system to become effective on such dates as the department may designate.

The department may insure the workers' compensation obligations of employers as a group if the following conditions are met:

- (1) All the employers in the group are members of an organization that has been in existence for at least two years;
- (2) The organization was formed for a purpose other than that of obtaining workers' compensation coverage;
- (3) The occupations or industries of the employers in the organization are substantially similar, taking into consideration the nature of the services being performed by workers of such employers; and
- (4) The formation and operation of the group program in the organization will substantially improve accident prevention and claim management for the employers in the group.

In providing an employer group plan under this section, the department may consider an employer group as a single employing entity for purposes of dividends or premium discounts. [1989 c 49 § 1; 1980 c 129 § 4; 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 24; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 16.]

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.16.040 Occupational diseases—Compensation and benefits.** The compensation and benefits provided for occupational diseases shall be paid and in the same manner as compensation and benefits for injuries under this title. [1971 ex.s. c 289 § 83; 1961 c 23 § 51.16.040. Prior: 1959 c 308 § 12; 1941 c 235 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1941 7679-1.]

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.16.042 Occupational and environmental research facility at University of Washington—Employers to share costs.** Inasmuch as business, industry and labor desire to provide for testing, research, training and teaching facilities and consulting services at the University of Washington for industrial and occupational health for workers in the environmental research facility thereat, all employers shall bear their proportionate share of the cost therefor. The director may require payments to the department from all employers under this title and may make rules and regulations in connection therewith, which costs shall be paid from the department, in lieu of the previous provisions of RCW 28B.20.458. [1977 ex.s. c 350 § 25; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 84; 1963 c 151 § 2.]

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

*Occupational and environmental research facility at University of Washington: RCW 28B.20.450 through 28B.20.458.*

**51.16.060 Quarterly report of payrolls.** Every employer not qualifying as a self-insurer, shall insure with the state and shall, on or before the last day of January, April, July and October of each year thereafter, furnish the department with a true and accurate payroll for the period in

which workers were employed by it during the preceding calendar quarter, the total amount paid to such workers during such preceding calendar quarter, and a segregation of employment in the different classes established pursuant to this title, and shall pay its premium thereon to the appropriate fund. Premiums for a calendar quarter, whether reported or not, shall become due and delinquent on the day immediately following the last day of the month following the calendar quarter. The sufficiency of such statement shall be subject to the approval of the director: PROVIDED, That the director may in his or her discretion and for the effective administration of this title require an employer in individual instances to furnish a supplementary report containing the name of each individual worker, his or her hours worked, his or her rate of pay and the class or classes in which such work was performed: PROVIDED FURTHER, That in the event an employer shall furnish the department with four consecutive quarterly reports wherein each such quarterly report indicates that no premium is due the department may close the account: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the department may promulgate rules and regulations in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW to establish other reporting periods and payment due dates in lieu of reports and payments following each calendar quarter, and may also establish terms and conditions for payment of premiums and assessments based on estimated payrolls, with such payments being subject to approval as to sufficiency of the estimated payroll by the department, and also subject to appropriate periodic adjustments made by the department based on actual payroll: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That a temporary help company which provides workers on a temporary basis to its customers shall be considered the employer for purposes of reporting and paying premiums and assessments under this title according to the appropriate rate classifications as determined by the department: PROVIDED, That the employer shall be liable for paying premiums and assessments, should the temporary help company fail to pay the premiums and assessments under this title. [1985 c 315 § 1; 1981 c 260 § 13. Prior: 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 26; 1977 ex.s. c 323 § 11; 1973 1st ex.s. c 32 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 76; 1965 ex.s. c 80 § 1; 1961 c 23 § 51.16.060; prior: 1959 c 308 § 14; 1957 c 70 § 47; prior: 1947 c 247 § 1, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7676c, part.]

**Severability—Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 323:** See notes following RCW 51.04.040.

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.16.070 Employer's office record of employment—Confidentiality.** Every employer shall keep at his place of business a record of his employment from which the information needed by the department may be obtained and such record shall at all times be open to the inspection of the director, supervisor of industrial insurance, or the traveling auditors, agents, or assistants of the department, as provided in RCW 51.48.040.

Information obtained from employing unit records under the provisions of this title shall be deemed confidential and shall not be open to public inspection (other than to public employees in the performance of their official duties), but any interested party shall be supplied with information from such records to the extent necessary for the proper presenta-

tion of the case in question: PROVIDED, That any employing unit may authorize inspection of its records by written consent. [1961 c 23 § 51.16.070. Prior: 1957 c 70 § 48; prior: 1947 c 247 § 1, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7676c, part.]

**51.16.090 Employer may not evade unfavorable cost experience—Continuation of experience rating when legal structure of employer changes.** To the end that no employer shall evade the burdens imposed by an unfavorable or high cost experience, the director may determine whether or not an increase, decrease, or change (1) of operating property; (2) of interest in operating property; (3) of employer; (4) of personnel or interest in employer is sufficient to show a bona fide change which would make inoperative any high cost experience: PROVIDED, That where an employer is now or has prior to January 1, 1958, been covered under the provisions of this title for a period of at least two years and subsequent thereto the legal structure of the employer changes by way of incorporation, disincorporation, merger, consolidation, transfer of stock ownership, or by any other means, such person or entity as legally reconstituted shall be entitled to a continuation of the experience rating which existed prior to such change in the employer's legal structure unless there has been such a substantial change as provided in subdivisions (1), (2), (3) or (4) of this section as would warrant making inoperative any high cost experience. [1961 c 23 § 51.16.090. Prior: 1959 c 179 § 1; 1957 c 70 § 49; prior: 1947 c 247 § 1, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7676c, part.]

**51.16.100 Changes in classification.** It is the intent that the accident fund shall ultimately become neither more nor less than self-supporting, except as provided in RCW 51.16.105 and, if in the adjustment of premium rates by the director the moneys paid into the fund by any class or classes shall be insufficient to properly and safely distribute the burden of accidents occurring therein, the department may divide, rearrange, or consolidate such class or classes, making such adjustment or transfer of funds as it may deem proper. The director shall make corrections of classifications or subclassifications or changes in rates, classes and subclasses when the best interest of such classes or subclasses will be served thereby. [1961 c 23 § 51.16.100. Prior: 1953 c 218 § 1; prior: (i) 1947 c 247 § 1, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7676d, part. (ii) 1947 c 247 § 1, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7676e, part.]

**51.16.105 Expenses of safety and health services, how financed.** All department expenses relating to industrial safety and health services of the department pertaining to workers' compensation shall be paid by the department and financed by premiums and by assessments collected from a self-insurer as provided in this title. [1994 c 164 § 26; 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 27; 1973 1st ex.s. c 52 § 8; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 86; 1961 c 23 § 51.16.105. Prior: 1953 c 218 § 2.]

**Effective date—1973 1st ex.s. c 52:** See note following RCW 43.22.010.

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.16.110 New businesses or resumed or continued operations.** Every employer who shall enter into any business, or who shall resume operations in any work or plant after the final adjustment of his or her payroll in connection therewith, or who was formerly a self-insurer and wishes to continue his or her operations subject to this title, shall, before so commencing or resuming or continuing operations, as the case may be, notify the department of such fact. [1991 c 88 § 4; 1977 ex.s. c 323 § 12; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 4; 1961 c 23 § 51.16.110. Prior: 1959 c 179 § 2; 1959 c 308 § 15; prior: 1957 c 70 § 50; 1951 c 236 § 4; 1947 c 247 § 1, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7676c, part.]

**Severability—Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 323:** See notes following 51.04.040.

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.16.120 Distribution of further accident cost.** (1) Whenever a worker has a previous bodily disability from any previous injury or disease, whether known or unknown to the employer, and shall suffer a further disability from injury or occupational disease in employment covered by this title and become totally and permanently disabled from the combined effects thereof or die when death was substantially accelerated by the combined effects thereof, then the experience record of an employer insured with the state fund at the time of said further injury or disease shall be charged and a self-insured employer shall pay directly into the reserve fund only the accident cost which would have resulted solely from said further injury or disease, had there been no preexisting disability, and which accident cost shall be based upon an evaluation of the disability by medical experts. The difference between the charge thus assessed to such employer at the time of said further injury or disease and the total cost of the pension reserve shall be assessed against the second injury fund. The department shall pass upon the application of this section in all cases where benefits are paid for total permanent disability or death and issue an order thereon appealable by the employer. Pending outcome of such appeal the transfer or payment shall be made as required by such order.

(2) The department shall, in cases of claims of workers sustaining injuries or occupational diseases in the employ of state fund employers, recompute the experience record of such employers when the claims of workers injured in their employ have been found to qualify for payments from the second injury fund after the regular time for computation of such experience records and the department may make appropriate adjustments in such cases including cash refunds or credits to such employers.

(3) To encourage employment of injured workers who are not reemployed by the employer at the time of injury, the department may adopt rules providing for the reduction or elimination of premiums or assessments from subsequent employers of such workers and may also adopt rules for the reduction or elimination of charges against such employers in the event of further injury to such workers in their employ. [1984 c 63 § 1; 1980 c 14 § 7. Prior: 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 28; 1977 ex.s. c 323 § 13; 1972 ex.s. c 43 § 13; 1961 c 23 § 51.16.120; prior: 1959 c 308 § 16; 1945 c 219 § 1; 1943 c 16 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 7676-1a.]

**Severability—Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 323:** See notes following RCW 51.04.040.

**51.16.130 Distribution of catastrophe cost.** Whenever there shall occur an accident in which three or more employees of an employer insured with the state fund are fatally injured or sustain permanent total disability, the amount of total cost other than medical aid costs arising out of such accident that shall be charged to the account of the employer, shall be twice the average cost of the pension claims arising out of such accident. The entire cost of such accident, exclusive of medical aid costs, shall be charged against and defrayed by the catastrophe injury account. [1972 ex.s. c 43 § 14; 1961 c 23 § 51.16.130. Prior: 1957 c 70 § 22; prior: 1947 c 247 § 1, part; 1911 c 74 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7676f, part.]

**51.16.140 Premium liability of worker.** (1) Every employer who is not a self-insurer shall deduct from the pay of each of his or her workers one-half of the amount he or she is required to pay, for medical benefits within each risk classification. Such amount shall be periodically determined by the director and reported by him or her to all employers under this title: PROVIDED, That the state governmental unit shall pay the entire amount into the medical aid fund for volunteers, as defined in RCW 51.12.035, and the state apprenticeship council shall pay the entire amount into the medical aid fund for registered apprentices or trainees, for the purposes of RCW 51.12.130. The deduction under this section is not authorized for premiums assessed under RCW 51.16.210.

(2) It shall be unlawful for the employer, unless specifically authorized by this title, to deduct or obtain any part of the premium or other costs required to be by him or her paid from the wages or earnings of any of his or her workers, and the making of or attempt to make any such deduction shall be a gross misdemeanor. [1989 c 385 § 3; 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 29; 1973 c 110 § 2; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 77; 1971 c 20 § 2; 1961 c 23 § 51.16.140. Prior: (i) 1923 c 136 § 8, part; 1919 c 129 § 1, part; 1917 c 29 § 4, part; RRS § 7713, part. (ii) 1947 c 247 § 1, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7676e, part.]

**Effective date—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.16.150 Delinquent employers—Penalty after demand—Injunctive relief.** If any employer shall default in any payment to any fund, the sum due may be collected by action at law in the name of the state as plaintiff, and such right of action shall be in addition to any other right of action or remedy. If such default occurs after demand, the director may require from the defaulting employer a bond to the state for the benefit of any fund, with surety to the director's satisfaction, in the penalty of double the amount of the estimated payments which will be required from such employer into the said funds for and during the ensuing one year, together with any penalty or penalties incurred. In case of refusal or failure after written demand personally served to furnish such bond, the state shall be entitled to an injunction restraining the delinquent from prosecuting an occupation or work until such bond is furnished, and until all delin-

quent premiums, penalties, interest and costs are paid, conditioned for the prompt and punctual making of all payments into said funds during such periods, and any sale, transfer, or lease attempted to be made by such delinquent during the period of any of the defaults herein mentioned, of his works, plant, or lease thereto, shall be invalid until all past delinquencies are made good, and such bond furnished. [1986 c 9 § 4; 1985 c 315 § 2; 1972 ex.s. c 43 § 15; 1961 c 23 § 51.16.150. Prior: 1959 c 308 § 22; prior: 1929 c 132 § 4, part; 1923 c 136 § 3, part; 1917 c 120 § 5, part; 1917 c 28 § 2, part; 1915 c 188 § 3, part; 1911 c 74 § 8, part; RRS § 7682, part.]

**51.16.155 Failure or refusal of employer to report or pay premiums due—Collection.** In every case where an employer insured with the state fails or refuses to file any report of payroll required by the department and fails or refuses to pay the premiums due on such unreported payroll, the department shall have authority to estimate such payroll and the premiums due thereon and collect premiums on the basis of such estimate.

If the report required and the premiums due thereon are not made within ten days from the mailing of such demand by the department, which shall include the amount of premiums estimated by the department, the employer shall be in default as provided by this title and the department may have and recover judgment, warrant, or file liens for such estimated premium or the actual premium, whichever is greater.

The director or the director's designee may compromise the amount of premiums estimated by the department, whether reduced to judgment or otherwise, arising under this title if collection of the premiums estimated by the department would be against equity and good conscience. [1996 c 60 § 1; 1985 c 315 § 3; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 87.]

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.16.160 Lien for payments due—Priority—Probate, insolvency, etc.** In all cases of probate, insolvency, assignment for the benefit of creditors, or bankruptcy, the claim of the state for the payments due shall be a lien prior to all other liens or claims and on a parity with prior tax liens and the mere existence of such cases or conditions shall be sufficient to create such lien without any prior or subsequent action by the state, and all administrators, receivers, or assignees for the benefit of creditors shall notify the department of such administration, receivership, or assignment within thirty days from date of their appointment and qualification. In any action or proceeding brought for the recovery of payments due upon the payroll of an employer, the certificate of the department that an audit has been made of the payroll of such employer pursuant to the direction of the department and the amount of such payroll for the period stated in the certificate shall be prima facie evidence of such fact. [1985 c 315 § 4; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 78; 1961 c 23 § 51.16.160. Prior: 1959 c 308 § 23; prior: 1929 c 132 § 4, part; 1923 c 136 § 3, part; 1917 c 120 § 5, part; 1917 c 28 § 2, part; 1915 c 188 § 3, part; 1911 c 74 § 8, part; RRS § 7682, part.]

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.16.170 Lien for premiums, assessments, contributions, and penalties—Priority—In general—Notice.** Separate and apart from and in addition to the foregoing provisions in this chapter, the claims of the state for payments and penalties due under this title shall be a lien prior to all other liens or claims and on a parity with prior tax liens not only against the interest of any employer, in real estate, plant, works, equipment, and buildings improved, operated, or constructed by any employer, and also upon any products or articles manufactured by such employer.

The lien created by this section shall attach from the date of the commencement of the labor upon such property for which such premiums are due. In order to avail itself of the lien hereby created, the department shall, within four months after the employer has made report of his payroll and has defaulted in the payment of his premiums thereupon, file with the county auditor of the county within which such property is then situated, a statement in writing describing in general terms the property upon which a lien is claimed and stating the amount of the lien claimed by the department. If any employer fails or refuses to make report of his payroll, the lien hereby created shall continue in full force and effect, although the amount thereof is undetermined and the four months' time within which the department shall file its claim of lien shall not begin to run until the actual receipt by the department of such payroll report. From and after the filing of such claim of lien, the department shall be entitled to commence suit to cause such lien to be foreclosed in the manner provided by law for the foreclosure of other liens on real or personal property, and in such suit the certificate of the department stating the date of the actual receipt by the department of such payroll report shall be prima facie evidence of such fact. [1986 c 9 § 5; 1961 c 23 § 51.16.170. Prior: 1959 c 308 § 24; prior: 1951 c 214 § 1; 1929 c 132 § 4, part; 1923 c 136 § 3, part; 1917 c 120 § 5, part; 1917 c 28 § 2, part; 1915 c 188 § 3, part; 1911 c 74 § 8, part; RRS § 7682, part.]

**51.16.180 Property acquired by state on execution.** The director shall have the custody of all property acquired by the state at execution sale upon judgments obtained for delinquent payments and penalties therefor and costs, and may sell and dispose of the same at private sales for the sale purchase price, and shall pay the proceeds into the state treasury to the credit of the appropriate fund. In case of the sale of real estate the director shall execute the deed in the name of the state. [1971 ex.s. c 289 § 79; 1961 c 23 § 51.16.180. Prior: 1921 c 7 § 78, subdivision (4); RRS § 10836(4).]

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.16.190 Limitation upon actions to collect delinquent premiums, assessments, penalties, etc.—Exceptions—Claims by employers waived unless brought within three years.** (1) "Action" means, but is not limited to, a notice of assessment pursuant to RCW 51.48.120, an action at law pursuant to RCW 51.16.150, or any other

administrative or civil process authorized by this title for the determination of liability for premiums, assessments, penalties, contributions, or other sums, or the collection of premiums, assessments, penalties, contributions, or other sums.

(2) Any action to collect any delinquent premium, assessment, contribution, penalty, or other sum due to the department from any employer subject to this title shall be brought within three years of the date any such sum became due.

(3) In case of a false or fraudulent report with intent to evade premiums, assessments, contributions, penalties, interest, or other sums, or in the event of a failure to file a report, action may be begun at any time.

(4) Any claim for refund or adjustment by an employer of any premium, assessment, contribution, penalty, or other sum collected by the department shall be made in writing to the department within three years of the date the sum became due. [1987 c 111 § 7; 1985 c 315 § 5; 1977 ex.s. c 323 § 27.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Effective date—1987 c 111:** See notes following RCW 50.12.220.

**Severability—Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 323:** See notes following RCW 51.04.040.

**51.16.200 Payment of tax by employer quitting or disposing of business—Liability of successor.** Whenever any employer quits business, or sells out, exchanges, or otherwise disposes of the employer's business or stock of goods, any tax payable hereunder shall become immediately due and payable, and the employer shall, within ten days thereafter, make a return and pay the tax due; and any person who becomes a successor to such business shall become liable for the full amount of the tax and withhold from the purchase price a sum sufficient to pay any tax due from the employer until such time as the employer shall produce a receipt from the department showing payment in full of any tax due or a certificate that no tax is due and, if such tax is not paid by the employer within ten days from the date of such sale, exchange, or disposal, the successor shall become liable for the payment of the full amount of tax, and the payment thereof by such successor shall, to the extent thereof, be deemed a payment upon the purchase price, and if such payment is greater in amount than the purchase price the amount of the difference shall become a debt due such successor from the employer.

No successor may be liable for any tax due from the person from whom the successor has acquired a business or stock of goods if the successor gives written notice to the department of such acquisition and no assessment is issued by the department within one hundred eighty days of receipt of such notice against the former operator of the business and a copy thereof mailed to such successor. [1995 c 160 § 1; 1986 c 9 § 6.]

**51.16.210 Horse racing employment—Premium assessments.** (1) The department shall assess premiums, under the provisions of this section, for certain horse racing employments licensed in accordance with chapter 67.16 RCW. This premium assessment shall be for the purpose of providing industrial insurance coverage for employees of

trainers licensed under chapter 67.16 RCW, including but not limited to exercise riders, pony riders, and grooms, and including all on or off track employment. For the purposes of RCW 51.16.210, 67.16.300, 51.16.140, 51.32.073, and 67.16.020 a hotwalker shall be considered a groom. The department may adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW to carry out the purposes of this section, including rules providing for alternative reporting periods and payment due dates for coverage under this section. The department rules shall ensure that no licensee licensed prior to May 13, 1989, shall pay more than the assessment fixed at the basic manual rate.

(2) The department shall compute industrial insurance premium rates on a per license basis, which premiums shall be assessed at the time of each issuance or renewal of the license for owners, trainers, and grooms in amounts established by department rule for coverage under this section. Premium assessments shall be determined in accordance with the requirements of this title, except that assessments shall not be experience rated and shall be fixed at the basic manual rate. However, rates may vary according to differences in working conditions at major tracks and fair tracks.

(3) For the purposes of paying premiums and assessments under this section and making reports under this title, individuals licensed as trainers by the Washington horse racing commission shall be considered employers. The premium assessment for a groom's license shall be paid by the trainer responsible for signing the groom's license application and shall be payable at the time of license issuance or renewal.

(4) The fee to be assessed on owner licenses as required by this section shall not exceed one hundred fifty dollars. However, those owners having less than a full ownership in a horse or horses shall pay a percentage of the required license fee that is equal to the total percentage of the ownership that the owner has in the horse or horses. In no event shall an owner having an ownership percentage in more than one horse pay more than a one hundred fifty-dollar license fee. The assessment on each owner's license shall not imply that an owner is an employer, but shall be required as part of the privilege of holding an owner's license.

(5) Premium assessments under this section shall be collected by the Washington horse racing commission and deposited in the industrial insurance trust funds as provided under department rules. [1989 c 385 § 1.]

## Chapter 51.24

### ACTIONS AT LAW FOR INJURY OR DEATH

#### Sections

- 51.24.020 Action against employer for intentional injury.
- 51.24.030 Action against third person—Election by injured person or beneficiary authorized—Statutory interest in recovery—"Injury" and "recovery" defined—Applicability of chapter to underinsured motorist insurance coverage.
- 51.24.035 Action against third person—Immunity of design professional and employees—"Design professional" defined.
- 51.24.040 Action against third person—Election or recovery not bar to compensation or benefits.
- 51.24.050 Action against third person—Assignment of cause of action to department or self-insurer—Disposition of award or settlement.

- 51.24.060 Action against third person—Distribution of award or settlement recovered by injured worker or beneficiary—Lien—Enforcement.
- 51.24.070 Action against third person—Requiring injured worker or beneficiary to exercise right of election—Procedures—Right of reelection.
- 51.24.080 Action against third person—Notice of election or copy of complaint to be given department or self-insurer—Filing notice.
- 51.24.090 Action against third person—Compromise or settlement less than benefits—Approval by department or self-insurer—"Entitlement" defined—Assignment of action.
- 51.24.100 Action against third person—Right to compensation not pleadable or admissible—Challenge to right to bring action.
- 51.24.110 Action against third person—Assignment to department—Appointment of special assistant attorneys general.
- 51.24.120 Department may adopt rules.
- 51.24.900 Application—1977 ex.s. c 85.
- 51.24.902 Application—1984 c 218.

**51.24.020 Action against employer for intentional injury.** If injury results to a worker from the deliberate intention of his or her employer to produce such injury, the worker or beneficiary of the worker shall have the privilege to take under this title and also have cause of action against the employer as if this title had not been enacted, for any damages in excess of compensation and benefits paid or payable under this title. [1984 c 218 § 2; 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 31; 1973 1st ex.s. c 154 § 94; 1961 c 23 § 51.24.020. Prior: 1957 c 70 § 24; prior: 1927 c 310 § 5, part; 1919 c 131 § 5, part; 1911 c 74 § 6, part; RRS § 7680, part.]

**Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 154:** See note following RCW 2.12.030.

**51.24.030 Action against third person—Election by injured person or beneficiary authorized—Statutory interest in recovery—"Injury" and "recovery" defined—Applicability of chapter to underinsured motorist insurance coverage.** (1) If a third person, not in a worker's same employ, is or may become liable to pay damages on account of a worker's injury for which benefits and compensation are provided under this title, the injured worker or beneficiary may elect to seek damages from the third person.

(2) In every action brought under this section, the plaintiff shall give notice to the department or self-insurer when the action is filed. The department or self-insurer may file a notice of statutory interest in recovery. When such notice has been filed by the department or self-insurer, the parties shall thereafter serve copies of all notices, motions, pleadings, and other process on the department or self-insurer. The department or self-insurer may then intervene as a party in the action to protect its statutory interest in recovery.

(3) For the purposes of this chapter, "injury" shall include any physical or mental condition, disease, ailment or loss, including death, for which compensation and benefits are paid or payable under this title.

(4) Damages recoverable by a worker or beneficiary pursuant to the underinsured motorist coverage of an insurance policy shall be subject to this chapter only if the owner of the policy is the employer of the injured worker.

(5) For the purposes of this chapter, "recovery" includes all damages except loss of consortium. [1995 c 199 § 2;

1987 c 212 § 1701; 1986 c 58 § 1; 1984 c 218 § 3; 1977 ex.s. c 85 § 1.]

**Severability—1995 c 199:** See note following RCW 51.12.120.

**51.24.035 Action against third person—Immunity of design professional and employees—"Design professional" defined.** (1) Notwithstanding RCW 51.24.030(1), the injured worker or beneficiary may not seek damages against a design professional who is a third person and who has been retained to perform professional services on a construction project, or any employee of a design professional who is assisting or representing the design professional in the performance of professional services on the site of the construction project, unless responsibility for safety practices is specifically assumed by contract, the provisions of which were mutually negotiated, or the design professional actually exercised control over the portion of the premises where the worker was injured.

(2) The immunity provided by this section does not apply to the negligent preparation of design plans and specifications.

(3) For the purposes of this section, "design professional" means an architect, professional engineer, land surveyor, or landscape architect, who is licensed or authorized by law to practice such profession, or any corporation organized under chapter 18.100 RCW or authorized under RCW 18.08.420 or 18.43.130 to render design services through the practice of one or more of such professions. [1987 c 212 § 1801.]

**51.24.040 Action against third person—Election or recovery not bar to compensation or benefits.** The injured worker or beneficiary shall be entitled to the full compensation and benefits provided by this title regardless of any election or recovery made under this chapter. [1977 ex.s. c 85 § 2.]

**51.24.050 Action against third person—Assignment of cause of action to department or self-insurer—Disposition of award or settlement.** (1) An election not to proceed against the third person operates as an assignment of the cause of action to the department or self-insurer, which may prosecute or compromise the action in its discretion in the name of the injured worker, beneficiary or legal representative.

(2) If an injury to a worker results in the worker's death, the department or self-insurer to which the cause of action has been assigned may petition a court for the appointment of a special personal representative for the limited purpose of maintaining an action under this chapter and chapter 4.20 RCW.

(3) If a beneficiary is a minor child, an election not to proceed against a third person on such beneficiary's cause of action may be exercised by the beneficiary's legal custodian or guardian.

(4) Any recovery made by the department or self-insurer shall be distributed as follows:

(a) The department or self-insurer shall be paid the expenses incurred in making the recovery including reasonable costs of legal services;

(b) The injured worker or beneficiary shall be paid twenty-five percent of the balance of the recovery made, which shall not be subject to subsection (5) of this section: PROVIDED, That in the event of a compromise and settlement by the parties, the injured worker or beneficiary may agree to a sum less than twenty-five percent;

(c) The department and/or self-insurer shall be paid the compensation and benefits paid to or on behalf of the injured worker or beneficiary by the department and/or self-insurer; and

(d) The injured worker or beneficiary shall be paid any remaining balance.

(5) Thereafter no payment shall be made to or on behalf of a worker or beneficiary by the department and/or self-insurer for such injury until the amount of any further compensation and benefits shall equal any such remaining balance. Thereafter, such benefits shall be paid by the department and/or self-insurer to or on behalf of the worker or beneficiary as though no recovery had been made from a third person.

(6) When the cause of action has been assigned to the self-insurer and compensation and benefits have been paid and/or are payable from state funds for the same injury:

(a) The prosecution of such cause of action shall also be for the benefit of the department to the extent of compensation and benefits paid and payable from state funds;

(b) Any compromise or settlement of such cause of action which results in less than the entitlement under this title is void unless made with the written approval of the department;

(c) The department shall be reimbursed for compensation and benefits paid from state funds;

(d) The department shall bear its proportionate share of the costs and reasonable attorneys' fees incurred by the self-insurer in obtaining the award or settlement; and

(e) Any remaining balance under subsection (4)(d) of this section shall be applied, under subsection (5) of this section, to reduce the obligations of the department and self-insurer to pay further compensation and benefits in proportion to which the obligations of each bear to the remaining entitlement of the worker or beneficiary. [1995 c 199 § 3; 1984 c 218 § 4; 1983 c 211 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 85 § 3.]

**Severability—1995 c 199:** See note following RCW 51.12.120.

**Applicability—1983 c 211:** "Sections 1 and 2 of this act apply to all actions against third persons in which judgment or settlement of the underlying action has not taken place prior to July 24, 1983." [1983 c 211 § 3.] "Sections 1 and 2 of this act" consist of the 1983 amendments of RCW 51.24.050 and 51.24.060.

**Severability—1983 c 211:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1983 c 211 § 4.]

**51.24.060 Action against third person—Distribution of award or settlement recovered by injured worker or beneficiary—Lien—Enforcement.** (1) If the injured worker or beneficiary elects to seek damages from the third person, any recovery made shall be distributed as follows:

(a) The costs and reasonable attorneys' fees shall be paid proportionately by the injured worker or beneficiary and the department and/or self-insurer: PROVIDED, That the department and/or self-insurer may require court approval of

costs and attorneys' fees or may petition a court for determination of the reasonableness of costs and attorneys' fees;

(b) The injured worker or beneficiary shall be paid twenty-five percent of the balance of the award: PROVIDED, That in the event of a compromise and settlement by the parties, the injured worker or beneficiary may agree to a sum less than twenty-five percent;

(c) The department and/or self-insurer shall be paid the balance of the recovery made, but only to the extent necessary to reimburse the department and/or self-insurer for benefits paid;

(i) The department and/or self-insurer shall bear its proportionate share of the costs and reasonable attorneys' fees incurred by the worker or beneficiary to the extent of the benefits paid under this title: PROVIDED, That the department's and/or self-insurer's proportionate share shall not exceed one hundred percent of the costs and reasonable attorneys' fees;

(ii) The department's and/or self-insurer's proportionate share of the costs and reasonable attorneys' fees shall be determined by dividing the gross recovery amount into the benefits paid amount and multiplying this percentage times the costs and reasonable attorneys' fees incurred by the worker or beneficiary;

(iii) The department's and/or self-insurer's reimbursement share shall be determined by subtracting their proportionate share of the costs and reasonable attorneys' fees from the benefits paid amount;

(d) Any remaining balance shall be paid to the injured worker or beneficiary; and

(e) Thereafter no payment shall be made to or on behalf of a worker or beneficiary by the department and/or self-insurer for such injury until the amount of any further compensation and benefits shall equal any such remaining balance minus the department's and/or self-insurer's proportionate share of the costs and reasonable attorneys' fees in regards to the remaining balance. This proportionate share shall be determined by dividing the gross recovery amount into the remaining balance amount and multiplying this percentage times the costs and reasonable attorneys' fees incurred by the worker or beneficiary. Thereafter, such benefits shall be paid by the department and/or self-insurer to or on behalf of the worker or beneficiary as though no recovery had been made from a third person.

(2) The recovery made shall be subject to a lien by the department and/or self-insurer for its share under this section.

(3) The department or self-insurer has sole discretion to compromise the amount of its lien. In deciding whether or to what extent to compromise its lien, the department or self-insurer shall consider at least the following:

(a) The likelihood of collection of the award or settlement as may be affected by insurance coverage, solvency, or other factors relating to the third person;

(b) Factual and legal issues of liability as between the injured worker or beneficiary and the third person. Such issues include but are not limited to possible contributory negligence and novel theories of liability; and

(c) Problems of proof faced in obtaining the award or settlement.

(4) In an action under this section, the self-insurer may act on behalf and for the benefit of the department to the

extent of any compensation and benefits paid or payable from state funds.

(5) It shall be the duty of the person to whom any recovery is paid before distribution under this section to advise the department or self-insurer of the fact and amount of such recovery, the costs and reasonable attorneys' fees associated with the recovery, and to distribute the recovery in compliance with this section.

(6) The distribution of any recovery made by award or settlement of the third party action shall be confirmed by department order, served by registered or certified mail, and shall be subject to chapter 51.52 RCW. In the event the order of distribution becomes final under chapter 51.52 RCW, the director or the director's designee may file with the clerk of any county within the state a warrant in the amount of the sum representing the unpaid lien plus interest accruing from the date the order became final. The clerk of the county in which the warrant is filed shall immediately designate a superior court cause number for such warrant and the clerk shall cause to be entered in the judgment docket under the superior court cause number assigned to the warrant, the name of such worker or beneficiary mentioned in the warrant, the amount of the unpaid lien plus interest accrued and the date when the warrant was filed. The amount of such warrant as docketed shall become a lien upon the title to and interest in all real and personal property of the injured worker or beneficiary against whom the warrant is issued, the same as a judgment in a civil case docketed in the office of such clerk. The sheriff shall then proceed in the same manner and with like effect as prescribed by law with respect to execution or other process issued against rights or property upon judgment in the superior court. Such warrant so docketed shall be sufficient to support the issuance of writs of garnishment in favor of the department in the manner provided by law in the case of judgment, wholly or partially unsatisfied. The clerk of the court shall be entitled to a filing fee of five dollars, which shall be added to the amount of the warrant. A copy of such warrant shall be mailed to the injured worker or beneficiary within three days of filing with the clerk.

(7) The director, or the director's designee, may issue to any person, firm, corporation, municipal corporation, political subdivision of the state, public corporation, or agency of the state, a notice and order to withhold and deliver property of any kind if he or she has reason to believe that there is in the possession of such person, firm, corporation, municipal corporation, political subdivision of the state, public corporation, or agency of the state, property which is due, owing, or belonging to any worker or beneficiary upon whom a warrant has been served by the department for payments due to the state fund. The notice and order to withhold and deliver shall be served by the sheriff of the county or by the sheriff's deputy; by certified mail, return receipt requested; or by any authorized representatives of the director. Any person, firm, corporation, municipal corporation, political subdivision of the state, public corporation, or agency of the state upon whom service has been made shall answer the notice within twenty days exclusive of the day of service, under oath and in writing, and shall make true answers to the matters inquired of in the notice and order to withhold and deliver. In the event there is in the possession of the party named and served with such

notice and order, any property which may be subject to the claim of the department, such property shall be delivered forthwith to the director or the director's authorized representative upon demand. If the party served and named in the notice and order fails to answer the notice and order within the time prescribed in this section, the court may, after the time to answer such order has expired, render judgment by default against the party named in the notice for the full amount claimed by the director in the notice together with costs. In the event that a notice to withhold and deliver is served upon an employer and the property found to be subject thereto is wages, the employer may assert in the answer to all exemptions provided for by chapter 6.27 RCW to which the wage earner may be entitled. [1995 c 199 § 4; 1993 c 496 § 2; 1987 c 442 § 1118; 1986 c 305 § 403; 1984 c 218 § 5; 1983 c 211 § 2; 1977 ex.s. c 85 § 4.]

**Severability—1995 c 199:** See note following RCW 51.12.120.

**Effective date—Application—1993 c 496:** See notes following RCW 4.22.070.

**Preamble—Report to legislature—Applicability—Severability—1986 c 305:** See notes following RCW 4.16.160.

**Applicability—Severability—1983 c 211:** See notes following RCW 51.24.050.

**51.24.070 Action against third person—Requiring injured worker or beneficiary to exercise right of election—Procedures—Right of reelection.** (1) The department or self-insurer may require the injured worker or beneficiary to exercise the right of election under this chapter by serving a written demand by registered mail, certified mail, or personal service on the worker or beneficiary.

(2) Unless an election is made within sixty days of the receipt of the demand, and unless an action is instituted or settled within the time granted by the department or self-insurer, the injured worker or beneficiary is deemed to have assigned the action to the department or self-insurer. The department or self-insurer shall allow the worker or beneficiary at least ninety days from the election to institute or settle the action. When a beneficiary is a minor child the demand shall be served upon the legal custodian or guardian of such beneficiary.

(3) If an action which has been filed is not diligently prosecuted, the department or self-insurer may petition the court in which the action is pending for an order assigning the cause of action to the department or self-insurer. Upon a sufficient showing of a lack of diligent prosecution the court in its discretion may issue the order.

(4) If the department or self-insurer has taken an assignment of the third party cause of action under subsection (2) of this section, the injured worker or beneficiary may, at the discretion of the department or self-insurer, exercise a right of reelection and assume the cause of action subject to reimbursement of litigation expenses incurred by the department or self-insurer. [1984 c 218 § 6; 1977 ex.s. c 85 § 5.]

**51.24.080 Action against third person—Notice of election or copy of complaint to be given department or self-insurer—Filing notice.** (1) If the injured worker or beneficiary elects to seek damages from the third person, notice of the election must be given to the department or



self-insurer. The notice shall be by registered mail, certified mail, or personal service. If an action is filed by the injured worker or beneficiary, a copy of the complaint must be sent by registered mail to the department or self-insurer.

(2) A return showing service of the notice on the department or self-insurer shall be filed with the court but shall not be part of the record except as necessary to give notice to the defendant of the lien imposed by RCW 51.24.060(2). [1977 ex.s. c 85 § 6.]

**51.24.090 Action against third person—Compromise or settlement less than benefits—Approval by department or self-insurer—"Entitlement" defined—Assignment of action.** (1) Any compromise or settlement of the third party cause of action by the injured worker or beneficiary which results in less than the entitlement under this title is void unless made with the written approval of the department or self-insurer: PROVIDED, That for the purposes of this chapter, "entitlement" means benefits and compensation paid and estimated by the department to be paid in the future.

(2) If a compromise or settlement is void because of subsection (1) of this section, the department or self-insurer may petition the court in which the action was filed for an order assigning the cause of action to the department or self-insurer. If an action has not been filed, the department or self-insurer may proceed as provided in chapter 7.24 RCW. [1995 c 199 § 5; 1984 c 218 § 7; 1977 ex.s. c 85 § 7.]

**Severability—1995 c 199:** See note following RCW 51.12.120.

**51.24.100 Action against third person—Right to compensation not pleadable or admissible—Challenge to right to bring action.** The fact that the injured worker or beneficiary is entitled to compensation under this title shall not be pleaded or admissible in evidence in any third party action under this chapter. Any challenge of the right to bring such action shall be made by supplemental pleadings only and shall be decided by the court as a matter of law. [1977 ex.s. c 85 § 8.]

**51.24.110 Action against third person—Assignment to department—Appointment of special assistant attorneys general.** (1) Actions against third persons that are assigned by the claimant to the department, voluntarily or by operation of law in accordance with chapter 51.24 RCW, may be prosecuted by special assistant attorneys general.

(2) The attorney general shall select special assistant attorneys general from a list compiled by the department and the Washington state bar association. The attorney general, in conjunction with the department and the Washington state bar association, shall promulgate rules and regulations outlining the criteria and the procedure by which private attorneys may have their names placed on the list of attorneys available for appointment as special assistant attorneys general to litigate third party actions under subsection (1) of this section. [1984 c 218 § 1.]

**51.24.120 Department may adopt rules.** The department may adopt, amend, and rescind under chapter 34.05 RCW such rules as may be necessary to the administration of this chapter. [1984 c 218 § 8.]

**51.24.900 Application—1977 ex.s. c 85.** This 1977 amendatory act shall apply only to causes of action which arise on or after its effective date. [1977 ex.s. c 85 § 9.]

**51.24.902 Application—1984 c 218.** This act applies to all causes of action against third persons in which judgment or settlement of the underlying action has not taken place before June 7, 1984. [1984 c 218 § 9.]

## Chapter 51.28

### NOTICE AND REPORT OF ACCIDENT—APPLICATION FOR COMPENSATION

#### Sections

51.28.010	Notice of accident—Notification of worker's rights.
51.28.020	Worker's application for compensation—Physician to aid in.
51.28.025	Duty of employer to report injury or disease—Contents—Penalty.
51.28.030	Beneficiaries' application for compensation—Notification of rights.
51.28.040	Application for change in compensation.
51.28.050	Time limitation for filing application or enforcing claim for injury.
51.28.055	Time limitation for filing claim for occupational disease—Notice.
51.28.060	Proof of dependency.
51.28.070	Claim files and records confidential.
51.28.080	Determination of compensation for temporary total disability—Notification of employer.
51.28.090	Notification of availability of basic health plan.

**51.28.010 Notice of accident—Notification of worker's rights.** Whenever any accident occurs to any worker it shall be the duty of such worker or someone in his or her behalf to forthwith report such accident to his or her employer, superintendent or foreman or forewoman in charge of the work, and of the employer to at once report such accident and the injury resulting therefrom to the department pursuant to RCW 51.28.025, as now or hereafter amended, where the worker has received treatment from a physician, has been hospitalized, disabled from work, or has died as the apparent result of such accident and injury.

Upon receipt of such notice of accident, the department shall immediately forward to the worker or his or her beneficiaries or dependents notification, in nontechnical language, of their rights under this title. [1977 ex.s. c 350 § 32; 1975 1st ex.s. c 224 § 4; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 5; 1961 c 23 § 51.28.010. Prior: 1915 c 188 § 9; 1911 c 74 § 14; RRS § 7689.]

**Effective date—1975 ex.s. c 224:** See note following RCW 51.04.110.

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.28.020 Worker's application for compensation—Physician to aid in.** Where a worker is entitled to compensation under this title he or she shall file with the department or his or her self-insuring employer, as the case may be, his or her application for such, together with the certificate of the physician who attended him or her, and it shall be the duty of the physician to inform the injured worker of his or her rights under this title and to lend all necessary assistance in making this application for compensation and such proof

of other matters as required by the rules of the department without charge to the worker. The department shall provide physicians with a manual which outlines the procedures to be followed in applications for compensation involving occupational diseases, and which describes claimants' rights and responsibilities related to occupational disease claims. If application for compensation is made to a self-insuring employer, he or she shall forthwith send a copy thereof to the department. [1984 c 159 § 3; 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 33; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 38; 1961 c 23 § 51.28.020. Prior: 1927 c 310 § 6, part; 1921 c 182 § 7, part; 1911 c 74 § 12, part; RRS § 7686, part.]

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.28.025 Duty of employer to report injury or disease—Contents—Penalty.** (1) Whenever an employer has notice or knowledge of an injury or occupational disease sustained by any worker in his or her employment who has received treatment from a physician, has been hospitalized, disabled from work or has died as the apparent result of such injury or occupational disease, the employer shall immediately report the same to the department on forms prescribed by it. The report shall include:

- (a) The name, address, and business of the employer;
- (b) The name, address, and occupation of the worker;
- (c) The date, time, cause, and nature of the injury or occupational disease;
- (d) Whether the injury or occupational disease arose in the course of the injured worker's employment;
- (e) All available information pertaining to the nature of the injury or occupational disease including but not limited to any visible signs, any complaints of the worker, any time lost from work, and the observable effect on the worker's bodily functions, so far as is known; and
- (f) Such other pertinent information as the department may prescribe by regulation.

(2) Failure or refusal to file the report required by subsection (1) shall subject the offending employer to a penalty determined by the director but not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars for each offense, to be collected in a civil action in the name of the department and paid into the supplemental pension fund. [1987 c 185 § 32; 1985 c 347 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 224 § 5; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 39.]

**Intent—Severability—1987 c 185:** See notes following RCW 51.12.130.

**Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 224:** See note following RCW 51.04.110.

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.28.030 Beneficiaries' application for compensation—Notification of rights.** Where death results from injury the parties entitled to compensation under this title, or someone in their behalf, shall make application for the same to the department or self-insurer as the case may be, which application must be accompanied with proof of death and proof of relationship showing the parties to be entitled to compensation under this title, certificates of attending physician, if any, and such proof as required by the rules of the department.

Upon receipt of notice of accident under RCW 51.28.010, the director shall immediately forward to the party or parties required to make application for compensation under this section, notification, in nontechnical language, of their rights under this title. [1972 ex.s. c 43 § 17; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 6; 1961 c 23 § 51.28.030. Prior: 1927 c 310 § 6, part; 1921 c 182 § 7, part; 1911 c 74 § 12, part; RRS § 7686, part.]

**51.28.040 Application for change in compensation.** If change of circumstances warrants an increase or rearrangement of compensation, like application shall be made therefor. Where the application has been granted, compensation and other benefits if in order shall be allowed for periods of time up to sixty days prior to the receipt of such application. [1977 ex.s. c 199 § 1; 1961 c 23 § 51.28.040. Prior: 1927 c 310 § 6, part; 1921 c 182 § 7, part; 1911 c 74 § 12, part; RRS § 7686, part.]

**51.28.050 Time limitation for filing application or enforcing claim for injury.** No application shall be valid or claim thereunder enforceable unless filed within one year after the day upon which the injury occurred or the rights of dependents or beneficiaries accrued, except as provided in RCW 51.28.055. [1984 c 159 § 1; 1961 c 23 § 51.28.050. Prior: 1927 c 310 § 6, part; 1921 c 182 § 7, part; 1911 c 74 § 12, part; RRS § 7686, part.]

**51.28.055 Time limitation for filing claim for occupational disease—Notice.** Claims for occupational disease or infection to be valid and compensable must be filed within two years following the date the worker had written notice from a physician: (1) Of the existence of his or her occupational disease, and (2) that a claim for disability benefits may be filed. The notice shall also contain a statement that the worker has two years from the date of the notice to file a claim. The physician shall file the notice with the department. The department shall send a copy to the worker and to the self-insurer if the worker's employer is self-insured. However, a claim is valid if it is filed within two years from the date of death of the worker suffering from an occupational disease. [1984 c 159 § 2; 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 34; 1961 c 23 § 51.28.055. Prior: 1959 c 308 § 18; prior: 1957 c 70 § 16, part; 1951 c 236 § 1, part.]

**51.28.060 Proof of dependency.** A dependent shall at all times furnish the department with proof satisfactory to the director of the nature, amount and extent of the contribution made by the deceased worker.

Proof of dependency by any beneficiary residing without the United States shall be made before the nearest United States consul or consular agency, under the seal of such consul or consular agent, and the department may cause any warrant or warrants to which such beneficiary is entitled to be transmitted to the beneficiary through the nearest United States consul or consular agent. [1977 ex.s. c 350 § 35; 1961 c 23 § 51.28.060. Prior: 1957 c 70 § 25; prior: (i) 1939 c 41 § 2, part; 1929 c 132 § 1, part; 1927 c 310 § 2, part; 1921 c 182 § 2, part; 1919 c 131 § 2, part; 1917 c 120 § 1, part; 1911 c 74 § 3, part; RRS § 7675, part. (ii) 1947 c 56 § 1, part; 1927 c 310 § 7, part; 1923 c 136 § 4, part;

1921 c 182 § 6, part; 1919 c 131 § 6, part; 1911 c 74 § 10, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7684, part.]

**51.28.070 Claim files and records confidential.**

Information contained in the claim files and records of injured workers, under the provisions of this title, shall be deemed confidential and shall not be open to public inspection (other than to public employees in the performance of their official duties), but representatives of a claimant, be it an individual or an organization, may review a claim file or receive specific information therefrom upon the presentation of the signed authorization of the claimant. A claimant may review his or her claim file if the director determines, pursuant to criteria adopted by rule, that the review is in the claimant's interest. Employers or their duly authorized representatives may review any files of their own injured workers in connection with any pending claims. Physicians treating or examining workers claiming benefits under this title, or physicians giving medical advice to the department regarding any claim may, at the discretion of the department, inspect the claim files and records of injured workers, and other persons may make such inspection, at the department's discretion, when such persons are rendering assistance to the department at any stage of the proceedings on any matter pertaining to the administration of this title. [1990 c 209 § 2; 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 36; 1975 1st ex.s. c 224 § 6; 1961 c 23 § 51.28.070. Prior: 1957 c 70 § 51.]

**Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 224:** See note following RCW 51.04.110.

**51.28.080 Determination of compensation for temporary total disability—Notification of employer.** An employer shall be promptly notified by the department when it has determined that a worker of that employer is entitled to compensation under RCW 51.32.090. Notification shall include, in nontechnical language, an explanation of the employer's rights under this title. [1985 c 338 § 2.]

**51.28.090 Notification of availability of basic health plan.** The director shall notify persons receiving time-loss payments under this chapter of the availability of basic health care coverage to qualified enrollees under chapter 70.47 RCW, unless the Washington basic health plan administrator has notified the director of closure of enrollment in the plan. The director shall maintain supplies of Washington basic health plan enrollment application forms in all field service offices where the plan is available, which shall be provided in reasonably necessary quantities by the administrator for the use of persons wishing to apply for enrollment in the Washington basic health plan. [1987 1st ex.s. c 5 § 17.]

**Severability—1987 1st ex.s. c 5:** See note following RCW 70.47.901.

**Chapter 51.32**

**COMPENSATION—RIGHT TO AND AMOUNT**

Sections

51.32.010 Who entitled to compensation.

- 51.32.015 Benefits provided for injury during course of employment and during lunch period—"Jobsite" defined—When worker lunch hours not reported.
- 51.32.020 Who not entitled to compensation.
- 51.32.025 Payments for children cease at age eighteen—Exceptions.
- 51.32.030 When compensation payable to employer or member of corporate employer.
- 51.32.040 Exemption of awards—Payment of awards after death—Time limitations for filing—Confinement in institution under conviction and sentence.
- 51.32.045 Direct deposit of benefits into financial institutions authorized.
- 51.32.050 Death benefits.
- 51.32.055 Determination of permanent disabilities.
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- 51.32.300 State employee vocational rehabilitation coordinator.
- 51.32.350 Chemically related illness—Criteria and procedures for claims—Claims management.
- 51.32.360 Chemically related illness—Centers for research and clinical assessment.

51.32.370 Chemically related illness—Implementation plan for research—Funding for research projects—Deductions from employees' pay.

*Public assistance recipient receiving industrial insurance compensation, recovery by department: RCW 74.04.530 through 74.04.580.*

*Victims of crimes, benefits: Chapter 7.68 RCW.*

**51.32.010 Who entitled to compensation.** Each worker injured in the course of his or her employment, or his or her family or dependents in case of death of the worker, shall receive compensation in accordance with this chapter, and, except as in this title otherwise provided, such payment shall be in lieu of any and all rights of action whatsoever against any person whomsoever: **PROVIDED**, That if an injured worker, or the surviving spouse of an injured worker shall not have the legal custody of a child for, or on account of whom payments are required to be made under this title, such payment or payments shall be made to the person or persons having the legal custody of such child but only for the periods of time after the department has been notified of the fact of such legal custody, and it shall be the duty of any such person or persons receiving payments because of legal custody of any child immediately to notify the department of any change in such legal custody. [1977 ex.s. c 350 § 37; 1975 1st ex.s. c 224 § 7; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 40; 1961 c 23 § 51.32.010. Prior: 1957 c 70 § 26; prior: 1949 c 219 § 1, part; 1947 c 246 § 1, part; 1929 c 132 § 2, part; 1927 c 310 § 4, part; 1923 c 136 § 2, part; 1919 c 131 § 4, part; 1917 c 28 § 1, part; 1913 c 148 § 1, part; 1911 c 74 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7679, part.]

**Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 224:** See note following RCW 51.04.110.

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.32.015 Benefits provided for injury during course of employment and during lunch period—"Jobsite" defined—When worker lunch hours not reported.** The benefits of Title 51 RCW shall be provided to each worker receiving an injury, as defined therein, during the course of his or her employment and also during his or her lunch period as established by the employer while on the jobsite. The jobsite shall consist of the premises as are occupied, used or contracted for by the employer for the business or work process in which the employer is then engaged: **PROVIDED**, That if a worker by reason of his or her employment leaves such jobsite under the direction, control or request of the employer and if such worker is injured during his or her lunch period while so away from the jobsite, the worker shall receive the benefits as provided herein: **AND PROVIDED FURTHER**, That the employer need not consider the lunch period in his or her payroll for the purpose of reporting to the department unless the worker is actually paid for such period of time. [1977 ex.s. c 350 § 38; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 41; 1961 c 107 § 1.]

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.32.020 Who not entitled to compensation.** If injury or death results to a worker from the deliberate intention of the worker himself or herself to produce such

injury or death, or while the worker is engaged in the attempt to commit, or the commission of, a felony, neither the worker nor the widow, widower, child, or dependent of the worker shall receive any payment under this title.

If injury or death results to a worker from the deliberate intention of a beneficiary of that worker to produce the injury or death, or if injury or death results to a worker as a consequence of a beneficiary of that worker engaging in the attempt to commit, or the commission of, a felony, the beneficiary shall not receive any payment under this title.

An invalid child, while being supported and cared for in a state institution, shall not receive compensation under this chapter.

No payment shall be made to or for a natural child of a deceased worker and, at the same time, as the stepchild of a deceased worker. [1995 c 160 § 2; 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 39; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 42; 1961 c 23 § 51.32.020. Prior: 1957 c 70 § 27; prior: (i) 1927 c 310 § 5, part; 1919 c 131 § 5, part; 1911 c 74 § 6, part; RRS § 7680, part. (ii) 1949 c 219 § 1, part; 1947 c 246 § 1, part; 1929 c 132 § 2, part; 1927 c 310 § 4, part; 1923 c 136 § 2, part; 1919 c 131 § 4, part; 1917 c 28 § 1, part; 1913 c 148 § 1, part; 1911 c 74 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7679, part.]

**Application—1995 c 160 §§ 2 and 3:** "Sections 2 and 3 of this act shall apply from July 23, 1995, without regard to the date of injury or the date of filing a claim." [1995 c 160 § 8.]

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.32.025 Payments for children cease at age eighteen—Exceptions.** Any payments to or on account of any child or children of a deceased or temporarily or totally permanently disabled worker pursuant to any of the provisions of chapter 51.32 RCW shall terminate when any such child reaches the age of eighteen years unless such child is a dependent invalid child or is permanently enrolled at a full time course in an accredited school, in which case such payments after age eighteen shall be made directly to such child. Payments to any dependent invalid child over the age of eighteen years shall continue in the amount previously paid on account of such child until he shall cease to be dependent. Payments to any child over the age of eighteen years permanently enrolled at a full time course in an accredited school shall continue in the amount previously paid on account of such child until the child reaches an age over that provided for in the definition of "child" in this title or ceases to be permanently enrolled whichever occurs first. Where the worker sustains an injury or dies when any of the worker's children is over the age of eighteen years and is either a dependent invalid child or is a child permanently enrolled at a full time course in an accredited school the payment to or on account of any such child shall be made as herein provided. [1987 c 185 § 33; 1975 1st ex.s. c 224 § 11.]

**Intent—Severability—1987 c 185:** See notes following RCW 51.12.130.

**Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 224:** See note following RCW 51.04.110.

**51.32.030 When compensation payable to employer or member of corporate employer.** Any sole proprietor, partner, or joint venturer who has requested coverage under

this title and who shall thereafter be injured or sustain an occupational disease, shall be entitled to the benefit of this title, as and under the same circumstances and subject to the same obligations as a worker: PROVIDED, That no such person or the beneficiaries thereof shall be entitled to benefits under this title unless the department has received notice in writing of such request on such forms as the department may provide prior to the date of the injury or occupational disease as the result of which claims are made: PROVIDED, That the department shall have the power to cancel the personal coverage of any such person if any required payments or reports have not been made. [1980 c 14 § 8. Prior: 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 40; 1977 ex.s. c 323 § 14; 1961 c 23 § 51.32.030; prior: 1957 c 70 § 28; prior: 1939 c 41 § 2, part; 1929 c 132 § 1, part; 1927 c 310 § 2, part; 1921 c 182 § 2, part; 1919 c 131 § 2, part; 1917 c 120 § 1, part; 1911 c 74 § 3, part; RRS § 7675, part.]

**Severability—Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 323:** See notes following RCW 51.04.040.

**51.32.040 Exemption of awards—Payment of awards after death—Time limitations for filing—Confinement in institution under conviction and sentence.**

(1) Except as provided in RCW 43.20B.720 and 74.20A.260, no money paid or payable under this title shall, before the issuance and delivery of the check or warrant, be assigned, charged, or taken in execution, attached, garnished, or pass or be paid to any other person by operation of law, any form of voluntary assignment, or power of attorney. Any such assignment or charge is void unless the transfer is to a financial institution at the request of a worker or other beneficiary and made in accordance with RCW 51.32.045.

(2)(a) If any worker suffers (i) a permanent partial injury and dies from some other cause than the accident which produced the injury before he or she receives payment of the award for the permanent partial injury or (ii) any other injury before he or she receives payment of any monthly installment covering any period of time before his or her death, the amount of the permanent partial disability award or the monthly payment, or both, shall be paid to the surviving spouse or the child or children if there is no surviving spouse.

(b) If any worker suffers an injury and dies from it before he or she receives payment of any monthly installment covering time loss for any period of time before his or her death, the amount of the monthly payment shall be paid to the surviving spouse or the child or children if there is no surviving spouse.

(c) Any application for compensation under this subsection (2) shall be filed with the department or self-insuring employer within one year of the date of death.

(3)(a) Any worker or beneficiary receiving benefits under this title who is subsequently confined in, or who subsequently becomes eligible for benefits under this title while confined in, any institution under conviction and sentence shall have all payments of the compensation canceled during the period of confinement. After discharge from the institution, payment of benefits due afterward shall be paid if the worker or beneficiary would, except for the provisions of this subsection (3), otherwise be entitled to them.

(b) If any prisoner is injured in the course of his or her employment while participating in a work or training release

program authorized by chapter 72.65 RCW and is subject to the provisions of this title, he or she is entitled to payments under this title, subject to the requirements of chapter 72.65 RCW, unless his or her participation in the program has been canceled, or unless he or she is returned to a state correctional institution, as defined in RCW 72.65.010(3), as a result of revocation of parole or new sentence.

(c) If the confined worker has any beneficiaries during the confinement period during which benefits are canceled under (a) or (b) of this subsection, they shall be paid directly the monthly benefits which would have been paid to the worker for himself or herself and the worker's beneficiaries had the worker not been confined.

(4) Any lump sum benefits to which a worker would otherwise be entitled but for the provisions of this section shall be paid on a monthly basis to his or her beneficiaries. [1996 c 47 § 1; 1995 c 160 § 3; 1987 c 75 § 7; 1983 c 2 § 13. Prior: 1982 c 201 § 8; 1982 c 109 § 10; 1979 ex.s. c 171 § 11; 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 41; 1975 1st ex.s. c 224 § 8; 1974 ex.s. c 30 § 1; prior: 1973 1st ex.s. c 154 § 95; 1972 ex.s. c 43 § 18; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 43; 1965 ex.s. c 165 § 2; 1961 c 23 § 51.32.040; prior: 1957 c 70 § 29; prior: 1947 c 56 § 1, part; 1927 c 310 § 7, part; 1923 c 136 § 4, part; 1921 c 182 § 6, part; 1919 c 131 § 6, part; 1911 c 74 § 10, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7684, part.]

**Application—1995 c 160 §§ 2 and 3:** See note following RCW 51.32.020.

**Savings—Severability—1987 c 75:** See RCW 43.20B.900 and 43.20B.901.

**Severability—1983 c 2:** See note following RCW 18.71.030.

**Severability—1979 ex.s. c 171:** See note following RCW 74.20.300.

**Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 224:** See note following RCW 51.04.110.

**Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 154:** See note following RCW 2.12.030.

**51.32.045 Direct deposit of benefits into financial institutions authorized.** Any worker or other recipient of benefits under this title may elect to have any payments due transferred to such person's account in a financial institution for either: (1) Credit to the recipient's account in such financial institution; or (2) immediate transfer therefrom to the recipient's account in any other financial institution. A single warrant may be drawn in favor of such financial institution, for the total amount due the recipients involved, and written directions provided to such financial institution of the amount to be credited to the account of a recipient or to be transferred to an account in another financial institution for such recipient. The issuance and delivery by the disbursing officer of a warrant in accordance with the procedure set forth in this section and proper indorsement thereof by the financial institution shall have the same legal effect as payment directly to the recipient.

For the purposes of this section "financial institution" shall have the meaning given in RCW 41.04.240 as now or hereafter amended. [1982 c 109 § 11.]

**51.32.050 Death benefits.** (1) Where death results from the injury the expenses of burial not to exceed two hundred percent of the average monthly wage in the state as defined in RCW 51.08.018 shall be paid.

(2)(a) Where death results from the injury, a surviving spouse of a deceased worker eligible for benefits under this title shall receive monthly for life or until remarriage payments according to the following schedule:

(i) If there are no children of the deceased worker, sixty percent of the wages of the deceased worker but not less than one hundred eighty-five dollars;

(ii) If there is one child of the deceased worker and in the legal custody of such spouse, sixty-two percent of the wages of the deceased worker but not less than two hundred twenty-two dollars;

(iii) If there are two children of the deceased worker and in the legal custody of such spouse, sixty-four percent of the wages of the deceased worker but not less than two hundred fifty-three dollars;

(iv) If there are three children of the deceased worker and in the legal custody of such spouse, sixty-six percent of the wages of the deceased worker but not less than two hundred seventy-six dollars;

(v) If there are four children of the deceased worker and in the legal custody of such spouse, sixty-eight percent of the wages of the deceased worker but not less than two hundred ninety-nine dollars; or

(vi) If there are five or more children of the deceased worker and in the legal custody of such spouse, seventy percent of the wages of the deceased worker but not less than three hundred twenty-two dollars.

(b) Where the surviving spouse does not have legal custody of any child or children of the deceased worker or where after the death of the worker legal custody of such child or children passes from such surviving spouse to another, any payment on account of such child or children not in the legal custody of the surviving spouse shall be made to the person or persons having legal custody of such child or children. The amount of such payments shall be five percent of the monthly benefits payable as a result of the worker's death for each such child but such payments shall not exceed twenty-five percent. Such payments on account of such child or children shall be subtracted from the amount to which such surviving spouse would have been entitled had such surviving spouse had legal custody of all of the children and the surviving spouse shall receive the remainder after such payments on account of such child or children have been subtracted. Such payments on account of a child or children not in the legal custody of such surviving spouse shall be apportioned equally among such children.

(c) Payments to the surviving spouse of the deceased worker shall cease at the end of the month in which remarriage occurs: PROVIDED, That a monthly payment shall be made to the child or children of the deceased worker from the month following such remarriage in a sum equal to five percent of the wages of the deceased worker for one child and a sum equal to five percent for each additional child up to a maximum of five such children. Payments to such child or children shall be apportioned equally among such children. Such sum shall be in place of any payments theretofore made for the benefit of or on account of any such child or children. If the surviving spouse does not have legal custody of any child or children of the deceased worker, or if after the death of the worker, legal custody of such child or children passes from such surviving spouse to another,

any payment on account of such child or children not in the legal custody of the surviving spouse shall be made to the person or persons having legal custody of such child or children.

(d) In no event shall the monthly payments provided in subsection (2) of this section exceed the applicable percentage of the average monthly wage in the state as computed under RCW 51.08.018 as follows:

AFTER	PERCENTAGE
June 30, 1993	105%
June 30, 1994	110%
June 30, 1995	115%
June 30, 1996	120%

(e) In addition to the monthly payments provided for in subsection (2) (a) through (c) of this section, a surviving spouse or child or children of such worker if there is no surviving spouse, or dependent parent or parents, if there is no surviving spouse or child or children of any such deceased worker shall be forthwith paid a sum equal to one hundred percent of the average monthly wage in the state as defined in RCW 51.08.018, any such children, or parents to share and share alike in said sum.

(f) Upon remarriage of a surviving spouse the monthly payments for the child or children shall continue as provided in this section, but the monthly payments to such surviving spouse shall cease at the end of the month during which remarriage occurs. However, after September 8, 1975, an otherwise eligible surviving spouse of a worker who died at any time prior to or after September 8, 1975, shall have an option of:

(i) Receiving, once and for all, a lump sum of twenty-four times the monthly compensation rate in effect on the date of remarriage allocable to the spouse for himself or herself pursuant to subsection (2)(a)(i) of this section and subject to any modifications specified under subsection (2)(d) of this section and RCW 51.32.075(3) or fifty percent of the then remaining annuity value of his or her pension, whichever is the lesser: PROVIDED, That if the injury occurred prior to July 28, 1991, the remarriage benefit lump sum available shall be as provided in the remarriage benefit schedules then in effect; or

(ii) If a surviving spouse does not choose the option specified in subsection (2)(f)(i) of this section to accept the lump sum payment, the remarriage of the surviving spouse of a worker shall not bar him or her from claiming the lump sum payment authorized in subsection (2)(f)(i) of this section during the life of the remarriage, or shall not prevent subsequent monthly payments to him or to her if the remarriage has been terminated by death or has been dissolved or annulled by valid court decree provided he or she has not previously accepted the lump sum payment.

(g) If the surviving spouse during the remarriage should die without having previously received the lump sum payment provided in subsection (2)(f)(i) of this section, his or her estate shall be entitled to receive the sum specified under subsection (2)(f)(i) of this section or fifty percent of the then remaining annuity value of his or her pension whichever is the lesser.

(h) The effective date of resumption of payments under subsection (2)(f)(ii) of this section to a surviving spouse

based upon termination of a remarriage by death, annulment, or dissolution shall be the date of the death or the date the judicial decree of annulment or dissolution becomes final and when application for the payments has been received.

(i) If it should be necessary to increase the reserves in the reserve fund or to create a new pension reserve fund as a result of the amendments in chapter 45, Laws of 1975-'76 2nd ex. sess., the amount of such increase in pension reserve in any such case shall be transferred to the reserve fund from the supplemental pension fund.

(3) If there is a child or children and no surviving spouse of the deceased worker or the surviving spouse is not eligible for benefits under this title, a sum equal to thirty-five percent of the wages of the deceased worker shall be paid monthly for one child and a sum equivalent to fifteen percent of such wage shall be paid monthly for each additional child, the total of such sum to be divided among such children, share and share alike: PROVIDED, That benefits under this subsection or subsection (4) of this section shall not exceed the lesser of sixty-five percent of the wages of the deceased worker at the time of his or her death or the applicable percentage of the average monthly wage in the state as defined in RCW 51.08.018, as follows:

AFTER	PERCENTAGE
June 30, 1993	105%
June 30, 1994	110%
June 30, 1995	115%
June 30, 1996	120%

(4) In the event a surviving spouse receiving monthly payments dies, the child or children of the deceased worker shall receive the same payment as provided in subsection (3) of this section.

(5) If the worker leaves no surviving spouse or child, but leaves a dependent or dependents, a monthly payment shall be made to each dependent equal to fifty percent of the average monthly support actually received by such dependent from the worker during the twelve months next preceding the occurrence of the injury, but the total payment to all dependents in any case shall not exceed the lesser of sixty-five percent of the wages of the deceased worker at the time of his or her death or the applicable percentage of the average monthly wage in the state as defined in RCW 51.08.018 as follows:

AFTER	PERCENTAGE
June 30, 1993	105%
June 30, 1994	110%
June 30, 1995	115%
June 30, 1996	120%

If any dependent is under the age of eighteen years at the time of the occurrence of the injury, the payment to such dependent shall cease when such dependent reaches the age of eighteen years except such payments shall continue until the dependent reaches age twenty-three while permanently enrolled at a full time course in an accredited school. The payment to any dependent shall cease if and when, under the same circumstances, the necessity creating the dependency would have ceased if the injury had not happened.

(6) For claims filed prior to July 1, 1986, if the injured worker dies during the period of permanent total disability,

whatever the cause of death, leaving a surviving spouse, or child, or children, the surviving spouse or child or children shall receive benefits as if death resulted from the injury as provided in subsections (2) through (4) of this section. Upon remarriage or death of such surviving spouse, the payments to such child or children shall be made as provided in subsection (2) of this section when the surviving spouse of a deceased worker remarries.

(7) For claims filed on or after July 1, 1986, every worker who becomes eligible for permanent total disability benefits shall elect an option as provided in RCW 51.32.067. [1995 c 199 § 6; 1993 c 521 § 1; 1991 c 88 § 2; 1988 c 161 § 2; 1986 c 58 § 3; 1982 c 63 § 18; 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 42; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 45 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 179 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 154 § 96; 1972 ex.s. c 43 § 19; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 7; 1965 ex.s. c 122 § 1; 1961 c 274 § 1; 1961 c 23 § 51.32.050. Prior: 1957 c 70 § 30; 1951 c 115 § 1; prior: 1949 c 219 § 1, part; 1947 c 246 § 1, part; 1929 c 132 § 2, part; 1927 c 310 § 4, part; 1923 c 136 § 2, part; 1919 c 131 § 4, part; 1917 c 28 § 1, part; 1913 c 148 § 1, part; 1911 c 74 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7679, part.]

**Severability—1995 c 199:** See note following RCW 51.12.120.

**Effective date—1993 c 521:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect July 1, 1993." [1993 c 521 § 4.]

**Benefit increases—Application to certain retrospective rating agreements—1988 c 161:** "The increases in benefits in RCW 51.32.050, 51.32.060, 51.32.090, and 51.32.180, contained in chapter 161, Laws of 1988 do not affect a retrospective rating agreement entered into by any employer with the department before July 1, 1988." [1988 c 161 § 15.]

**Effective dates—1988 c 161 §§ 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6:** "Section 4 of this act shall take effect on June 30, 1989. Sections 1, 2, 3, and 6 of this act shall take effect on July 1, 1988." [1988 c 161 § 17.]

**Effective date—1986 c 58 §§ 2, 3:** See note following RCW 51.32.080.

**Effective dates—Implementation—1982 c 63:** See note following RCW 51.32.095.

**Legislative intent—1975 1st ex.s. c 179:** "The legislative intent of chapter 179, Laws of 1975 1st ex. sess. (2nd SSB No. 2241) was in part to offer surviving spouses of eligible workmen two options upon remarriage; such options to be available to any otherwise eligible surviving spouse regardless of the date of death of the injured workman. Accordingly this 1976 amendatory act is required to clarify that intent." [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 45 § 1.]

**Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 154:** See note following RCW 2.12.030.

**51.32.055 Determination of permanent disabilities.**

(1) One purpose of this title is to restore the injured worker as nearly as possible to the condition of self-support as an able-bodied worker. Benefits for permanent disability shall be determined under the director's supervision only after the injured worker's condition becomes fixed.

(2) All determinations of permanent disabilities shall be made by the department. Either the worker, employer, or self-insurer may make a request or the inquiry may be initiated by the director on his or her own motion. Determinations shall be required in every instance where permanent disability is likely to be present. All medical reports and other pertinent information in the possession of or under the control of the employer or self-insurer shall be forwarded to the director with the request.

(3) A request for determination of permanent disability shall be examined by the department and an order shall issue in accordance with RCW 51.52.050.

(4) The department may require that the worker present himself or herself for a special medical examination by a physician or physicians selected by the department, and the department may require that the worker present himself or herself for a personal interview. The costs of the examination or interview, including payment of any reasonable travel expenses, shall be paid by the department or self-insurer, as the case may be.

(5) The director may establish a medical bureau within the department to perform medical examinations under this section. Physicians hired or retained for this purpose shall be grounded in industrial medicine and in the assessment of industrial physical impairment. Self-insurers shall bear a proportionate share of the cost of the medical bureau in a manner to be determined by the department.

(6) Where a dispute arises from the handling of any claim before the condition of the injured worker becomes fixed, the worker, employer, or self-insurer may request the department to resolve the dispute or the director may initiate an inquiry on his or her own motion. In these cases, the department shall proceed as provided in this section and an order shall issue in accordance with RCW 51.52.050.

(7)(a) If a claim (i) is accepted by a self-insurer after June 30, 1986, (ii) involves only medical treatment and the payment of temporary disability compensation under RCW 51.32.090 or only the payment of temporary disability compensation under RCW 51.32.090, (iii) at the time medical treatment is concluded does not involve permanent disability, (iv) is one with respect to which the department has not intervened under subsection (6) of this section, and (v) the injured worker has returned to work with the self-insured employer of record at the worker's previous job or at a job that has comparable wages and benefits, the claim may be closed by the self-insurer, subject to reporting of claims to the department in a manner prescribed by department rules adopted under chapter 34.05 RCW.

(b) All determinations of permanent disability for claims accepted by self-insurers after June 30, 1986, shall be made by the self-insured section of the department under subsections (1) through (4) of this section.

(c) Upon closure of a claim under (a) of this subsection, the self-insurer shall enter a written order, communicated to the worker and the department self-insurance section, which contains the following statement clearly set forth in bold face type: "This order constitutes notification that your claim is being closed with medical benefits and temporary disability compensation only as provided, and with the condition you have returned to work with the self-insured employer. If for any reason you disagree with the conditions or duration of your return to work or the medical benefits or the temporary disability compensation that has been provided, you may protest in writing to the department of labor and industries, self-insurance section, within sixty days of the date you received this order." If the department receives such a protest, the self-insurer's closure order shall be held in abeyance. The department shall review the claim closure action and enter a determinative order as provided for in RCW 51.52.050.

(d) If within two years of claim closure the department determines that the self-insurer has made payment of benefits because of clerical error, mistake of identity, or innocent misrepresentation or the department discovers a violation of the conditions of claim closure, the department may require the self-insurer to correct the benefits paid or payable. This paragraph does not limit in any way the application of RCW 51.32.240.

(8) If a claim (a) is accepted by a self-insurer after June 30, 1990, (b) involves only medical treatment, (c) does not involve payment of temporary disability compensation under RCW 51.32.090, and (d) at the time medical treatment is concluded does not involve permanent disability, the claim may be closed by the self-insurer, subject to reporting of claims to the department in a manner prescribed by department rules adopted under chapter 34.05 RCW. Upon closure of a claim, the self-insurer shall enter a written order, communicated to the worker, which contains the following statement clearly set forth in bold-face type: "This order constitutes notification that your claim is being closed with medical benefits only, as provided. If for any reason you disagree with this closure, you may protest in writing to the Department of Labor and Industries, Olympia, within 60 days of the date you received this order. The department will then review your claim and enter a further determinative order." If the department receives such a protest, it shall review the claim and enter a further determinative order as provided for in RCW 51.52.050. [1994 c 97 § 1; 1988 c 161 § 13; 1986 c 55 § 1; 1981 c 326 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 43; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 46.]

**Effective date—Applicability—1986 c 55 § 1:** "Section 1 of this act shall take effect July 1, 1986, and shall apply to claims accepted after June 30, 1986." [1986 c 55 § 4.]

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.32.060 Permanent total disability compensation—Personal attendant.** (1) When the supervisor of industrial insurance shall determine that permanent total disability results from the injury, the worker shall receive monthly during the period of such disability:

(a) If married at the time of injury, sixty-five percent of his or her wages but not less than two hundred fifteen dollars per month.

(b) If married with one child at the time of injury, sixty-seven percent of his or her wages but not less than two hundred fifty-two dollars per month.

(c) If married with two children at the time of injury, sixty-nine percent of his or her wages but not less than two hundred eighty-three dollars.

(d) If married with three children at the time of injury, seventy-one percent of his or her wages but not less than three hundred six dollars per month.

(e) If married with four children at the time of injury, seventy-three percent of his or her wages but not less than three hundred twenty-nine dollars per month.

(f) If married with five or more children at the time of injury, seventy-five percent of his or her wages but not less than three hundred fifty-two dollars per month.

(g) If unmarried at the time of the injury, sixty percent of his or her wages but not less than one hundred eighty-five dollars per month.



(h) If unmarried with one child at the time of injury, sixty-two percent of his or her wages but not less than two hundred twenty-two dollars per month.

(i) If unmarried with two children at the time of injury, sixty-four percent of his or her wages but not less than two hundred fifty-three dollars per month.

(j) If unmarried with three children at the time of injury, sixty-six percent of his or her wages but not less than two hundred seventy-six dollars per month.

(k) If unmarried with four children at the time of injury, sixty-eight percent of his or her wages but not less than two hundred ninety-nine dollars per month.

(l) If unmarried with five or more children at the time of injury, seventy percent of his or her wages but not less than three hundred twenty-two dollars per month.

(2) For any period of time where both husband and wife are entitled to compensation as temporarily or totally disabled workers, only that spouse having the higher wages of the two shall be entitled to claim their child or children for compensation purposes.

(3) In case of permanent total disability, if the character of the injury is such as to render the worker so physically helpless as to require the hiring of the services of an attendant, the department shall make monthly payments to such attendant for such services as long as such requirement continues, but such payments shall not obtain or be operative while the worker is receiving care under or pursuant to the provisions of chapter 51.36 RCW and RCW 51.04.105.

(4) Should any further accident result in the permanent total disability of an injured worker, he or she shall receive the pension to which he or she would be entitled, notwithstanding the payment of a lump sum for his or her prior injury.

(5) In no event shall the monthly payments provided in this section exceed the applicable percentage of the average monthly wage in the state as computed under the provisions of RCW 51.08.018 as follows:

AFTER	PERCENTAGE
June 30, 1993	105%
June 30, 1994	110%
June 30, 1995	115%
June 30, 1996	120%

The limitations under this subsection shall not apply to the payments provided for in subsection (3) of this section.

(6) In the case of new or reopened claims, if the supervisor of industrial insurance determines that, at the time of filing or reopening, the worker is voluntarily retired and is no longer attached to the work force, benefits shall not be paid under this section.

(7) The benefits provided by this section are subject to modification under RCW 51.32.067. [1993 c 521 § 2; 1988 c 161 § 1. Prior: 1986 c 59 § 1; 1986 c 58 § 5; 1983 c 3 § 159; 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 44; 1975 1st ex.s. c 224 § 9; 1973 c 147 § 1; 1972 ex.s. c 43 § 20; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 8; 1965 ex.s. c 122 § 2; 1961 c 274 § 2; 1961 c 23 § 51.32.060; prior: 1957 c 70 § 31; 1951 c 115 § 2; prior: 1949 c 219 § 1, part; 1947 c 246 § 1, part; 1929 c 132 § 2, part; 1927 c 310 § 4, part; 1923 c 136 § 2, part; 1919 c 131 § 4, part; 1917 c 28 § 1, part; 1913 c 148 § 1, part; 1911 c 74 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7679, part.]

Effective date—1993 c 521: See note following RCW 51.32.050.

Benefit increases—Application to certain retrospective rating agreements—Effective dates—1988 c 161: See notes following RCW 51.32.050.

Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 224: See note following RCW 51.04.110.

**51.32.067 Permanent total disability—Death benefit options—Election.** (1) After a worker elects one of the options in (a), (b), or (c) of this subsection, that option shall apply only if the worker dies during a period of permanent total disability from a cause unrelated to the injury, leaving a surviving spouse, child, children, or other dependent. If, after making an election under this subsection, a worker dies from a cause related to the injury during a period of permanent total disability, his or her beneficiaries shall receive benefits under RCW 51.32.050 (2) through (5).

(a) **Option I.** An injured worker selecting this option shall receive the benefits provided by RCW 51.32.060, with no benefits being paid to the worker's surviving spouse, children, or others.

(b) **Option II.** An injured worker selecting this option shall receive an actuarially reduced benefit which upon death shall be continued throughout the life of and paid to the surviving spouse, child, or other dependent as the worker has nominated by written designation duly executed and filed with the department.

(c) **Option III.** An injured worker selecting this option shall receive an actuarially reduced benefit and, upon death, one-half of the reduced benefit shall be continued throughout the life of and paid to the surviving spouse, child, or other dependent as the worker has nominated by written designation duly executed and filed with the department.

(2) The worker shall make the election in writing and the worker's spouse, if any, shall consent in writing as a prerequisite to the election of Option I.

(3) The department shall adopt such rules as may be necessary to implement this section. [1986 c 58 § 4.]

**51.32.072 Additional payments for prior pensioners—Children—Remarriage—Attendant.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, every surviving spouse and every permanently totally disabled worker or temporarily totally disabled worker, if such worker was unmarried at the time of the worker's injury or was then married but the marriage was later terminated by judicial action, receiving a pension or compensation for temporary total disability under this title pursuant to compensation schedules in effect prior to July 1, 1971, shall after July 1, 1975, be paid fifty percent of the average monthly wage in the state as computed under RCW 51.08.018 per month and an amount equal to five percent of such average monthly wage per month to such totally disabled worker if married at the time of the worker's injury and the marriage was not later terminated by judicial action, and an additional two percent of such average monthly wage for each child of such totally disabled worker at the time of injury in the legal custody of such totally disabled worker or such surviving spouse up to a maximum of five such children. The monthly payments such surviving spouse or totally disabled worker are receiving pursuant to compensation schedules in effect prior to July 1, 1971 shall be deducted from the monthly payments above specified.

Where such a surviving spouse has remarried, or where any such child of such worker, whether living or deceased, is not in the legal custody of such worker or such surviving spouse there shall be paid for the benefit of and on account of each such child a sum equal to two percent of such average monthly wage up to a maximum of five such children in addition to any payments theretofore paid under compensation schedules in effect prior to July 1, 1971 for the benefit of and on account of each such child. In the case of any child or children of a deceased worker not leaving a surviving spouse or where the surviving spouse has later died, there shall be paid for the benefit of and on account of each such child a sum equal to two percent of such average monthly wage up to a maximum of five such children in addition to any payments theretofore paid under such schedules for the benefit of and on account of each such child.

If the character of the injury or occupational disease is such as to render the worker so physically helpless as to require the hiring of the services of an attendant, the department shall make monthly payments to such attendant for such services as long as such requirement continues but such payments shall not obtain or be operative while the worker is receiving care under or pursuant to the provisions of this title except for care granted at the discretion of the supervisor pursuant to RCW 51.36.010: PROVIDED, That such payments shall not be considered compensation nor shall they be subject to any limitation upon total compensation payments.

No part of such additional payments shall be payable from the accident fund.

The director shall pay monthly from the supplemental pension fund such an amount as will, when added to the compensation theretofore paid under compensation schedules in effect prior to July 1, 1971, equal the amounts hereinabove specified.

In cases where money has been or shall be advanced to any such person from the pension reserve, the additional amount to be paid under this section shall be reduced by the amount of monthly pension which was or is predicated upon such advanced portion of the pension reserve. [1987 c 185 § 34; 1975 1st ex.s. c 224 § 12.]

**Intent—Severability—1987 c 185:** See notes following RCW 51.12.130.

**Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 224:** See note following RCW 51.04.110.

**51.32.073 Additional payments for prior pensioners—Premium liability of worker and employer for additional payments.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, each employer shall retain from the earnings of each worker that amount as shall be fixed from time to time by the director, the basis for measuring said amount to be determined by the director. The money so retained shall be matched in an equal amount by each employer, and all such moneys shall be remitted to the department in such manner and at such intervals as the department directs and shall be placed in the supplemental pension fund: PROVIDED, That the state apprenticeship council shall pay the entire amount into the supplemental pension fund for registered apprentices or trainees during their participation in supplemental and related instruction classes. The moneys so collected shall be used exclusively

for the additional payments from the supplemental pension fund prescribed in this title and for the amount of any increase payable under the provisions of RCW 51.32.075, as now or hereafter amended, and shall be no more than necessary to make such payments on a current basis. The department may require a self-insurer to make any additional payments which are payable from the supplemental pension fund and thereafter such self-insurer shall be reimbursed therefrom.

(2) None of the amount assessed for the supplemental pension fund under RCW 51.16.210 may be retained from the earnings of workers covered under RCW 51.16.210. [1989 c 385 § 4; 1980 c 14 § 9. Prior: 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 45; 1977 ex.s. c 323 § 15; 1977 ex.s. c 202 § 1; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 19 § 1; prior: 1975 1st ex.s. c 286 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 224 § 10; 1973 c 110 § 3; 1972 ex.s. c 43 § 24; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 17.]

**Severability—Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 323:** See notes following RCW 51.04.040.

**Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 224:** See note following RCW 51.04.110.

**51.32.075 Adjustments in compensation or death benefits.** The compensation or death benefits payable pursuant to the provisions of this chapter for temporary total disability, permanent total disability, or death arising out of injuries or occupational diseases shall be adjusted as follows:

(1) On July 1, 1982, there shall be an adjustment for those whose right to compensation was established on or after July 1, 1971, and before July 1, 1982. The adjustment shall be determined by multiplying the amount of compensation to which they are entitled by a fraction, the denominator of which shall be the average monthly wage in the state under RCW 51.08.018 for the fiscal year in which such person's right to compensation was established, and the numerator of which shall be the average monthly wage in the state under RCW 51.08.018 on July 1, 1982.

(2) In addition to the adjustment established by subsection (1) of this section, there shall be another adjustment on July 1, 1983, for those whose right to compensation was established on or after July 1, 1971, and before July 1983, which shall be determined by multiplying the amount of compensation to which they are entitled by a fraction, the denominator of which shall be the average monthly wage in the state under RCW 51.08.018 for the fiscal year in which such person's right to compensation was established, and the numerator of which shall be the average monthly wage in the state under RCW 51.08.018 on July 1, 1983.

(3) In addition to the adjustments under subsections (1) and (2) of this section, further adjustments shall be made beginning on July 1, 1984, and on each July 1st thereafter for those whose right to compensation was established on or after July 1, 1971. The adjustment shall be determined by multiplying the amount of compensation to which they are entitled by a fraction, the denominator of which shall be the average monthly wage in the state under RCW 51.08.018 for the fiscal year in which such person's right to compensation was established, and the numerator of which shall be the average monthly wage in the state under RCW 51.08.018 on July 1st of the year in which the adjustment is being made. The department or self-insurer shall adjust the resulting compensation rate to the nearest whole cent, not to exceed

the average monthly wage in the state as computed under RCW 51.08.018. [1988 c 161 § 7; 1983 c 203 § 1; 1982 1st ex.s. c 20 § 1; 1979 c 108 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 202 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 286 § 2.]

**Effective date—1982 1st ex.s. c 20:** "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 July 1, 1982." [1982 1st ex.s. c 20 § 4.]

**51.32.080 Permanent partial disability—Specified—Unspecified, rules authorized for classification thereof—Injury after permanent partial disability.** (1)(a) Until July 1, 1993, for the permanent partial disabilities here specifically described, the injured worker shall receive compensation as follows:

**LOSS BY AMPUTATION**

Of leg above the knee joint with short thigh stump (3" or less below the tuberosity of ischium) . . . . .	\$54,000.00
Of leg at or above knee joint with functional stump . . . . .	48,600.00
Of leg below knee joint . . . . .	43,200.00
Of leg at ankle (Syme) . . . . .	37,800.00
Of foot at mid-metatarsals . . . . .	18,900.00
Of great toe with resection of metatarsal bone . . . . .	11,340.00
Of great toe at metatarsophalangeal joint . . . . .	6,804.00
Of great toe at interphalangeal joint . . . . .	3,600.00
Of lesser toe (2nd to 5th) with resection of metatarsal bone . . . . .	4,140.00
Of lesser toe at metatarsophalangeal joint . . . . .	2,016.00
Of lesser toe at proximal interphalangeal joint . . . . .	1,494.00
Of lesser toe at distal interphalangeal joint . . . . .	378.00
Of arm at or above the deltoid insertion or by disarticulation at the shoulder . . . . .	54,000.00
Of arm at any point from below the deltoid insertion to below the elbow joint at the insertion of the biceps tendon . . . . .	51,300.00
Of arm at any point from below the elbow joint distal to the insertion of the biceps tendon to and including mid-metacarpal amputation of the hand . . . . .	48,600.00
Of all fingers except the thumb at metacarpophalangeal joints . . . . .	29,160.00
Of thumb at metacarpophalangeal joint or with resection of carpometacarpal bone . . . . .	19,440.00
Of thumb at interphalangeal joint . . . . .	9,720.00
Of index finger at metacarpophalangeal joint or with resection of metacarpal bone . . . . .	12,150.00
Of index finger at proximal interphalangeal joint . . . . .	9,720.00
Of index finger at distal interphalangeal joint . . . . .	5,346.00
Of middle finger at metacarpophalangeal joint or with resection of metacarpal bone . . . . .	9,720.00

Of middle finger at proximal interphalangeal joint . . . . .	7,776.00
Of middle finger at distal interphalangeal joint . . . . .	4,374.00
Of ring finger at metacarpophalangeal joint or with resection of metacarpal bone . . . . .	4,860.00
Of ring finger at proximal interphalangeal joint . . . . .	3,888.00
Of ring finger at distal interphalangeal joint . . . . .	2,430.00
Of little finger at metacarpophalangeal joint or with resection of metacarpal bone . . . . .	2,430.00
Of little finger at proximal interphalangeal joint . . . . .	1,944.00
Of little finger at distal interphalangeal joint . . . . .	972.00

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Loss of one eye by enucleation . . . . .	21,600.00
Loss of central visual acuity in one eye . . . . .	18,000.00
Complete loss of hearing in both ears . . . . .	43,200.00
Complete loss of hearing in one ear . . . . .	7,200.00

(b) Beginning on July 1, 1993, compensation under this subsection shall be computed as follows:

(i) Beginning on July 1, 1993, the compensation amounts for the specified disabilities listed in (a) of this subsection shall be increased by thirty-two percent; and

(ii) Beginning on July 1, 1994, and each July 1 thereafter, the compensation amounts for the specified disabilities listed in (a) of this subsection, as adjusted under (b)(i) of this subsection, shall be readjusted to reflect the percentage change in the consumer price index, calculated as follows: The index for the calendar year preceding the year in which the July calculation is made, to be known as "calendar year A," is divided by the index for the calendar year preceding calendar year A, and the resulting ratio is multiplied by the compensation amount in effect on June 30 immediately preceding the July 1st on which the respective calculation is made. For the purposes of this subsection, "index" means the same as the definition in RCW 2.12.037(1).

(2) Compensation for amputation of a member or part thereof at a site other than those specified in subsection (1) of this section, and for loss of central visual acuity and loss of hearing other than complete, shall be in proportion to that which such other amputation or partial loss of visual acuity or hearing most closely resembles and approximates. Compensation shall be calculated based on the adjusted schedule of compensation in effect for the respective time period as prescribed in subsection (1) of this section.

(3)(a) Compensation for any other permanent partial disability not involving amputation shall be in the proportion which the extent of such other disability, called unspecified disability, shall bear to the disabilities specified in subsection (1) of this section, which most closely resembles and approximates in degree of disability such other disability, and compensation for any other unspecified permanent partial disability shall be in an amount as measured and compared to total bodily impairment. To reduce litigation and establish more certainty and uniformity in the rating of unspecified permanent partial disabilities, the department shall enact rules having the force of law classifying such

disabilities in the proportion which the department shall determine such disabilities reasonably bear to total bodily impairment. In enacting such rules, the department shall give consideration to, but need not necessarily adopt, any nationally recognized medical standards or guides for determining various bodily impairments.

(b) Until July 1, 1993, for purposes of calculating monetary benefits under (a) of this subsection, the amount payable for total bodily impairment shall be deemed to be ninety thousand dollars. Beginning on July 1, 1993, for purposes of calculating monetary benefits under (a) of this subsection, the amount payable for total bodily impairment shall be adjusted as follows:

(i) Beginning on July 1, 1993, the amount payable for total bodily impairment under this section shall be increased to one hundred eighteen thousand eight hundred dollars; and

(ii) Beginning on July 1, 1994, and each July 1 thereafter, the amount payable for total bodily impairment prescribed in (b)(i) of this subsection shall be adjusted as provided in subsection (1)(b)(ii) of this section.

(c) Until July 1, 1993, the total compensation for all unspecified permanent partial disabilities resulting from the same injury shall not exceed the sum of ninety thousand dollars. Beginning on July 1, 1993, total compensation for all unspecified permanent partial disabilities resulting from the same injury shall not exceed a sum calculated as follows:

(i) Beginning on July 1, 1993, the sum shall be increased to one hundred eighteen thousand eight hundred dollars; and

(ii) Beginning on July 1, 1994, and each July 1 thereafter, the sum prescribed in (b)(i) of this subsection shall be adjusted as provided in subsection (1)(b)(ii) of this section.

(4) If permanent partial disability compensation is followed by permanent total disability compensation, any portion of the permanent partial disability compensation which exceeds the amount that would have been paid the injured worker if permanent total disability compensation had been paid in the first instance, shall be deducted from the pension reserve of such injured worker and his or her monthly compensation payments shall be reduced accordingly.

(5) Should a worker receive an injury to a member or part of his or her body already, from whatever cause, permanently partially disabled, resulting in the amputation thereof or in an aggravation or increase in such permanent partial disability but not resulting in the permanent total disability of such worker, his or her compensation for such partial disability shall be adjudged with regard to the previous disability of the injured member or part and the degree or extent of the aggravation or increase of disability thereof.

(6) When the compensation provided for in subsections (1) through (3) of this section exceeds three times the average monthly wage in the state as computed under the provisions of RCW 51.08.018, payment shall be made in monthly payments in accordance with the schedule of temporary total disability payments set forth in RCW 51.32.090 until such compensation is paid to the injured worker in full, except that the first monthly payment shall be in an amount equal to three times the average monthly wage in the state as computed under the provisions of RCW 51.08.018, and interest shall be paid at the rate of eight percent on the unpaid balance of such compensation com-

mencing with the second monthly payment. However, upon application of the injured worker or survivor the monthly payment may be converted, in whole or in part, into a lump sum payment, in which event the monthly payment shall cease in whole or in part. Such conversion may be made only upon written application of the injured worker or survivor to the department and shall rest in the discretion of the department depending upon the merits of each individual application. Upon the death of a worker all unpaid installments accrued shall be paid according to the payment schedule established prior to the death of the worker to the widow or widower, or if there is no widow or widower surviving, to the dependent children of such claimant, and if there are no such dependent children, then to such other dependents as defined by this title.

(7) Awards payable under this section are governed by the schedule in effect on the date of injury. [1993 c 520 § 1; 1988 c 161 § 6; 1986 c 58 § 2; 1982 1st ex.s. c 20 § 2; 1979 c 104 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 46; 1972 ex.s. c 43 § 21; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 10; 1965 ex.s. c 165 § 1; 1961 c 274 § 3; 1961 c 23 § 51.32.080. Prior: 1957 c 70 § 32; prior: 1951 c 115 § 4; 1949 c 219 § 1, part; 1947 c 246 § 1, part; 1929 c 132 § 2, part; 1927 c 310 § 4, part; 1923 c 136 § 2, part; 1919 c 131 § 4, part; 1917 c 28 § 1, part; 1913 c 148 § 1, part; 1911 c 74 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7679, part.]

**Effective date—1993 c 520:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately [May 18, 1993]." [1993 c 520 § 2.]

**Effective dates—1988 c 161:** See note following RCW 51.32.050.

**Effective date—1986 c 58 §§ 2, 3:** "Sections 2 and 3 of this act shall take effect on July 1, 1986." [1986 c 58 § 7.]

**Effective date—1982 1st ex.s. c 20:** See note following RCW 51.32.075.

**51.32.090 Temporary total disability—Partial restoration of earning power—Return to available work—When employer continues wages—Limitations.**

(1) When the total disability is only temporary, the schedule of payments contained in RCW 51.32.060 (1) and (2) shall apply, so long as the total disability continues.

(2) Any compensation payable under this section for children not in the custody of the injured worker as of the date of injury shall be payable only to such person as actually is providing the support for such child or children pursuant to the order of a court of record providing for support of such child or children.

(3)(a) As soon as recovery is so complete that the present earning power of the worker, at any kind of work, is restored to that existing at the time of the occurrence of the injury, the payments shall cease. If and so long as the present earning power is only partially restored, the payments shall:

(i) For claims for injuries that occurred before May 7, 1993, continue in the proportion which the new earning power shall bear to the old; or

(ii) For claims for injuries occurring on or after May 7, 1993, equal eighty percent of the actual difference between the worker's present wages and earning power at the time of injury, but: (A) The total of these payments and the worker's present wages may not exceed one hundred fifty

percent of the average monthly wage in the state as computed under RCW 51.08.018; (B) the payments may not exceed one hundred percent of the entitlement as computed under subsection (1) of this section; and (C) the payments may not be less than the worker would have received if (a)(i) of this subsection had been applicable to the worker's claim.

(b) No compensation shall be payable under this subsection (3) unless the loss of earning power shall exceed five percent.

(4)(a) Whenever the employer of injury requests that a worker who is entitled to temporary total disability under this chapter be certified by a physician as able to perform available work other than his or her usual work, the employer shall furnish to the physician, with a copy to the worker, a statement describing the work available with the employer of injury in terms that will enable the physician to relate the physical activities of the job to the worker's disability. The physician shall then determine whether the worker is physically able to perform the work described. The worker's temporary total disability payments shall continue until the worker is released by his or her physician for the work, and begins the work with the employer of injury. If the work thereafter comes to an end before the worker's recovery is sufficient in the judgment of his or her physician to permit him or her to return to his or her usual job, or to perform other available work offered by the employer of injury, the worker's temporary total disability payments shall be resumed. Should the available work described, once undertaken by the worker, impede his or her recovery to the extent that in the judgment of his or her physician he or she should not continue to work, the worker's temporary total disability payments shall be resumed when the worker ceases such work.

(b) Once the worker returns to work under the terms of this subsection (4), he or she shall not be assigned by the employer to work other than the available work described without the worker's written consent, or without prior review and approval by the worker's physician.

(c) If the worker returns to work under this subsection (4), any employee health and welfare benefits that the worker was receiving at the time of injury shall continue or be resumed at the level provided at the time of injury. Such benefits shall not be continued or resumed if to do so is inconsistent with the terms of the benefit program, or with the terms of the collective bargaining agreement currently in force.

(d) In the event of any dispute as to the worker's ability to perform the available work offered by the employer, the department shall make the final determination.

(5) No worker shall receive compensation for or during the day on which injury was received or the three days following the same, unless his or her disability shall continue for a period of fourteen consecutive calendar days from date of injury: PROVIDED, That attempts to return to work in the first fourteen days following the injury shall not serve to break the continuity of the period of disability if the disability continues fourteen days after the injury occurs.

(6) Should a worker suffer a temporary total disability and should his or her employer at the time of the injury continue to pay him or her the wages which he or she was earning at the time of such injury, such injured worker shall not receive any payment provided in subsection (1) of this

section during the period his or her employer shall so pay such wages.

(7) In no event shall the monthly payments provided in this section exceed the applicable percentage of the average monthly wage in the state as computed under the provisions of RCW 51.08.018 as follows:

AFTER	PERCENTAGE
June 30, 1993	105%
June 30, 1994	110%
June 30, 1995	115%
June 30, 1996	120%

(8) If the supervisor of industrial insurance determines that the worker is voluntarily retired and is no longer attached to the work force, benefits shall not be paid under this section. [1993 c 521 § 3; 1993 c 299 § 1; 1993 c 271 § 1; 1988 c 161 § 4. Prior: 1988 c 161 § 3; 1986 c 59 § 3; 1986 c 59 § 2; prior: 1985 c 462 § 6; 1980 c 129 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 47; 1975 1st ex.s. c 235 § 1; 1972 ex.s. c 43 § 22; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 11; 1965 ex.s. c 122 § 3; 1961 c 274 § 4; 1961 c 23 § 51.32.090; prior: 1957 c 70 § 33; 1955 c 74 § 8; prior: 1951 c 115 § 3; 1949 c 219 § 1, part; 1947 c 246 § 1, part; 1929 c 132 § 2, part; 1927 c 310 § 4, part; 1923 c 136 § 2, part; 1919 c 131 § 4, part; 1917 c 28 § 1, part; 1913 c 148 § 1, part; 1911 c 74 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7679, part.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1993 c 271 § 1, 1993 c 299 § 1, and by 1993 c 521 § 3, each without reference to the other. All amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section pursuant to RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Effective date—1993 c 521:** See note following RCW 51.32.050.

**Effective date—1993 c 299:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect July 1, 1993." [1993 c 299 § 2.]

**Effective date—1993 c 271:** "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately [May 7, 1993]." [1993 c 271 § 2.]

**Benefit increases—Application to certain retrospective rating agreements—Effective dates—1988 c 161:** See notes following RCW 51.32.050.

**Expiration date—1986 c 59 § 2; Effective dates—1986 c 59 §§ 3, 5:** "Section 2 of this act shall expire on June 30, 1989. Section 3 of this act shall take effect on June 30, 1989. Section 5 of this act shall take effect on July 1, 1986." [1986 c 59 § 6.]

**Program and fiscal review—1985 c 462:** See note following RCW 41.04.500.

**51.32.095 Vocational rehabilitation services—Benefits authorized—Priorities—Allowable costs—Performance criteria.** (1) One of the primary purposes of this title is to enable the injured worker to become employable at gainful employment. To this end, the department or self-insurers shall utilize the services of individuals and organizations, public or private, whose experience, training, and interests in vocational rehabilitation and retraining qualify them to lend expert assistance to the supervisor of industrial insurance in such programs of vocational rehabilitation as may be reasonable to make the worker employable consistent with his or her physical and mental status. Where, after evaluation and recommendation by such individuals or organizations and prior to final evaluation of

the worker's permanent disability and in the sole opinion of the supervisor or supervisor's designee, whether or not medical treatment has been concluded, vocational rehabilitation is both necessary and likely to enable the injured worker to become employable at gainful employment, the supervisor or supervisor's designee may, in his or her sole discretion, pay or, if the employer is a self-insurer, direct the self-insurer to pay the cost as provided in subsection (3) of this section.

(2) When in the sole discretion of the supervisor or the supervisor's designee vocational rehabilitation is both necessary and likely to make the worker employable at gainful employment, then the following order of priorities shall be used:

- (a) Return to the previous job with the same employer;
- (b) Modification of the previous job with the same employer including transitional return to work;
- (c) A new job with the same employer in keeping with any limitations or restrictions;
- (d) Modification of a new job with the same employer including transitional return to work;
- (e) Modification of the previous job with a new employer;
- (f) A new job with a new employer or self-employment based upon transferable skills;
- (g) Modification of a new job with a new employer;
- (h) A new job with a new employer or self-employment involving on-the-job training;
- (i) Short-term retraining and job placement.

(3) Costs for vocational rehabilitation benefits allowed by the supervisor or supervisor's designee under subsection (1) of this section may include the cost of books, tuition, fees, supplies, equipment, transportation, child or dependent care, and other necessary expenses for any such worker in an amount not to exceed three thousand dollars in any fifty-two week period except as authorized by RCW 51.60.060, and the cost of continuing the temporary total disability compensation under RCW 51.32.090 while the worker is actively and successfully undergoing a formal program of vocational rehabilitation. Such expenses may include training fees for on-the-job training and the cost of furnishing tools and other equipment necessary for self-employment or reemployment: PROVIDED, That such compensation or payment of retraining with job placement expenses may not be authorized for a period of more than fifty-two weeks: PROVIDED FURTHER, That such period may, in the sole discretion of the supervisor after his or her review, be extended for an additional fifty-two weeks or portion thereof by written order of the supervisor.

In cases where the worker is required to reside away from his or her customary residence, the reasonable cost of board and lodging shall also be paid. Said costs shall be chargeable to the employer's cost experience or shall be paid by the self-insurer as the case may be.

(4) In addition to the vocational rehabilitation expenditures provided for under subsection (3) of this section, an additional five thousand dollars may, upon authorization of the supervisor or the supervisor's designee, be expended for:

- (a) Accommodations for an injured worker that are medically necessary for the worker to participate in an approved retraining plan; and
- (b) accommodations necessary to perform the essential functions of an occupation in which an

injured worker is seeking employment, consistent with the retraining plan or the recommendations of a vocational evaluation. The injured worker's attending physician must verify the necessity of the modifications or accommodations. The total expenditures authorized in this subsection and the expenditures authorized under RCW 51.32.250 shall not exceed five thousand dollars.

(5) The department shall establish criteria to monitor the quality and effectiveness of rehabilitation services provided by the individuals and organizations used under subsection (1) of this section. The state fund shall make referrals for vocational rehabilitation services based on these performance criteria.

(6) The department shall engage in, where feasible and cost-effective, a cooperative program with the state employment security department to provide job placement services under this section.

(7) The benefits in this section shall be provided for the injured workers of self-insured employers. Self-insurers shall report both benefits provided and benefits denied under this section in the manner prescribed by the department by rule adopted under chapter 34.05 RCW. The director may, in his or her sole discretion and upon his or her own initiative or at any time that a dispute arises under this section, promptly make such inquiries as circumstances require and take such other action as he or she considers will properly determine the matter and protect the rights of the parties.

(8) The benefits provided for in this section are available to any otherwise eligible worker regardless of the date of industrial injury. However, claims shall not be reopened solely for vocational rehabilitation purposes. [1996 c 151 § 1; 1996 c 59 § 1; 1988 c 161 § 9; 1985 c 339 § 2; 1983 c 70 § 2; 1982 c 63 § 11; 1980 c 14 § 10. Prior: 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 48; 1977 ex.s. c 323 § 16; 1972 ex.s. c 43 § 23; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 12.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1996 c 59 § 1 and by 1996 c 151 § 1, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Legislative finding—1985 c 339:** "The legislature finds that the vocational rehabilitation program created by chapter 63, Laws of 1982, has failed to assist injured workers to return to suitable gainful employment without undue loss of time from work and has increased costs of industrial insurance for employers and employees alike. The legislature further finds that the administrative structure established within the industrial insurance division of the department of labor and industries to develop and oversee the provision of vocational rehabilitation services has not provided efficient delivery of vocational rehabilitation services. The legislature finds that restructuring the state's vocational rehabilitation program under the department of labor and industries is necessary." [1985 c 339 § 1.]

**Severability—1985 c 339:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1985 c 339 § 6.]

**Severability—1983 c 70:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1983 c 70 § 5.]

**Effective dates—Implementation—1982 c 63:** "Section 4 of 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 [March 26, 1982]. All other sections of this act shall take effect on January 1, 1983. The director of the department of labor and industries is authorized to immediately take such

steps as are necessary to insure that this act is implemented on its effective dates." [1982 c 63 § 26.]

**Severability—Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 323:** See notes following RCW 51.04.040.

**51.32.098 Vocational rehabilitation services—Applicability.** Nothing in RCW 51.32.095 or in the repeal of chapter 51.41 RCW by section 5, chapter 339, Laws of 1985 shall be construed as prohibiting the completion of vocational rehabilitation plans approved under this title prior to May 16, 1985. Injured workers referred for vocational rehabilitation services under this title, but for whom vocational rehabilitation plans have not been approved by the department under this title before May 16, 1985, may only be provided vocational rehabilitation services, if applicable, by the department according to the provisions of RCW 51.32.095. [1985 c 339 § 4.]

**Legislative finding—Severability—1985 c 339:** See notes following RCW 51.32.095.

**51.32.100 When preexisting disease delays or prevents recovery.** If it is determined that an injured worker had, at the time of his or her injury, a preexisting disease and that such disease delays or prevents complete recovery from such injury, it shall be ascertained, as nearly as possible, the period over which the injury would have caused disability were it not for the diseased condition and the extent of permanent partial disability which the injury would have caused were it not for the disease, and compensation shall be awarded only therefor. [1977 ex.s. c 350 § 49; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 44; 1961 c 23 § 51.32.100. Prior: 1957 c 70 § 34; prior: 1949 c 219 § 1, part; 1947 c 246 § 1, part; 1929 c 132 § 2, part; 1927 c 310 § 4, part; 1923 c 136 § 2, part; 1919 c 131 § 4, part; 1917 c 28 § 1, part; 1913 c 148 § 1, part; 1911 c 74 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7679, part.]

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.32.110 Medical examination—Refusal to submit—Traveling expenses—Pay for time lost.** (1) Any worker entitled to receive any benefits or claiming such under this title shall, if requested by the department or self-insurer, submit himself or herself for medical examination, at a time and from time to time, at a place reasonably convenient for the worker and as may be provided by the rules of the department.

(2) If the worker refuses to submit to medical examination, or obstructs the same, or, if any injured worker shall persist in unsanitary or injurious practices which tend to imperil or retard his or her recovery, or shall refuse to submit to such medical or surgical treatment as is reasonably essential to his or her recovery or refuse or obstruct evaluation or examination for the purpose of vocational rehabilitation or does not cooperate in reasonable efforts at such rehabilitation, the department or the self-insurer upon approval by the department, with notice to the worker may suspend any further action on any claim of such worker so long as such refusal, obstruction, noncooperation, or practice continues and reduce, suspend, or deny any compensation for such period: PROVIDED, That the department or the self-insurer shall not suspend any further action on any claim of

a worker or reduce, suspend, or deny any compensation if a worker has good cause for refusing to submit to or to obstruct any examination, evaluation, treatment or practice requested by the department or required under this section.

(3) If the worker necessarily incurs traveling expenses in attending the examination pursuant to the request of the department, such traveling expenses shall be repaid to him or her out of the accident fund upon proper voucher and audit or shall be repaid by the self-insurer, as the case may be.

(4)(a) If the medical examination required by this section causes the worker to be absent from his or her work without pay:

(i) In the case of a worker insured by the department, the worker shall be paid compensation out of the accident fund in an amount equal to his or her usual wages for the time lost from work while attending the medical examination; or

(ii) In the case of a worker of a self-insurer, the self-insurer shall pay the worker an amount equal to his or her usual wages for the time lost from work while attending the medical examination.

(b) This subsection (4) shall apply prospectively to all claims regardless of the date of injury. [1993 c 375 § 1; 1980 c 14 § 11. Prior: 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 50; 1977 ex.s. c 323 § 17; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 13; 1961 c 23 § 51.32.110; prior: 1917 c 28 § 18; 1915 c 188 § 5; 1911 c 74 § 13; RRS § 7688.]

**Severability—Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 323:** See notes following RCW 51.04.040.

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.32.112 Medical examination—Standards and criteria—Special medical examinations by chiropractors—Compensation guidelines and reporting criteria.**

(1) The department shall develop standards for the conduct of special medical examinations to determine permanent disabilities, including, but not limited to:

(a) The qualifications of persons conducting the examinations;

(b) The criteria for conducting the examinations, including guidelines for the appropriate treatment of injured workers during the examination; and

(c) The content of examination reports.

(2) Within the appropriate scope of practice, chiropractors licensed under chapter 18.25 RCW may conduct special medical examinations to determine permanent disabilities in consultation with physicians licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW. The department, in its discretion, may request that a special medical examination be conducted by a single chiropractor if the department determines that the sole issues involved in the examination are within the scope of practice under chapter 18.25 RCW. However, nothing in this section authorizes the use as evidence before the board of a chiropractor's determination of the extent of a worker's permanent disability if the determination is not requested by the department.

(3) The department shall investigate the amount of examination fees received by persons conducting special medical examinations to determine permanent disabilities, including total compensation received for examinations of

department and self-insured claimants, and establish compensation guidelines and compensation reporting criteria.

(4) The department shall investigate the level of compliance of self-insurers with the requirement of full reporting of claims information to the department, particularly with respect to medical examinations, and develop effective enforcement procedures or recommendations for legislation if needed. [1993 c 515 § 4; 1988 c 114 § 2.]

**Intent—1988 c 114:** "It is the intent of the legislature that medical examinations for determining permanent disabilities be conducted fairly and objectively by qualified examiners and with respect for the dignity of the injured worker." [1988 c 114 § 1.]

**51.32.114 Medical examination—Department to monitor quality and objectivity.** The department shall examine the credentials of persons conducting special medical examinations and shall monitor the quality and objectivity of examinations and reports for the department and self-insured claimants. The department shall adopt rules to ensure that examinations are performed only by qualified persons meeting department standards. [1988 c 114 § 3.]

**Intent—1988 c 114:** See note following RCW 51.32.112.

**51.32.116 Medical examination—Report to legislature.** The department shall report periodically, no less than annually, to the committee on economic development and labor of the senate and the committee on commerce and labor of the house of representatives, or the appropriate successor committees, on the program established to fulfill the requirements of RCW 51.32.112 and 51.32.114. [1988 c 114 § 4.]

**Intent—1988 c 114:** See note following RCW 51.32.112.

**51.32.120 Further accident after lump sum payment.** Should a further accident occur to a worker who has been previously the recipient of a lump sum payment under this title, his or her future compensation shall be adjusted according to the other provisions of this chapter and with regard to the combined effect of his or her injuries and his or her past receipt of money under this title. [1977 ex.s. c 350 § 51; 1961 c 23 § 51.32.120. Prior: 1957 c 70 § 35; prior: 1949 c 219 § 1, part; 1947 c 246 § 1, part; 1929 c 132 § 2, part; 1927 c 310 § 4, part; 1923 c 136 § 2, part; 1919 c 131 § 4, part; 1917 c 28 § 1, part; 1913 c 148 § 1, part; 1911 c 74 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7679, part.]

**51.32.130 Lump sum for death or permanent total disability.** In case of death or permanent total disability, the monthly payment provided may be converted, in whole or in part, into a lump sum payment, not in any case to exceed eight thousand five hundred dollars, equal or proportionate, as the case may be, to the value of the annuity then remaining, to be fixed and certified by the state insurance commissioner, in which event the monthly payments shall cease in whole or in part accordingly or proportionately. Such conversion may be made only upon written application (in case of minor children the application may be by either parent) to the department and shall rest in the discretion of the department. Within the rule aforesaid the amount and value of the lump sum payment may be agreed upon between the department and applicant. In the event any

payment shall be due to an alien residing in a foreign country, the department may settle the same by making a lump sum payment in such amount as may be agreed to by such alien, not to exceed fifty percent of the value of the annuity then remaining.

Nothing herein shall preclude the department from making, and authority is hereby given it to make, on its own motion, lump sum payments equal or proportionate, as the case may be, to the value of the annuity then remaining, in full satisfaction of claims due to dependents. [1961 c 23 § 51.32.130. Prior: 1957 c 70 § 45; prior: 1941 c 209 § 2; 1929 c 132 § 3; 1927 c 310 § 6(i); 1917 c 29 § 22; 1911 c 74 § 7; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7681.]

**51.32.135 Closing of claim conclusive in pension cases—Consent of spouse may be required.** In pension cases when a worker or beneficiary closes his or her claim by full conversion to a lump sum or in any other manner as provided in RCW 51.32.130 and 51.32.150, such action shall be conclusive and effective to bar any subsequent application or claim relative thereto by the worker or any beneficiary which would otherwise exist had such person not elected to close the claim: PROVIDED, The director may require the spouse of such worker to consent in writing as a prerequisite to conversion and/or the closing of such claim. [1977 ex.s. c 350 § 52; 1973 1st ex.s. c 154 § 98; 1961 c 23 § 51.32.135. Prior: 1953 c 143 § 1.]

**Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 154:** See note following RCW 2.12.030.

**51.32.140 Nonresident alien beneficiary.** Except as otherwise provided by treaty, whenever compensation is payable to a beneficiary who is an alien not residing in the United States, there shall be paid fifty percent of the compensation herein otherwise provided to such beneficiary. But if a nonresident alien beneficiary is a citizen of a government having a compensation law which excludes citizens of the United States, either resident or nonresident, from partaking of the benefit of such law in as favorable a degree as herein extended to nonresident aliens, he shall receive no compensation. No payment shall be made to any beneficiary residing in any country with which the United States does not maintain diplomatic relations when such payment is due. [1971 ex.s. c 289 § 45; 1961 c 23 § 51.32.140. Prior: 1957 c 70 § 36; prior: 1947 c 56 § 1, part; 1927 c 310 § 7, part; 1923 c 136 § 4, part; 1921 c 182 § 6, part; 1919 c 131 § 6, part; 1911 c 74 § 10, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7684, part.]

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.32.150 Lump sum to beneficiary outside state.** If a beneficiary shall reside or move out of the state, the department may, with the written consent of the beneficiary, convert any monthly payments provided for such cases into a lump sum payment (not in any case to exceed the value of the annuity then remaining, to be fixed and certified by the state insurance commissioner, but in no case to exceed the sum provided in RCW 51.32.130 as now or hereafter amended). [1977 ex.s. c 323 § 18; 1961 c 23 § 51.32.150. Prior: 1959 c 308 § 5; 1957 c 70 § 37; prior: 1949 c 219 § 1, part; 1947 c 246 § 1, part; 1929 c 132 § 2, part; 1927



c 310 § 4, part; 1923 c 136 § 2, part; 1919 c 131 § 4, part; 1917 c 28 § 1, part; 1913 c 148 § 1, part; 1911 c 74 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7679, part.]

**Severability—Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 323:** See notes following RCW 51.04.040.

**51.32.160 Aggravation, diminution, or termination.**

(1)(a) If aggravation, diminution, or termination of disability takes place, the director may, upon the application of the beneficiary, made within seven years from the date the first closing order becomes final, or at any time upon his or her own motion, readjust the rate of compensation in accordance with the rules in this section provided for the same, or in a proper case terminate the payment: PROVIDED, That the director may, upon application of the worker made at any time, provide proper and necessary medical and surgical services as authorized under RCW 51.36.010. The department shall promptly mail a copy of the application to the employer at the employer's last known address as shown by the records of the department.

(b) "Closing order" as used in this section means an order based on factors which include medical recommendation, advice, or examination.

(c) Applications for benefits where the claim has been closed without medical recommendation, advice, or examination are not subject to the seven year limitation of this section. The preceding sentence shall not apply to any closing order issued prior to July 1, 1981. First closing orders issued between July 1, 1981, and July 1, 1985, shall, for the purposes of this section only, be deemed issued on July 1, 1985. The time limitation of this section shall be ten years in claims involving loss of vision or function of the eyes.

(d) If an order denying an application to reopen filed on or after July 1, 1988, is not issued within ninety days of receipt of such application by the self-insured employer or the department, such application shall be deemed granted. However, for good cause, the department may extend the time for making the final determination on the application for an additional sixty days.

(2) If a worker receiving a pension for total disability returns to gainful employment for wages, the director may suspend or terminate the rate of compensation established for the disability without producing medical evidence that shows that a diminution of the disability has occurred.

(3) No act done or ordered to be done by the director, or the department prior to the signing and filing in the matter of a written order for such readjustment shall be grounds for such readjustment. [1995 c 253 § 2; 1988 c 161 § 11; 1986 c 59 § 4; 1973 1st ex.s. c 192 § 1; 1961 c 23 § 51.32.160. Prior: 1957 c 70 § 38; prior: 1951 c 115 § 5; 1949 c 219 § 1, part; 1947 c 246 § 1, part; 1929 c 132 § 2, part; 1927 c 310 § 4, part; 1923 c 136 § 2, part; 1919 c 131 § 4, part; 1917 c 28 § 1, part; 1913 c 148 § 1, part; 1911 c 74 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7679, part.]

**51.32.180 Occupational diseases—Limitation.**

Every worker who suffers disability from an occupational disease in the course of employment under the mandatory or elective adoption provisions of this title, or his or her family and dependents in case of death of the worker from such disease

or infection, shall receive the same compensation benefits and medical, surgical and hospital care and treatment as would be paid and provided for a worker injured or killed in employment under this title, except as follows: (a) This section and RCW 51.16.040 shall not apply where the last exposure to the hazards of the disease or infection occurred prior to January 1, 1937; and (b) for claims filed on or after July 1, 1988, the rate of compensation for occupational diseases shall be established as of the date the disease requires medical treatment or becomes totally or partially disabling, whichever occurs first, and without regard to the date of the contraction of the disease or the date of filing the claim. [1988 c 161 § 5; 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 53; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 49; 1961 c 23 § 51.32.180. Prior: 1959 c 308 § 19; prior: 1941 c 235 § 1, part; 1939 c 135 § 1, part; 1937 c 212 § 1, part; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7679-1, part.]

**Benefit increases—Application to certain retrospective rating agreements—1988 c 161:** See notes following RCW 51.32.050.

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.32.185 Occupational diseases—Respiratory disease presumption for fire fighters.**

(1) In the case of fire fighters as defined in RCW 41.26.030(4) (a), (b), and (c) who are covered under Title 51 RCW, there shall exist a prima facie presumption that respiratory disease is an occupational disease under RCW 51.08.140. This presumption of occupational disease may be rebutted by a preponderance of the evidence controverting the presumption. Controverting evidence may include, but is not limited to, use of tobacco products, physical fitness and weight, lifestyle, hereditary factors, and exposure from other employment or nonemployment activities.

(2) The presumption established in subsection (1) of this section shall be extended to an applicable member following termination of service for a period of three calendar months for each year of requisite service, but may not extend more than sixty months following the last date of employment. [1987 c 515 § 2.]

**Legislative findings—1987 c 515:** "The legislature finds that the employment of fire fighters exposes them to smoke, fumes, and toxic or chemical substances. The legislature recognizes that fire fighters as a class have a higher rate of respiratory disease than the general public. The legislature therefore finds that respiratory disease should be presumed to be occupationally related for industrial insurance purposes for fire fighters." [1987 c 515 § 1.]

**51.32.190 Self-insurers—Notice of denial of claim, reasons—Procedure—Director authorized to investigate and settle controversies, enact rules and regulations.**

(1) If the self-insurer denies a claim for compensation, written notice of such denial, clearly informing the claimant of the reasons therefor and that the director will rule on the matter shall be mailed or given to the claimant and the director within thirty days after the self-insurer has notice of the claim.

(2) Until such time as the department has entered an order in a disputed case acceptance of compensation by the claimant shall not be considered a binding determination of his or her rights under this title. Likewise the payment of compensation shall not be considered a binding determination of the obligations of the self-insurer as to future compensation payments.

(3) Upon making the first payment of income benefits, the self-insurer shall immediately notify the director in accordance with a form to be prescribed by the director. Upon request of the department on a form prescribed by the department, the self-insurer shall submit a record of the payment of income benefits including initial, termination or terminations, and change or changes to the benefits. Where temporary disability compensation is payable, the first payment thereof shall be made within fourteen days after notice of claim and shall continue at regular semimonthly or biweekly intervals.

(4) If, after the payment of compensation without an award, the self-insurer elects to controvert the right to compensation, the payment of compensation shall not be considered a binding determination of the obligations of the self-insurer as to future compensation payments. The acceptance of compensation by the worker or his or her beneficiaries shall not be considered a binding determination of their rights under this title.

(5) The director: (a) May, upon his or her own initiative at any time in a case in which payments are being made without an award; and (b) shall, upon receipt of information from any person claiming to be entitled to compensation, from the self-insurer, or otherwise that the right to compensation is controverted, or that payment of compensation has been opposed, stopped or changed, whether or not claim has been filed, promptly make such inquiry as circumstances require, cause such medical examinations to be made, hold such hearings, require the submission of further information, make such orders, decisions or awards, and take such further action as he or she considers will properly determine the matter and protect the rights of all parties.

(6) The director, upon his or her own initiative, may make such inquiry as circumstances require or is necessary to protect the rights of all the parties and he or she may enact rules and regulations providing for procedures to ensure fair and prompt handling by self-insurers of the claims of workers and beneficiaries. [1996 c 58 § 2; 1982 1st ex.s. c 20 § 3; 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 54; 1972 ex.s. c 43 § 25; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 47.]

**Effective date—1982 1st ex.s. c 20:** See note following RCW 51.32.075.

**51.32.195 Self-insurers—Submittal of information to department.** On any industrial injury claim where the self-insured employer or injured worker has requested a determination by the department, the self-insurer must submit all medical reports and any other specified information not previously submitted to the department. When the department requests information from a self-insurer by certified mail, the self-insurer shall submit all information in its possession concerning a claim within ten working days from the date of receipt of such certified notice. [1987 c 290 § 1.]

**51.32.200 Self-insurers—Enforcement of compensation order against.** (1) If a self-insurer fails, refuses, or neglects to comply with a compensation order which has become final and is not subject to review or appeal, the director or any person entitled to compensation under the order may institute proceedings for injunctive or other

appropriate relief for enforcement of the order. These proceedings may be instituted in the superior court for the county in which the claimant resides, or, if the claimant is not then a resident of this state, in the superior court for the county in which the self-insurer may be served with process.

(2) The court shall enforce obedience to the order by proper means, enjoining compliance upon the person obligated to comply with the compensation order. The court may issue such writs and processes as are necessary to carry out its orders.

(3) A proceeding under this section does not preclude other methods of enforcement provided for in this title. [1971 ex.s. c 289 § 48.]

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.32.210 Claims of injured workers to be acted upon promptly—Payment—Acceptance—Effect.** Claims of injured workers of employers who have secured the payment of compensation by insuring with the department shall be promptly acted upon by the department. Where temporary disability compensation is payable, the first payment thereof shall be mailed within fourteen days after receipt of the claim at the department's offices in Olympia and shall continue at regular semimonthly intervals. The payment of this or any other benefits under this title, prior to the entry of an order by the department in accordance with RCW 51.52.050 as now or hereafter amended, shall be not considered a binding determination of the obligations of the department under this title. The acceptance of compensation by the worker or his or her beneficiaries prior to such order shall likewise not be considered a binding determination of their rights under this title. [1977 ex.s. c 350 § 55; 1972 ex.s. c 43 § 26.]

**51.32.215 Payment of compensation after appeal—Proceedings for enforcement of order—Penalty.** (1)(a) If the worker or beneficiary in a state fund claim prevails in an appeal by any party to the board or the court, the department shall comply with the board or court's order with respect to the payment of compensation within the later of the following time periods:

(i) Sixty days after the compensation order has become final and is not subject to review or appeal; or

(ii) If the order has become final and is not subject to review or appeal and the department has, within the period specified in (a)(i) of this subsection, requested the filing by the worker or beneficiary of documents necessary to make payment of compensation, sixty days after all requested documents are filed with the department.

The department may extend the sixty-day time period for an additional thirty days for good cause.

(b) If the department fails to comply with (a) of this subsection, any person entitled to compensation under the order may institute proceedings for injunctive or other appropriate relief for enforcement of the order. These proceedings may be instituted in the superior court for the county in which the claimant resides, or, if the claimant is not then a resident of this state, in the superior court for Thurston county.

(2) In a proceeding under this section, the court shall enforce obedience to the order by proper means, enjoining compliance upon the person obligated to comply with the compensation order. The court may issue such writs and processes as are necessary to carry out its orders and may award a penalty of up to one thousand dollars to the person entitled to compensation under the order.

(3) A proceeding under this section does not preclude other methods of enforcement provided for in this title. [1995 c 276 § 1.]

**Application—1995 c 276:** "This act applies to all appeals in state fund claims determined under Title 51 RCW on or after July 23, 1995, regardless of the date of filing of the claim." [1995 c 276 § 2.]

**51.32.220 Reduction in compensation for temporary or permanent total disability—Limitations—Notice—Waiver.** (1) For persons under the age of sixty-five receiving compensation for temporary or permanent total disability pursuant to the provisions of chapter 51.32 RCW, such compensation shall be reduced by an amount equal to the benefits payable under the federal old-age, survivors and disability insurance act as now or hereafter amended not to exceed the amount of the reduction established pursuant to 42 USC 424a. However, such reduction shall not apply when the combined compensation provided pursuant to chapter 51.32 RCW and the federal old-age, survivors and disability insurance act is less than the total benefits to which the federal reduction would apply, pursuant to 42 USC 424a. Where any person described in this section refuses to authorize the release of information concerning the amount of benefits payable under said federal act the department's estimate of said amount shall be deemed to be correct unless and until the actual amount is established and no adjustment shall be made for any period of time covered by any such refusal.

(2) Any reduction under subsection (1) of this section shall be effective the month following the month in which the department or self-insurer is notified by the federal social security administration that the person is receiving disability benefits under the federal old-age, survivors and disability insurance act: PROVIDED, That in the event of an overpayment of benefits the department or self-insurer may not recover more than the overpayments for the six months immediately preceding the date the department or self-insurer notifies the worker that an overpayment has occurred: PROVIDED FURTHER, That upon determining that there has been an overpayment, the department or self-insurer shall immediately notify the person who received the overpayment that he or she shall be required to make repayment pursuant to this section and RCW 51.32.230.

(3) Recovery of any overpayment must be taken from future temporary or permanent total disability benefits or permanent partial disability benefits provided by this title. In the case of temporary or permanent total disability benefits, the recovery shall not exceed twenty-five percent of the monthly amount due from the department or self-insurer or one-sixth of the total overpayment, whichever is the lesser.

(4) No reduction may be made unless the worker receives notice of the reduction prior to the month in which the reduction is made.

(5) In no event shall the reduction reduce total benefits to less than the greater amount the worker may be entitled to under this title or the federal old-age, survivors and disability insurance act.

(6) The director, pursuant to rules adopted in accordance with the procedures provided in the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW, may exercise his discretion to waive, in whole or in part, the amount of any overpayment where the recovery would be against equity and good conscience.

(7) The amendment in subsection (1) of this section by chapter 63, Laws of 1982 raising the age limit during which the reduction shall be made from age sixty-two to age sixty-five shall apply with respect to workers whose effective entitlement to total disability compensation begins after January 1, 1983. [1982 c 63 § 19; 1979 ex.s. c 231 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 151 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 323 § 19; 1975 1st ex.s. c 286 § 3.]

**Effective dates—Implementation—1982 c 63:** See note following RCW 51.32.095.

**Applicability—1979 ex.s. c 231:** "This 1979 act applies to all cases in which notification of the first reduction in compensation pursuant to RCW 51.32.220 is mailed after June 15, 1979, regardless of when the basis, authority, or cause for such reduction may have arisen. To such extent, this 1979 act applies retrospectively, but in all other respects it applies prospectively." [1979 ex.s. c 231 § 2.]

**Severability—1979 ex.s. c 231:** "If any provision of this 1979 act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1979 ex.s. c 231 § 3.]

**Applicability—1979 ex.s. c 151:** "This 1979 act applies to all cases in which notification of the first reduction in compensation pursuant to RCW 51.32.220 is mailed after May 10, 1979, regardless of when the basis, authority, or cause for such reduction may have arisen. To such extent, this 1979 act applies retrospectively, but in all other respects it applies prospectively." [1979 ex.s. c 151 § 3.]

**Severability—1979 ex.s. c 151:** "If any provision of this 1979 act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1979 ex.s. c 151 § 4.]

**Severability—Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 323:** See notes following RCW 51.04.040.

**51.32.225 Reduction in compensation for temporary or permanent total disability—Offset for social security retirement benefits.** (1) For persons receiving compensation for temporary or permanent total disability under this title, the compensation shall be reduced by the department to allow an offset for social security retirement benefits payable under the federal social security, old age survivors, and disability insurance act, 42 U.S.C. This reduction shall not apply to any worker who is receiving permanent total disability benefits prior to July 1, 1986.

(2) Reductions for social security retirement benefits under this section shall comply with the procedures in RCW 51.32.220 (1) through (6), except those that relate to computation, and with any other procedures established by the department to administer this section.

(3) Any reduction in compensation made under chapter 58, Laws of 1986, shall be made before the reduction established in this section. [1986 c 59 § 5.]

**Effective date—1986 c 59 § 5:** See note following RCW 51.32.090.

**51.32.230 Recovery of overpayments under RCW 51.32.220—Limitation.** Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, any overpayments previously recovered under the provisions of RCW 51.32.220 as now or hereafter amended shall be limited to six months' overpayments. Where greater recovery has already been made, the director, in his discretion, may make restitution in those cases where an extraordinary hardship has been created. [1979 ex.s. c 151 § 2.]

**Applicability—Severability—1979 ex.s. c 151:** See notes following RCW 51.32.220.

**51.32.240 Payments made due to error, mistake, erroneous adjudication, fraud, etc.—Penalty—Appeal—Enforcement of orders.** (1) Whenever any payment of benefits under this title is made because of clerical error, mistake of identity, innocent misrepresentation by or on behalf of the recipient thereof mistakenly acted upon, or any other circumstance of a similar nature, all not induced by fraud, the recipient thereof shall repay it and recoupment may be made from any future payments due to the recipient on any claim with the state fund or self-insurer, as the case may be. The department or self-insurer, as the case may be, must make claim for such repayment or recoupment within one year of the making of any such payment or it will be deemed any claim therefor has been waived. The director, pursuant to rules adopted in accordance with the procedures provided in the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW, may exercise his discretion to waive, in whole or in part, the amount of any such timely claim where the recovery would be against equity and good conscience.

(2) Whenever the department issues an order rejecting a claim for benefits paid pursuant to RCW 51.32.190 or 51.32.210, after payment for temporary disability benefits has been paid by a self-insurer pursuant to RCW 51.32.190(3) or by the department pursuant to RCW 51.32.210, the recipient thereof shall repay such benefits and recoupment may be made from any future payments due to the recipient on any claim with the state fund or self-insurer, as the case may be. The director, under rules adopted in accordance with the procedures provided in the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW, may exercise discretion to waive, in whole or in part, the amount of any such payments where the recovery would be against equity and good conscience.

(3) Whenever any payment of benefits under this title has been made pursuant to an adjudication by the department or by order of the board or any court and timely appeal therefrom has been made where the final decision is that any such payment was made pursuant to an erroneous adjudication, the recipient thereof shall repay it and recoupment may be made from any future payments due to the recipient on any claim with the state fund or self-insurer, as the case may be. The director, pursuant to rules adopted in accordance with the procedures provided in the administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW, may exercise his discretion to waive, in whole or in part, the amount of any such payments where the recovery would be against equity and good conscience.

(4) Whenever any payment of benefits under this title has been induced by fraud the recipient thereof shall repay any such payment together with a penalty of fifty percent of

the total of any such payments and the amount of such total sum may be recouped from any future payments due to the recipient on any claim with the state fund or self-insurer against whom the fraud was committed, as the case may be, and the amount of such penalty shall be placed in the supplemental pension fund. Such repayment or recoupment must be demanded or ordered within one year of the discovery of the fraud.

(5) The worker, beneficiary, or other person affected thereby shall have the right to contest an order assessing an overpayment pursuant to this section in the same manner and to the same extent as provided under RCW 51.52.050 and 51.52.060. In the event such an order becomes final under chapter 51.52 RCW and notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (1) through (4) of this section, the director, director's designee, or self-insurer may file with the clerk in any county within the state a warrant in the amount of the sum representing the unpaid overpayment and/or penalty plus interest accruing from the date the order became final. The clerk of the county in which the warrant is filed shall immediately designate a superior court cause number for such warrant and the clerk shall cause to be entered in the judgment docket under the superior court cause number assigned to the warrant, the name of the worker, beneficiary, or other person mentioned in the warrant, the amount of the unpaid overpayment and/or penalty plus interest accrued, and the date the warrant was filed. The amount of the warrant as docketed shall become a lien upon the title to and interest in all real and personal property of the worker, beneficiary, or other person against whom the warrant is issued, the same as a judgment in a civil case docketed in the office of such clerk. The sheriff shall then proceed in the same manner and with like effect as prescribed by law with respect to execution or other process issued against rights or property upon judgment in the superior court. Such warrant so docketed shall be sufficient to support the issuance of writs of garnishment in favor of the department or self-insurer in the manner provided by law in the case of judgment, wholly or partially unsatisfied. The clerk of the court shall be entitled to a filing fee of five dollars, which shall be added to the amount of the warrant. A copy of such warrant shall be mailed to the worker, beneficiary, or other person within three days of filing with the clerk.

The director, director's designee, or self-insurer may issue to any person, firm, corporation, municipal corporation, political subdivision of the state, public corporation, or agency of the state, a notice to withhold and deliver property of any kind if there is reason to believe that there is in the possession of such person, firm, corporation, municipal corporation, political subdivision of the state, public corporation, or agency of the state, property that is due, owing, or belonging to any worker, beneficiary, or other person upon whom a warrant has been served for payments due the department or self-insurer. The notice and order to withhold and deliver shall be served by certified mail accompanied by an affidavit of service by mailing or served by the sheriff of the county, or by the sheriff's deputy, or by any authorized representative of the director, director's designee, or self-insurer. Any person, firm, corporation, municipal corporation, political subdivision of the state, public corporation, or agency of the state upon whom service has been made shall answer the notice within twenty days exclusive of the day of

service, under oath and in writing, and shall make true answers to the matters inquired or in the notice and order to withhold and deliver. In the event there is in the possession of the party named and served with such notice and order, any property that may be subject to the claim of the department or self-insurer, such property shall be delivered forthwith to the director, the director's authorized representative, or self-insurer upon demand. If the party served and named in the notice and order fails to answer the notice and order within the time prescribed in this section, the court may, after the time to answer such order has expired, render judgment by default against the party named in the notice for the full amount, plus costs, claimed by the director, director's designee, or self-insurer in the notice. In the event that a notice to withhold and deliver is served upon an employer and the property found to be subject thereto is wages, the employer may assert in the answer all exemptions provided for by chapter 6.27 RCW to which the wage earner may be entitled.

This subsection shall only apply to orders assessing an overpayment which are issued on or after July 28, 1991: PROVIDED, That this subsection shall apply retroactively to all orders assessing an overpayment resulting from fraud, civil or criminal.

(6) Orders assessing an overpayment which are issued on or after July 28, 1991, shall include a conspicuous notice of the collection methods available to the department or self-insurer. [1991 c 88 § 1; 1986 c 54 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 224 § 13.]

**Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 224:** See note following RCW 51.04.110.

**51.32.250 Payment of job modification costs.** Modification of the injured worker's previous job or modification of a new job is recognized as a desirable method of returning the injured worker to gainful employment. In order to assist employers in meeting the costs of job modification, and to encourage employers to modify jobs to accommodate retaining or hiring workers with disabilities resulting from work-related injury, the supervisor or the supervisor's designee, in his or her discretion, may pay job modification costs in an amount not to exceed five thousand dollars per worker per job modification. This payment is intended to be a cooperative participation with the employer and funds shall be taken from the appropriate account within the second injury fund.

The benefits provided for in this section are available to any otherwise eligible worker regardless of the date of industrial injury. [1988 c 161 § 10; 1983 c 70 § 3; 1982 c 63 § 13.]

**Severability—1983 c 70:** See note following RCW 51.32.095.

**Effective dates—Implementation—1982 c 63:** See note following RCW 51.32.095.

**51.32.260 Compensation for loss or damage to personal clothing, footwear or protective equipment.** Workers otherwise entitled to compensation under this title may also claim compensation for loss of or damage to the worker's personal clothing, footwear or protective equipment resulting from the industrial accident or incurred in the

course of emergency medical treatment for injuries. [1983 c 111 § 1.]

**51.32.300 State employee vocational rehabilitation coordinator.** The director shall appoint a state employee vocational rehabilitation coordinator who shall provide technical assistance and coordination of claims management to state agencies and institutions of higher education under the state return-to-work programs created by RCW 41.06.490 and \*28B.16.300. [1990 c 204 § 5.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 28B.16.300 was repealed by 1993 c 281 § 68, effective July 1, 1993.

**Findings—Purpose—1990 c 204:** See note following RCW 51.44.170.

**51.32.350 Chemically related illness—Criteria and procedures for claims—Claims management.** (1) By July 1, 1994, the department shall establish interim criteria and procedures for management of claims involving chemically related illness to ensure consistency and fairness in the adjudication of these claims. The criteria and procedures shall apply to employees covered by the state fund and employees of self-insured employers. The department shall adopt final criteria and procedures by December 31, 1994, and report the criteria and procedures as required under section 5, chapter 265, Laws of 1994.

(2) The special procedures developed by the department shall include procedures to determine which claims involving chemically related illness require expert management. The department shall assign claims managers with special training or expertise to manage these claims. [1994 c 265 § 1.]

**51.32.360 Chemically related illness—Centers for research and clinical assessment.** The department shall work with the department of health to establish one or more centers for research and clinical assessment of chemically related illness. [1994 c 265 § 3.]

**51.32.370 Chemically related illness—Implementation plan for research—Funding for research projects—Deductions from employees' pay.** (1) The department shall conduct research on chemically related illnesses, which shall include contracting with recognized medical research institutions. The department shall develop an implementation plan for research based on sound scientific research criteria, such as double blind studies, and shall include adequate provisions for peer review, and submit the plan to the worker's [workers'] compensation advisory committee for review and approval. Following approval of the plan, all specific proposals for projects under the plan shall be submitted for review to a scientific advisory committee, established to provide scientific oversight of research projects, and to the workers' compensation advisory committee. The department shall include a research project that encourages regional cooperation in addressing chemically related illness.

(2) Expenditures for research projects shall be within legislative appropriations from the medical aid fund, with self-insured employers and the state fund each paying a pro rata share, based on the number of worker hours, of the

authorized expenditures. For the purposes of this subsection only, self-insured employers may deduct from the pay of each of their employees one-half of the share charged to the employer for the expenditures from the medical aid fund. [1994 c 265 § 4.]

### Chapter 51.36 MEDICAL AID

#### Sections

- 51.36.010 Extent and duration.
- 51.36.015 Chiropractic care and evaluation.
- 51.36.020 Transportation to place of treatment—Artificial substitutes and mechanical aids—Modifications to residences or motor vehicles.
- 51.36.030 First aid.
- 51.36.040 Benefits provided for injury during course of employment and during lunch period—"Jobsite" defined—When worker lunch hours not reported.
- 51.36.050 Rehabilitation center—Contracts with self-insurers and others.
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- 51.36.080 Payment of fees and medical charges by department—Interest—Cost-effective payment methods—Audits.
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- 51.36.100 Audits of health care providers authorized.
- 51.36.110 Audits of health care providers—Powers of department.
- 51.36.120 Confidential information.

**51.36.010 Extent and duration.** Upon the occurrence of any injury to a worker entitled to compensation under the provisions of this title, he or she shall receive proper and necessary medical and surgical services at the hands of a physician of his or her own choice, if conveniently located, and proper and necessary hospital care and services during the period of his or her disability from such injury, but the same shall be limited in point of duration as follows:

In the case of permanent partial disability, not to extend beyond the date when compensation shall be awarded him or her, except when the worker returned to work before permanent partial disability award is made, in such case not to extend beyond the time when monthly allowances to him or her shall cease; in case of temporary disability not to extend beyond the time when monthly allowances to him or her shall cease: PROVIDED, That after any injured worker has returned to his or her work his or her medical and surgical treatment may be continued if, and so long as, such continuation is deemed necessary by the supervisor of industrial insurance to be necessary to his or her more complete recovery; in case of a permanent total disability not to extend beyond the date on which a lump sum settlement is made with him or her or he or she is placed upon the permanent pension roll: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That the supervisor of industrial insurance, solely in his or her discretion, may authorize continued medical and surgical treatment for conditions previously accepted by the department when such medical and surgical treatment is deemed necessary by the supervisor of industrial insurance to protect such worker's life or provide for the administration of medical and therapeutic measures including payment of prescription medications, but not including those controlled

substances currently scheduled by the state board of pharmacy as Schedule I, II, III, or IV substances under chapter 69.50 RCW, which are necessary to alleviate continuing pain which results from the industrial injury. In order to authorize such continued treatment the written order of the supervisor of industrial insurance issued in advance of the continuation shall be necessary.

The supervisor of industrial insurance, the supervisor's designee, or a self-insurer, in his or her sole discretion, may authorize inoculation or other immunological treatment in cases in which a work-related activity has resulted in probable exposure of the worker to a potential infectious occupational disease. Authorization of such treatment does not bind the department or self-insurer in any adjudication of a claim by the same worker or the worker's beneficiary for an occupational disease. [1986 c 58 § 6; 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 56; 1975 1st ex.s. c 234 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 50; 1965 ex.s. c 166 § 2; 1961 c 23 § 51.36.010. Prior: 1959 c 256 § 2; prior: 1943 c 186 § 2, part; 1923 c 136 § 9, part; 1921 c 182 § 11, part; 1919 c 129 § 2, part; 1917 c 28 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 7714, part.]

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.36.015 Chiropractic care and evaluation.** Subject to the other provisions of this title, the health services that are available to an injured worker under RCW 51.36.010 include chiropractic care and evaluation. For the purposes of assisting the department in making claims determinations, an injured worker may be required by the department to undergo examination by a chiropractor licensed under chapter 18.25 RCW. [1994 c 94 § 1.]

**51.36.020 Transportation to place of treatment—Artificial substitutes and mechanical aids—Modifications to residences or motor vehicles.** (1) When the injury to any worker is so serious as to require his or her being taken from the place of injury to a place of treatment, his or her employer shall, at the expense of the medical aid fund, or self-insurer, as the case may be, furnish transportation to the nearest place of proper treatment.

(2) Every worker whose injury results in the loss of one or more limbs or eyes shall be provided with proper artificial substitutes and every worker, who suffers an injury to an eye producing an error of refraction, shall be once provided proper and properly equipped lenses to correct such error of refraction and his or her disability rating shall be based upon the loss of sight before correction.

(3) Every worker whose accident results in damage to or destruction of an artificial limb, eye, or tooth, shall have same repaired or replaced.

(4) Every worker whose hearing aid or eyeglasses or lenses are damaged, destroyed, or lost as a result of an industrial accident shall have the same restored or replaced. The department or self-insurer shall be liable only for the cost of restoring damaged hearing aids or eyeglasses to their condition at the time of the accident.

(5) All mechanical appliances necessary in the treatment of an injured worker, such as braces, belts, casts, and crutches, shall be provided and all mechanical appliances required as permanent equipment after treatment has been

completed shall continue to be provided or replaced without regard to the date of injury or date treatment was completed, notwithstanding any other provision of law.

(6) A worker, whose injury is of such short duration as to bring him or her within the time limit provisions of RCW 51.32.090, shall nevertheless receive during the omitted period medical, surgical, and hospital care and service and transportation under the provisions of this chapter.

(7) Whenever in the sole discretion of the supervisor it is reasonable and necessary to provide residence modifications necessary to meet the needs and requirements of the worker who has sustained catastrophic injury, the department or self-insurer may be ordered to pay an amount not to exceed the state's average annual wage for one year as determined under RCW 50.04.355, as now existing or hereafter amended, toward the cost of such modifications or construction. Such payment shall only be made for the construction or modification of a residence in which the injured worker resides. Only one residence of any worker may be modified or constructed under this subsection, although the supervisor may order more than one payment for any one home, up to the maximum amount permitted by this section.

(8) Whenever in the sole discretion of the supervisor it is reasonable and necessary to modify a motor vehicle owned by a worker who has become an amputee or becomes paralyzed because of an industrial injury, the supervisor may order up to fifty percent of the state's average annual wage for one year, as determined under RCW 50.04.355, as now existing or hereafter amended, to be paid by the department or self-insurer toward the costs thereof.

(9) The benefits provided by subsections (7) and (8) of this section are available to any otherwise eligible worker regardless of the date of industrial injury. [1982 c 63 § 12; 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 57; 1975 1st ex.s. c 224 § 14; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 51; 1965 ex.s. c 166 § 3; 1961 c 23 § 51.36.020. Prior: 1959 c 256 § 3; prior: 1951 c 236 § 6; 1943 c 186 § 2, part; 1923 c 136 § 9, part; 1921 c 182 § 11, part; 1919 c 129 § 2, part; 1917 c 28 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 7714, part.]

**Effective dates—Implementation—1982 c 63:** See note following RCW 51.32.095.

**Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 224:** See note following RCW 51.04.110.

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.36.030 First aid.** Every employer, who employs workers, shall keep as required by the department's rules a first aid kit or kits equipped as required by such rules with materials for first aid to his or her injured workers. Every employer who employs fifty or more workers, shall keep one first aid station equipped as required by the department's rules with materials for first aid to his or her injured workers, and shall cooperate with the department in training one or more employees in first aid to the injured. The maintenance of such first aid kits and stations shall be deemed to be a part of any safety and health standards established under Title 49 RCW. [1980 c 14 § 12. Prior: 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 58; 1977 ex.s. c 323 § 20; 1961 c 23 § 51.36.030; prior: 1959 c 256 § 4; prior: 1943 c 186 § 2, part; 1923 c

136 § 9, part; 1921 c 182 § 11, part; 1919 c 129 § 2, part; 1917 c 28 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 7714, part.]

**Severability—Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 323:** See notes following RCW 51.04.040.

**51.36.040 Benefits provided for injury during course of employment and during lunch period—"Jobsite" defined—When worker lunch hours not reported.** The benefits of Title 51 RCW shall be provided to each worker receiving an injury, as defined therein, during the course of his or her employment and also during his or her lunch period as established by the employer while on the jobsite. The jobsite shall consist of the premises as are occupied, used or contracted for by the employer for the business of work process in which the employer is then engaged: PROVIDED, That if a worker by reason of his or her employment leaves such jobsite under the direction, control or request of the employer and if such worker is injured during his or her lunch period while so away from the jobsite, the worker shall receive the benefits as provided herein: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That the employer need not consider the lunch period in worker hours for the purpose of reporting to the department unless the worker is actually paid for such period of time. [1977 ex.s. c 350 § 59; 1961 c 107 § 2.]

**51.36.050 Rehabilitation center—Contracts with self-insurers and others.** The department may operate and control a rehabilitation center and may contract with self-insurers, and any other persons who may be interested, for use of any such center on such terms as the director deems reasonable. [1979 ex.s. c 42 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 52.]

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.36.060 Duties of attending physician—Medical information.** Physicians examining or attending injured workers under this title shall comply with rules and regulations adopted by the director, and shall make such reports as may be requested by the department or self-insurer upon the condition or treatment of any such worker, or upon any other matters concerning such workers in their care. Except under RCW 49.17.210 and 49.17.250, all medical information in the possession or control of any person and relevant to the particular injury in the opinion of the department pertaining to any worker whose injury or occupational disease is the basis of a claim under this title shall be made available at any stage of the proceedings to the employer, the claimant's representative, and the department upon request, and no person shall incur any legal liability by reason of releasing such information. [1991 c 89 § 3; 1989 c 12 § 17; 1975 1st ex.s. c 224 § 15; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 53.]

**Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 224:** See note following RCW 51.04.110.

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.36.070 Medical examination—Reports—Costs.** Whenever the director or the self-insurer deems it necessary in order to resolve any medical issue, a worker shall submit to examination by a physician or physicians selected by the

director, with the rendition of a report to the person ordering the examination. The director, in his or her discretion, may charge the cost of such examination or examinations to the self-insurer or to the medical aid fund as the case may be. The cost of said examination shall include payment to the worker of reasonable expenses connected therewith. [1977 ex.s. c 350 § 60; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 54.]

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.36.080 Payment of fees and medical charges by department—Interest—Cost-effective payment methods—Audits.** (1) All fees and medical charges under this title shall conform to the fee schedule established by the director and shall be paid within sixty days of receipt by the department of a proper billing in the form prescribed by department rule or sixty days after the claim is allowed by final order or judgment, if an otherwise proper billing is received by the department prior to final adjudication of claim allowance. The department shall pay interest at the rate of one percent per month, but at least one dollar per month, whenever the payment period exceeds the applicable sixty-day period on all proper fees and medical charges.

Beginning in fiscal year 1987, interest payments under this subsection may be paid only from funds appropriated to the department for administrative purposes. A record of payments made under this subsection shall be submitted twice yearly to the commerce and labor committees of the senate and the house of representatives and to the ways and means committees of the senate and the house of representatives.

Nothing in this section may be construed to require the payment of interest on any billing, fee, or charge if the industrial insurance claim on which the billing, fee, or charge is predicated is ultimately rejected or the billing, fee, or charge is otherwise not allowable.

In establishing fees for medical and other health care services, the director shall consider the director's duty to purchase health care in a prudent, cost-effective manner without unduly restricting access to necessary care by persons entitled to the care. With respect to workers admitted as hospital inpatients on or after July 1, 1987, the director shall pay for inpatient hospital services on the basis of diagnosis-related groups, contracting for services, or other prudent, cost-effective payment method, which the director shall establish by rules adopted in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW.

(2) The director may establish procedures for selectively or randomly auditing the accuracy of fees and medical billings submitted to the department under this title. [1993 c 159 § 2; 1987 c 470 § 1; 1985 c 368 § 2; 1985 c 338 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 55.]

**Effective date—1987 c 470 § 1:** "Section 1 of 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 on July 1, 1987." [1987 c 470 § 4.]

**Effective date—1985 c 368 § 2:** "Section 2 of this act shall take effect July 1, 1987." [1985 c 368 § 7.]

**Legislative findings—1985 c 368:** "The legislature finds that:

(1) The governor's steering committee on the six-year state health care purchasing plan has estimated that health care expenditures by the department of labor and industries will rise from \$172.5 million in fiscal year 1985 to \$581.5 million in fiscal year 1991, an increase of two hundred

thirty-seven percent in six years, while the number of persons receiving the care will rise only fifteen percent in the same period;

(2) The growing cost of health care for covered workers is a major cause of recent industrial insurance premium increases, adversely affecting both employers and employees;

(3) The department of labor and industries has not developed adequate means of controlling the costs of health care services to which covered workers are entitled by law;

(4) There is a need for all agencies of the state to act as prudent buyers in purchasing health care." [1985 c 368 § 1.]

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.36.085 Payment of fees and medical charges by self-insurers—Interest.** All fees and medical charges under this title shall conform to regulations promulgated, and the fee schedule established by the director and shall be paid within sixty days of receipt by the self-insured of a proper billing in the form prescribed by department rule or sixty days after the claim is allowed by final order or judgment, if an otherwise proper billing is received by the self-insured prior to final adjudication of claim allowance. The self-insured shall pay interest at the rate of one percent per month, but at least one dollar per month, whenever the payment period exceeds the applicable sixty-day period on all proper fees and medical charges. [1993 c 159 § 3; 1987 c 316 § 4.]

**51.36.090 Review of billings—Investigation of unauthorized services.** An employer may request review of billings for any medical and surgical services received by a worker by submitting written notice to the department. The department shall investigate the billings and determine whether the worker received services authorized under this title. Whenever such medical or surgical services are determined to be unauthorized, the department shall not charge the costs of such services to the employer's account. [1985 c 337 § 3.]

**51.36.100 Audits of health care providers authorized.** The legislature finds and declares it to be in the public interest of the residents of the state of Washington that a proper regulatory and inspection program be instituted in connection with the provision of medical, chiropractic, dental, vocational, and other health services to industrially injured workers pursuant to Title 51 RCW. In order to effectively accomplish such purpose and to assure that the industrially injured worker receives such services as are paid for by the state of Washington, the acceptance by the industrially injured worker of such services, and the request by a provider of services for reimbursement for providing such services, shall authorize the director of the department of labor and industries or the director's authorized representative to inspect and audit all records in connection with the provision of such services. [1993 c 515 § 5; 1986 c 200 § 1.]

**51.36.110 Audits of health care providers—Powers of department.** The director of the department of labor and industries or the director's authorized representative shall have the authority to:

(1) Conduct audits and investigations of providers of medical, chiropractic, dental, vocational, and other health



services furnished to industrially injured workers pursuant to Title 51 RCW. In the conduct of such audits or investigations, the director or the director's authorized representatives may examine all records, or portions thereof, including patient records, for which services were rendered by a health services provider and reimbursed by the department, notwithstanding the provisions of any other statute which may make or purport to make such records privileged or confidential: PROVIDED, That no original patient records shall be removed from the premises of the health services provider, and that the disclosure of any records or information obtained under authority of this section by the department of labor and industries is prohibited and constitutes a violation of RCW 42.52.050, unless such disclosure is directly connected to the official duties of the department: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That the disclosure of patient information as required under this section shall not subject any physician or other health services provider to any liability for breach of any confidential relationships between the provider and the patient: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That the director or the director's authorized representative shall destroy all copies of patient medical records in their possession upon completion of the audit, investigation, or proceedings;

(2) Approve or deny applications to participate as a provider of services furnished to industrially injured workers pursuant to Title 51 RCW; and

(3) Terminate or suspend eligibility to participate as a provider of services furnished to industrially injured workers pursuant to Title 51 RCW. [1994 c 154 § 312; 1993 c 515 § 6; 1986 c 200 § 2.]

**Parts and captions not law—Effective date—Severability—1994 c 154:** See RCW 42.52.902, 42.52.904, and 42.52.905.

**51.36.120 Confidential information.** When contracting for health care services and equipment, the department, upon request of a contractor, shall keep confidential financial and valuable trade information, which shall be exempt from public inspection and copying under chapter 42.17 RCW. [1989 c 189 § 2.]

**Chapter 51.44  
FUNDS**

Sections

- 51.44.010 Accident fund.
- 51.44.020 Medical aid fund.
- 51.44.030 Reserve fund.
- 51.44.033 Supplemental pension fund.
- 51.44.040 Second injury fund.
- 51.44.050 Catastrophe injury account.
- 51.44.060 Charge to accident fund for the catastrophe injury account.
- 51.44.070 Transfer from accident fund, accounts to reserve fund—Annuity values—Self-insurer payments to fund—Filing of bond, assignment of account, or purchase of annuity by self-insurer—Penalty for delay or refusal of reimbursement.
- 51.44.080 Reserve fund—Transfers from state fund—Surplus—Deficiency.
- 51.44.090 Reserve fund record and maintenance by state treasurer.
- 51.44.100 Investment of accident, medical aid, reserve, supplemental pension funds.
- 51.44.110 Disbursements of funds.
- 51.44.120 Liability of state treasurer.

- 51.44.140 Self-insurer to make deposits into reserve fund—Accounts within fund—Surpluses and deficits.
- 51.44.150 Assessments upon self-insurers for administration costs.
- 51.44.160 Interfund loans between reserve and supplemental pension funds—Audit.
- 51.44.170 Industrial insurance premium refund account.

**51.44.010 Accident fund.** There shall be, in the office of the state treasurer, a fund to be known and designated as the "accident fund." [1961 c 23 § 51.44.010. Prior: 1947 c 247 § 1(4d), part; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7676d, part.]

**51.44.020 Medical aid fund.** There shall be, in the office of the state treasurer, a fund to be known and designated as the "medical aid fund." [1961 c 23 § 51.44.020. Prior: 1923 c 136 § 8, part; 1919 c 129 § 1, part; 1917 c 29 § 4, part; RRS § 7713, part.]

**51.44.030 Reserve fund.** There shall be, in the office of the state treasurer, a fund to be known and designated as the "reserve fund." [1961 c 23 § 51.44.030. Prior: 1957 c 70 § 39; prior: 1949 c 219 § 1, part; 1947 c 246 § 1, part; 1929 c 132 § 2, part; 1927 c 310 § 4, part; 1923 c 136 § 2, part; 1919 c 131 § 4, part; 1917 c 28 § 1, part; 1913 c 148 § 1, part; 1911 c 74 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7679, part.]

**51.44.033 Supplemental pension fund.** There shall be, in the office of the state treasurer, a fund to be known and designated as the "supplemental pension fund". The director shall be the administrator thereof. Said fund shall be used for the sole purpose of making the additional payments therefrom prescribed in this title. [1975 1st ex.s. c 224 § 16; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 18.]

**Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 224:** See note following RCW 51.04.110.

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.44.040 Second injury fund.** (1) There shall be in the office of the state treasurer, a fund to be known and designated as the "second injury fund", which shall be used only for the purpose of defraying charges against it as provided in RCW 51.16.120 and 51.32.250, as now or hereafter amended. Said fund shall be administered by the director. The state treasurer shall be the custodian of the second injury fund and shall be authorized to disburse moneys from it only upon written order of the director.

(2) Payments to the second injury fund from the accident fund shall be made pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated by the director.

(3) Assessments for the second injury fund shall be imposed on self-insurers pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated by the director to ensure that self-insurers shall pay to such fund in the proportion that the payments made from such fund on account of claims made against self-insurers bears to the total sum of payments from such fund. [1982 c 63 § 14; 1977 ex.s. c 323 § 21; 1972 ex.s. c 43 § 27; 1961 c 23 § 51.44.040. Prior: 1959 c 308 § 17; 1947 c 183 § 1; 1945 c 219 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7676-1b.]

**Effective dates—Implementation—1982 c 63:** See note following RCW 51.32.095.

**Severability—Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 323:** See notes following RCW 51.04.040.

**51.44.050 Catastrophe injury account.** There shall be a special account within the accident fund to be known as the "catastrophe injury account" which shall be used only for the purpose of defraying charges against it as provided in RCW 51.16.130. [1961 c 23 § 51.44.050. Prior: 1959 c 308 § 6; 1957 c 70 § 40; prior: 1947 c 247 § 1(4f), part; 1911 c 74 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7676f, part.]

**51.44.060 Charge to accident fund for the catastrophe injury account.** The charge to the accident fund to defray charges against the catastrophe injury account shall be made pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated by the director. [1972 ex.s. c 43 § 28; 1961 c 23 § 51.44.060. Prior: 1959 c 308 § 7; 1957 c 70 § 41; prior: 1947 c 247 § 1(4f), part; 1911 c 74 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7676f, part.]

**51.44.070 Transfer from accident fund, accounts to reserve fund—Annuity values—Self-insurer payments to fund—Filing of bond, assignment of account, or purchase of annuity by self-insurer—Penalty for delay or refusal of reimbursement.** (1) For every case resulting in death or permanent total disability the department shall transfer on its books from the accident fund of the proper class and/or appropriate account to the "reserve fund" a sum of money for that case equal to the estimated present cash value of the monthly payments provided for it, to be calculated upon the basis of an annuity covering the payments in this title provided to be made for the case. Such annuity values shall be based upon rates of mortality, disability, remarriage, and interest as determined by the department, taking into account the experience of the reserve fund in such respects.

Similarly, a self-insurer in these circumstances shall pay into the reserve fund a sum of money computed in the same manner, and the disbursements therefrom shall be made as in other cases.

(2) As an alternative to payment procedures otherwise provided under law, in the event of death or permanent total disability to workers of self-insured employers, a self-insured employer may upon establishment of such obligation file with the department a bond, an assignment of account from a federally or state chartered commercial banking institution authorized to conduct business in the state of Washington, or purchase an annuity, in an amount deemed by the department to be reasonably sufficient to insure payment of the pension benefits provided by law. Any purchase of an annuity shall be from an institution meeting the following minimum requirements: (a) The institution must be rated no less than "A+" by A.M. Best, and no less than "AA" by Moody's and by Standard & Poor's; (b) the value of the assets of the institution must not be less than ten billion dollars; (c) not more than ten percent of the institution's assets may include bonds that are rated less than "BBB" by Moody's and Standard & Poor's; (d) not more than five percent of the assets may be held as equity in real estate; and (e) not more than twenty-five percent of the assets may be first mortgages, and not more than five percent may be second mortgages. The department shall adopt rules governing assignments of

account and annuities. Such rules shall ensure that the funds are available if needed, even in the case of failure of the banking institution, the institution authorized to provide annuities, or the employer's business.

The annuity value for every such case shall be determined by the department based upon the department's experience as to rates of mortality, disability, remarriage, and interest. The amount of the required bond, assignment of account, or annuity may be reviewed and adjusted periodically by the department, based upon periodic redeterminations by the department as to the outstanding annuity value for the case.

Under such alternative, the department shall administer the payment of this obligation to the beneficiary or beneficiaries. The department shall be reimbursed for all such payments from the self-insured employer through periodic charges not less than quarterly in a manner to be determined by the director. The self-insured employer shall additionally pay to the department a deposit equal to the first three months' payments otherwise required under RCW 51.32.050 and 51.32.060. Such deposit shall be placed in the reserve fund in accordance with RCW 51.44.140 and shall be returned to the respective self-insured employer when monthly payments are no longer required for such particular obligation.

If a self-insurer delays or refuses to reimburse the department beyond fifteen days after the reimbursement charges become due, there shall be a penalty paid by the self-insurer upon order of the director of an additional amount equal to twenty-five percent of the amount then due which shall be paid into the pension reserve fund. Such an order shall conform to the requirements of RCW 51.52.050. [1992 c 124 § 1; 1989 c 190 § 1; 1983 c 312 § 1; 1981 c 325 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 56; 1961 c 274 § 5; 1961 c 23 § 51.44.070. Prior: 1959 c 308 § 8; 1957 c 70 § 42; prior: 1951 c 236 § 7; 1941 c 169 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7705-2; prior: 1929 c 132 § 2, part; 1927 c 310 § 4, part; 1923 c 136 § 2, part; 1919 c 131 § 4, part; 1917 c 28 § 1, part; 1913 c 148 § 1, part; 1911 c 74 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7679, part.]

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.44.080 Reserve fund—Transfers from state fund—Surplus—Deficiency.** The department shall notify the state treasurer from time to time, of such transfers as a whole from the state fund to the reserve fund and the interest or other earnings of the reserve fund shall become a part of the reserve fund itself. As soon as possible after June 30th of each year the department shall expert the reserve fund to ascertain its standing as of June 30th of that year and the relation of its outstanding annuities at their then value to the cash on hand or at interest belonging to the fund. The department shall promptly report the result of the examination to the state treasurer in writing not later than September 30th following. If the report shows that there was on said June 30th, in the reserve fund in cash or at interest, a greater sum than the then annuity value of the outstanding pension obligations, the surplus shall be forthwith turned over to the state fund but, if the report shows the contrary condition of the reserve fund, the deficiency shall be forthwith made good out of the state fund. [1989 c 190 § 2; 1988 c 161 §

8; 1972 ex.s. c 43 § 29; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 57; 1961 c 23 § 51.44.080. Prior: 1957 c 70 § 43; prior: 1949 c 219 § 1, part; 1947 c 246 § 1, part; 1929 c 132 § 2, part; 1927 c 310 § 4, part; 1923 c 136 § 2, part; 1919 c 131 § 4, part; 1917 c 28 § 1, part; 1913 c 148 § 1, part; 1911 c 74 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7679, part.]

**51.44.090 Reserve fund record and maintenance by state treasurer.** The state treasurer shall keep accurate accounts of the reserve fund and the investment and earnings thereof, to the end that the total reserve fund shall at all times, as nearly as may be, be properly and fully invested and, to meet current demands for pension or lump sum payments, may, if necessary, make temporary loans to the reserve fund out of the accident fund, repaying the same from the earnings of the reserve fund or from collections of its investments or, if necessary, sales of the same. [1972 ex.s. c 43 § 31; 1961 c 23 § 51.44.090. Prior: 1957 c 70 § 44; prior: 1949 c 219 § 1, part; 1947 c 246 § 1, part; 1929 c 132 § 2, part; 1927 c 310 § 4, part; 1923 c 136 § 2, part; 1919 c 131 § 4, part; 1917 c 28 § 1, part; 1913 c 148 § 1, part; 1911 c 74 § 5, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7679, part.]

**51.44.100 Investment of accident, medical aid, reserve, supplemental pension funds.** Whenever, in the judgment of the state investment board, there shall be in the accident fund, medical aid fund, reserve fund, or the supplemental pension fund, funds in excess of that amount deemed by the state investment board to be sufficient to meet the current expenditures properly payable therefrom, the state investment board may invest and reinvest such excess funds in the manner prescribed by RCW 43.84.150, and not otherwise.

The state investment board may give consideration to the investment of excess funds in federally insured student loans made to persons in vocational training or retraining or reeducation programs. The state investment board may make such investments by purchasing from savings and loan associations, commercial banks, mutual savings banks, credit unions and other institutions authorized to be lenders under the federally insured student loan act, organized under federal or state law and operating in this state loans made by such institutions to residents of the state of Washington particularly for the purpose of vocational training or reeducation: PROVIDED, That the state investment board shall purchase only that portion of any loan which is guaranteed or insured by the United States of America, or by any agency or instrumentality of the United States of America: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the state investment board is authorized to enter into contracts with such savings and loan associations, commercial banks, mutual savings banks, credit unions, and other institutions authorized to be lenders under the federally insured student loan act to service loans purchased pursuant to this section at an agreed upon contract price. [1990 c 80 § 1; 1981 c 3 § 41; 1973 1st ex.s. c 103 § 6; 1972 ex.s. c 92 § 2; 1965 ex.s. c 41 § 1; 1961 c 281 § 10; 1961 c 23 § 51.44.100. Prior: 1959 c 244 § 1; 1935 c 90 § 1; RRS § 7705-1.]

**Effective dates—Severability—1981 c 3:** See notes following RCW 43.33A.010.

**Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 103:** See note following RCW 2.10.080.

**Legislative finding—Purpose—1972 ex.s. c 92:** "The legislature finds that the accident fund, medical aid fund and reserve funds could be invested in such a manner as to promote vocational training and retraining or reeducation among the workers of this state. The legislature recognizes that federally insured student loans are already available to students at institutions of higher education. The legislature declares that the purpose of this 1972 amendatory act is to encourage the state finance committee to consider making some investment funds available for investment in federally insured student loans made to persons enrolled in vocational training and retraining or reeducation programs." [1972 ex.s. c 92 § 1.] This applies to the 1972 amendment to RCW 51.44.100.

*Motor vehicle fund warrants for state highway acquisition:* RCW 47.12.180 through 47.12.240.

*Rehabilitation services for individuals with disabilities:* Chapter 74.29 RCW.

*Student loans:* RCW 28B.10.280.

*Uniform minor student capacity to borrow act:* Chapter 26.30 RCW.

**51.44.110 Disbursements of funds.** Disbursement out of the several funds shall be made only upon warrants drawn by the department. The state treasurer shall pay every warrant out of the fund upon which it is drawn. If, at any time, there shall not be sufficient money in the fund on which any such warrant is drawn wherewith to pay the same, the employer on account of whose worker it was that the warrant was drawn shall pay the same, and he or she shall be credited upon his or her next following contribution to such fund the amount so paid with interest thereon at the legal rate from the date of such payment to the date such next following contribution became payable and, if the amount of the credit shall exceed the amount of the contribution, he or she shall have a warrant upon the same fund for the excess and, if any such warrant shall not be so paid, it shall remain, nevertheless, payable out of the fund. [1977 ex.s. c 350 § 68; 1973 c 106 § 30; 1961 c 23 § 51.44.110. Prior: 1911 c 74 § 26, part; RRS § 7705, part.]

**51.44.120 Liability of state treasurer.** The state treasurer shall be liable on his official bond for the safe custody of the moneys and securities of the several funds, but all of the provisions of law relating to state depositaries and to the deposit of state moneys therein shall apply to the several funds and securities. [1961 c 23 § 51.44.120. Prior: (i) 1911 c 74 § 26, part; RRS § 7705, part. (ii) 1917 c 28 § 14; RRS § 7723.]

**51.44.140 Self-insurer to make deposits into reserve fund—Accounts within fund—Surpluses and deficits.** Each self-insurer shall make such deposits, into the reserve fund, as the department shall require pursuant to RCW 51.44.070, as are necessary to guarantee the payments of the pensions established pursuant to RCW 51.32.050 and 51.32.060.

Each self-insurer shall have an account within the reserve fund. Each such account shall be credited with its proportionate share of interest or other earnings as determined in RCW 51.44.080.

Each such account in the reserve fund shall be expeted by the insurance commissioner as required in RCW 51.44.080. Any surpluses shall be forthwith returned to the respective self-insurers, and each deficit shall forthwith be

made good to the reserve fund by the self-insurer. [1972 ex.s. c 43 § 30; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 58.]

**51.44.150 Assessments upon self-insurers for administration costs.** The director shall impose and collect assessments each fiscal year upon all self-insurers in the amount of the estimated costs of administering their portion of this title during such fiscal year. The time and manner of imposing and collecting assessments due the department shall be set forth in regulations promulgated by the director in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW. [1971 ex.s. c 289 § 59.]

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.44.160 Interfund loans between reserve and supplemental pension funds—Audit.** The director is authorized to make periodic temporary interfund transfers between the reserve and supplemental pension funds as may be necessary to provide for payments from the supplemental pension fund as prescribed in this title. At least once annually, the director shall cause an audit to be made of all pension funds administered by the department to insure that proper crediting of funds has been made, and further to direct transfers between the funds for any interfund loans which may have been made in the preceding year and not fully reimbursed. [1975 1st ex.s. c 224 § 17; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 60.]

**Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 224:** See note following RCW 51.04.110.

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.44.170 Industrial insurance premium refund account.** The industrial insurance premium refund account is created in the state treasury. All industrial insurance refunds earned by state agencies or institutions of higher education under the state fund retrospective rating program shall be deposited into the account. Moneys in the account may be spent only after appropriation. No agency or institution of higher education may receive an appropriation for an amount greater than the refund earned by the agency. Expenditures from the account may be used for any program within an agency or institution of higher education, but preference shall be given to programs that promote or provide incentives for employee safety and early, appropriate return-to-work for injured employees. [1991 sp.s. c 13 § 29; 1990 c 204 § 2.]

**Effective dates—Severability—1991 sp.s. c 13:** See notes following RCW 18.08.240.

**Findings—Purpose—1990 c 204:** "The legislature finds that workplace safety in state employment is of paramount importance in maintaining a productive and committed state work force. The legislature also finds that recognition in state agencies and institutions of higher education of industrial insurance programs that provide safe working environments and promote early return-to-work for injured employees will encourage agencies and institutions of higher education to develop these programs. A purpose of this act is to provide incentives for agencies and institutions of higher education to participate in industrial insurance safety programs and return-to-work programs by authorizing use of the industrial insurance premium refunds earned by agencies or institutions of higher education participating in industrial insurance retrospective rating programs." [1990 c 204 § 1.]

**Effective date—1990 c 204 § 2:** "Section 2 of this act shall take effect July 1, 1990." [1990 c 204 § 6.]

## Chapter 51.48 PENALTIES

### Sections

- 51.48.010 Employer's liability for penalties, injury or disease occurring prior to time payment of compensation secured.
- 51.48.015 Employer's failure to secure payment of compensation.
- 51.48.017 Self-insurer delaying or refusing to pay benefits.
- 51.48.020 Employer's misrepresentation—False information by person claiming benefits—Penalties.
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- 51.48.280 Criminal liability for offering, soliciting, or receiving kick-back, bribe, or rebate—Exceptions.
- 51.48.290 Director may require written verification by health services providers—Penalties.

**51.48.010 Employer's liability for penalties, injury or disease occurring prior to time payment of compensation secured.** Every employer shall be liable for the penalties described in this title and may also be liable if an injury or occupational disease has been sustained by a worker prior to the time he or she has secured the payment of such compensation to a penalty in a sum not less than fifty percent nor more than one hundred percent of the cost

for such injury or occupational disease. Any employer who has failed to secure payment of compensation for his or her workers covered under this title may also be liable to a maximum penalty in a sum of five hundred dollars or in a sum double the amount of premiums incurred prior to securing payment of compensation under this title, whichever is greater, for the benefit of the medical aid fund. [1985 c 347 § 2; 1982 c 63 § 20; 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 69; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 61; 1961 c 23 § 51.48.010. Prior: 1947 c 247 § 1(4d), part; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7676d, part.]

**Effective dates—Implementation—1982 c 63:** See note following RCW 51.32.095.

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.48.015 Employer's failure to secure payment of compensation.** Any employer who engages in work who has wilfully failed to secure the payment of compensation under this title shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Violation of this section is punishable, upon conviction, by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than one hundred dollars. Each day such person engages as a subject employer in violation of this section constitutes a separate offense. Any fines paid pursuant to this section shall be paid directly by the court to the director for deposit in the medical aid fund. [1971 ex.s. c 289 § 62.]

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.48.017 Self-insurer delaying or refusing to pay benefits.** If a self-insurer unreasonably delays or refuses to pay benefits as they become due there shall be paid by the self-insurer upon order of the director an additional amount equal to five hundred dollars or twenty-five percent of the amount then due, whichever is greater, which shall accrue for the benefit of the claimant and shall be paid to him with the benefits which may be assessed under this title. The director shall issue an order determining whether there was an unreasonable delay or refusal to pay benefits within thirty days upon the request of the claimant. Such an order shall conform to the requirements of RCW 51.52.050. [1985 c 347 § 3; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 66.]

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.48.020 Employer's misrepresentation—False information by person claiming benefits—Penalties.** (1) Any employer, who misrepresents to the department the amount of his or her payroll or employee hours upon which the premium under this title is based, shall be liable to the state in ten times the amount of the difference in premiums paid and the amount the employer should have paid and for the reasonable expenses of auditing his or her books and collecting such sums. Such liability may be enforced in the name of the department. If such misrepresentations are made knowingly, an employer shall also be guilty of a felony, or gross misdemeanor in accordance with the theft and anticipatory provisions of Title 9A RCW.

(2) Any person claiming benefits under this title, who knowingly gives false information required in any claim or application under this title shall be guilty of a felony, or gross misdemeanor in accordance with the theft and an-

tipatory provisions of Title 9A RCW. [1995 c 160 § 4; 1987 c 221 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 323 § 22; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 63; 1961 c 23 § 51.48.020. Prior: 1947 c 247 § 1(4d), part; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7676d, part.]

**Severability—Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 323:** See notes following RCW 51.04.040.

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.48.025 Retaliation by employer prohibited—Investigation—Remedies.** (1) No employer may discharge or in any manner discriminate against any employee because such employee has filed or communicated to the employer an intent to file a claim for compensation or exercises any rights provided under this title. However, nothing in this section prevents an employer from taking any action against a worker for other reasons including, but not limited to, the worker's failure to observe health or safety standards adopted by the employer, or the frequency or nature of the worker's job-related accidents.

(2) Any employee who believes that he or she has been discharged or otherwise discriminated against by an employer in violation of this section may file a complaint with the director alleging discrimination within ninety days of the date of the alleged violation. Upon receipt of such complaint, the director shall cause an investigation to be made as the director deems appropriate. Within ninety days of the receipt of a complaint filed under this section, the director shall notify the complainant of his or her determination. If upon such investigation, it is determined that this section has been violated, the director shall bring an action in the superior court of the county in which the violation is alleged to have occurred.

(3) If the director determines that this section has not been violated, the employee may institute the action on his or her own behalf.

(4) In any action brought under this section, the superior court shall have jurisdiction, for cause shown, to restrain violations of subsection (1) of this section and to order all appropriate relief including rehiring or reinstatement of the employee with back pay. [1985 c 347 § 8.]

**51.48.030 Failure to keep records and make reports.** Every employer who fails to keep and preserve the records required by this title or fails to make the reports provided in this title shall be subject to a penalty determined by the director but not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars or two hundred percent of the quarterly tax for each such offense, whichever is greater. Any employer who fails to keep and preserve the records adequate to determine taxes due shall be forever barred from questioning, in an appeal before the board of industrial insurance appeals or the courts, the correctness of any assessment by the department based on any period for which such records have not been kept and preserved. [1986 c 9 § 8; 1985 c 347 § 4; 1982 c 63 § 21; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 64; 1961 c 23 § 51.48.030. Prior: 1947 c 247 § 1(4d), part; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7676d, part.]

**Effective dates—Implementation—1982 c 63:** See note following RCW 51.32.095.

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.48.040 Inspection of employer's records.** The books, records and payrolls of the employer pertinent to the administration of this title shall always be open to inspection by the department or its traveling auditor, agent or assistant, for the purpose of ascertaining the correctness of the payroll, the persons employed, and such other information as may be necessary for the department and its management under this title. Refusal on the part of the employer to submit his books, records and payrolls for such inspection to the department, or any assistant presenting written authority from the director, shall subject the offending employer to a penalty determined by the director but not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars for each offense and the individual who personally gives such refusal shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Any employer who fails to allow adequate inspection in accordance with the requirements of this section is subject to having its certificate of coverage revoked by order of the department and is forever barred from questioning in any proceeding in front of the board of industrial insurance appeals or any court, the correctness of any assessment by the department based on any period for which such records have not been produced for inspection. [1986 c 9 § 9; 1985 c 347 § 5; 1961 c 23 § 51.48.040. Prior: 1911 c 74 § 15, part; RRS § 7690, part.]

**51.48.050 Liability for illegal collections for medical aid.** It shall be unlawful for any employer to directly or indirectly demand or collect from any of his or her workers any sum of money whatsoever for or on account of medical, surgical, hospital, or other treatment or transportation of injured workers, other than as specified in RCW 51.16.140, and any employer who directly or indirectly violates the foregoing provisions of this section shall be liable to the state for the benefit of the medical aid fund in ten times the amount so demanded or collected, and such employer and every officer, agent, or servant of such employer knowingly participating therein shall also be guilty of a misdemeanor. [1980 c 14 § 13. Prior: 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 70; 1977 ex.s. c 323 § 23; 1961 c 23 § 51.48.050; prior: 1917 c 28 § 17; RRS § 7726.]

**Severability—Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 323:** See notes following RCW 51.04.040.

**51.48.060 Physician—Failure to report or comply with title—Penalty.** Any physician who fails, neglects or refuses to file a report with the director, as required by this title, within five days of the date of treatment, showing the condition of the injured worker at the time of treatment, a description of the treatment given, and an estimate of the probable duration of the injury, or who fails or refuses to render all necessary assistance to the injured worker, as required by this title, shall be subject to a civil penalty determined by the director but not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars. [1985 c 347 § 6; 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 71; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 20; 1961 c 23 § 51.48.060. Prior: 1927 c 310 § 6(e), part; 1921 c 182 § 7, part; 1911 c 74 § 12, part; RRS § 7686(e), part.]

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.48.080 Violation of rules.** Every person, firm or corporation who violates or fails to obey, observe or comply with any rule of the department promulgated under authority of this title, shall be subject to a penalty of not to exceed five hundred dollars. [1985 c 347 § 7; 1961 c 23 § 51.48.080. Prior: 1915 c 188 § 8; RRS § 7704.]

**51.48.090 Collection of penalties.** Civil penalties to the state under this title shall be collected by civil action in the name of the state and paid into the accident fund unless a different fund is designated. [1961 c 23 § 51.48.090. Prior: (i) 1947 c 247 § 1, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7676d, part. (ii) 1911 c 74 § 15, part; RRS § 7690, part. (iii) 1917 c 28 § 17, part; RRS § 7726, part.]

**51.48.100 Waiver of penalties—Penalty-free periods.** (1) The director may waive the whole or any part of any penalty charged under this title.

(2) Until June 30, 1986: (a) The director may, at his or her discretion, declare a penalty-free period of no more than three months only for employers who have never previously registered under RCW 51.16.110 for eligible employees under Title 51 RCW; and (b) such employers may qualify once for penalty-free status upon payment of up to one year's past due premium in full and satisfaction of the requirements of RCW 51.16.110. Such employers shall be subject to all penalties for any subsequent failure to comply with the requirements of this title. [1985 c 227 § 1; 1961 c 23 § 51.48.100. Prior: 1947 c 247 § 1, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7676d, part.]

**Effective date—1985 c 227:** "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 July 1, 1985." [1985 c 227 § 2.]

**51.48.103 Penalties for engaging in business without certificate of coverage.** (1) It is unlawful:

(a) For any employer to engage in business subject to this title without having obtained a certificate of coverage as provided for in this title;

(b) For the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, or other officer of any company to cause or permit the company to engage in business subject to this title without having obtained a certificate of coverage as provided for in this title.

Any person violating any of the provisions of this subsection is guilty of a gross misdemeanor punishable under RCW 9A.20.021.

(2) It is unlawful:

(a) For any employer to engage in business subject to this title after the employer's certificate of coverage has been revoked by order of the department;

(b) For the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, or other officer of any company to cause or permit the company to engage in business subject to this title after revocation of a certificate of coverage.

Any person violating any of the provisions of this subsection is guilty of a class C felony punishable under RCW 9A.20.021. [1986 c 9 § 12.]

**51.48.105 Penalties for failure to apply for coverage of employees—Not applicable, when.** The penalties provided under this title for failure to apply for coverage for employees as required by the provisions of Title 51 RCW, the worker's compensation law, shall not be applicable prior to March 1, 1972, as to any employer whose work first became subject to this title on or after January 1, 1972. [1977 ex.s. c 350 § 73; 1972 ex.s. c 78 § 1.]

**51.48.110 Decedent having no beneficiaries—Payment into supplemental pension fund.** Where death results from the injury or occupational disease and the deceased leaves no beneficiaries, a self-insurer shall pay into the supplemental pension fund the sum of ten thousand dollars. [1986 c 56 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 65.]

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.48.120 Notice of assessment for default in payments by employer—Issuance—Service—Contents.** If any employer should default in any payment due to the state fund the director or the director's designee may issue a notice of assessment certifying the amount due, which notice shall be served upon the employer by mailing such notice to the employer by certified mail to the employer's last known address or served in the manner prescribed for the service of a summons in a civil action. Such notice shall contain the information that an appeal must be filed with the board of industrial insurance appeals and the director by mail or personally within thirty days of the date of service of the notice of assessment in order to appeal the assessment unless a written request for reconsideration is filed with the department of labor and industries. [1995 c 160 § 5; 1986 c 9 § 10; 1985 c 315 § 6; 1972 ex.s. c 43 § 32.]

**51.48.131 Notice of assessment for default in payments by employer—Appeal.** A notice of assessment becomes final thirty days from the date the notice of assessment was served upon the employer unless: (1) A written request for reconsideration is filed with the department of labor and industries, or (2) an appeal is filed with the board of industrial insurance appeals and sent to the director of labor and industries by mail or delivered in person. The appeal shall not be denied solely on the basis that it was not filed with both the board and the director if it was filed with either the board or the director. The appeal shall set forth with particularity the reason for the employer's appeal and the amounts, if any, that the employer admits are due.

The department, within thirty days after receiving a notice of appeal, may modify, reverse, or change any notice of assessment, or may hold any such notice of assessment in abeyance pending further investigation, and the board shall thereupon deny the appeal, without prejudice to the employer's right to appeal from any subsequent determinative notice of assessment issued by the department.

The burden of proof rests upon the employer in an appeal to prove that the taxes and penalties assessed upon the employer in the notice of assessment are incorrect. The department shall promptly transmit its original record, or a legible copy thereof, produced by mechanical, photographic, or electronic means, in such matter to the board. RCW

51.52.080 through 51.52.106 govern appeals under this section. Further appeals taken from a final decision of the board under this section are governed by the provisions relating to judicial review of administrative decisions contained in RCW 34.05.510 through 34.05.598, and the department has the same right of review from the board's decisions as do employers. [1989 c 175 § 120; 1987 c 316 § 3; 1985 c 315 § 7.]

**Effective date—1989 c 175:** See note following RCW 34.05.010.

**51.48.140 Notice of assessment for default in payments by employer—When amount becomes final—Warrant—Execution—Garnishment—Fees.** If a notice of appeal is not served on the director and the board of industrial insurance appeals pursuant to RCW 51.48.131 within thirty days from the date of service of the notice of assessment, or if a final decision and order of the board of industrial insurance appeals in favor of the department is not appealed to superior court in the manner specified in RCW 34.05.510 through 34.05.598, or if a final decision of any court in favor of the department is not appealed within the time allowed by law, then the amount of the unappealed assessment, or such amount of the assessment as is found due by the final decision and order of the board of industrial insurance appeals or final decision of the court shall be deemed final and the director or the director's designee may file with the clerk of any county within the state a warrant in the amount of the notice of assessment. The clerk of the county wherein the warrant is filed shall immediately designate a superior court cause number for such warrant, and the clerk shall cause to be entered in the judgment docket under the superior court cause number assigned to the warrant, the name of such employer mentioned in the warrant, the amount of the taxes and penalties due thereon, and the date when such warrant was filed. The aggregate amount of such warrant as docketed shall become a lien upon the title to, and interest in all real and personal property of the employer against whom the warrant is issued, the same as a judgment in a civil case duly docketed in the office of such clerk. The sheriff shall thereupon proceed upon the same in all respects and with like effect as prescribed by law with respect to execution or other process issued against rights or property upon judgment in the superior court. Such warrant so docketed shall be sufficient to support the issuance of writs of garnishment in favor of the state in a manner provided by law in case of judgment, wholly or partially unsatisfied. The clerk of the court shall be entitled to a filing fee of five dollars, which shall be added to the amount of the warrant. A copy of such warrant shall be mailed to the employer within three days of filing with the clerk. [1989 c 175 § 121; 1985 c 315 § 8; 1972 ex.s. c 43 § 34.]

**Effective date—1989 c 175:** See note following RCW 34.05.010.

**51.48.150 Notice of assessment for default in payments by employer—Notice to withhold and deliver property due employer.** The director or the director's designee is hereby authorized to issue to any person, firm, corporation, municipal corporation, political subdivision of the state, a public corporation, or any agency of the state, a notice and order to withhold and deliver property of any

kind whatsoever when he or she has reason to believe that there is in the possession of such person, firm, corporation, municipal corporation, political subdivision of the state, public corporation, or any agency of the state, property which is or shall become due, owing, or belonging to any employer upon whom a notice of assessment has been served by the department for payments due to the state fund. The effect of a notice and order to withhold and deliver shall be continuous from the date such notice and order to withhold and deliver is first made until the liability out of which such notice and order to withhold and deliver arose is satisfied or becomes unenforceable because of lapse of time. The department shall release the notice and order to withhold and deliver when the liability out of which the notice and order to withhold and deliver arose is satisfied or becomes unenforceable by reason of lapse of time and shall notify the person against whom the notice and order to withhold and deliver was made that such notice and order to withhold and deliver has been released.

The notice and order to withhold and deliver shall be served by the sheriff of the county or by the sheriff's deputy, by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by any duly authorized representatives of the director. Any person, firm, corporation, municipal corporation, political subdivision of the state, public corporation or any agency of the state upon whom service has been made is hereby required to answer the notice within twenty days exclusive of the day of service, under oath and in writing, and shall make true answers to the matters inquired of in the notice and order to withhold and deliver. In the event there is in the possession of the party named and served with a notice and order to withhold and deliver, any property which may be subject to the claim of the department, such property shall be delivered forthwith to the director or the director's duly authorized representative upon service of the notice to withhold and deliver which will be held in trust by the director for application on the employer's indebtedness to the department, or for return without interest, in accordance with a final determination of a petition for review, or in the alternative such party shall furnish a good and sufficient surety bond satisfactory to the director conditioned upon final determination of liability. Should any party served and named in the notice to withhold and deliver fail to make answer to such notice and order to withhold and deliver, within the time prescribed herein, it shall be lawful for the court, after the time to answer such order has expired, to render judgment by default against the party named in the notice to withhold and deliver for the full amount claimed by the director in the notice to withhold and deliver together with costs. In the event that a notice to withhold and deliver is served upon an employer and the property found to be subject thereto is wages, then the employer shall be entitled to assert in the answer to all exemptions provided for by chapter 6.27 RCW to which the wage earner may be entitled. [1995 c 160 § 6; 1987 c 442 § 1119; 1986 c 9 § 11; 1972 ex.s. c 43 § 35.]

**51.48.160 Revocation of certificate of coverage for failure to pay warrants or taxes.** If any warrant issued under this title is not paid within thirty days after it has been filed with the clerk of the superior court, or if any employer is delinquent, for three consecutive reporting periods, in the

transmission to the department of taxes due, the department may, by order issued under its official seal, revoke the certificate of coverage of the employer against whom the warrant was issued; and if the order is entered, a copy thereof shall be posted in a conspicuous place at the main entrance to the employer's place of business and shall remain posted until such time as the warrant has been paid. Any certificate so revoked shall not be reinstated, nor shall a new certificate of coverage be issued to the employer, until the amount due on the warrant has been paid, or provisions for payment satisfactory to the department have been entered, and until the taxpayer has deposited with the department such security for payment of any taxes, increases, and penalties, due or which may become due in an amount and under such terms and conditions as the department may require, but the amount of the security shall not be greater than one-half the estimated average annual taxes of the employer. [1986 c 9 § 13.]

**51.48.170 Emergency assessment and collection of taxes.** If the director or the director's designee has reason to believe that an employer is insolvent or about to cease business, leave the state, or remove or dissipate assets out of which taxes or penalties might be satisfied, and the collection of any taxes accrued will be jeopardized by delaying collection, the director or the director's designee may make an immediate assessment thereof and may proceed to enforce collection immediately under the terms of RCW 51.48.180 and 51.48.190, but interest and penalties shall not begin to accrue upon any taxes until the date when such taxes would normally have become delinquent. [1986 c 9 § 14.]

**51.48.180 Emergency assessment and collection of taxes—Distrain and sale of property.** If the amount of taxes, interest, or penalties assessed by the director or the director's designee by order and notice of assessment pursuant to RCW 51.48.170 is not paid within ten days after the service or mailing of the order and notice of assessment, the director or the director's designee may collect the amount stated in said assessment by the distraint, seizure, and sale of the property, goods, chattels, and effects of the delinquent employer. There shall be exempt from distraint and sale under this section such goods and property as are exempt from execution under the laws of this state. [1986 c 9 § 15.]

**51.48.190 Emergency assessment and collection of taxes—Distrain and sale of property—Conduct of sale.** The director or the director's designee, upon making a distraint pursuant to RCW 51.48.170 and 51.48.180, shall seize the property and shall make an inventory of the property distrained, a copy of which shall be mailed to the owner of such property or personally delivered to the owner, and shall specify the time and place when the property shall be sold. A notice specifying the property to be sold and the time and place of sale shall be posted in at least two public places in the county wherein the seizure has been made. The time of sale shall be not less than twenty days from the date of posting of such notices. The sale may be adjourned from time to time at the discretion of the director or the director's designee, but not for a time to exceed in all sixty



days. No sale shall take place if an appeal is pending. The sale shall be conducted by the director or the director's designee who shall proceed to sell such property by parcel or by lot at a public auction, and who may set a minimum price to include the expenses of making a levy and of advertising the sale, and if the amount bid for such property at the sale is not equal to the minimum price so fixed, the director or the director's designee may declare such property to be purchased by the department for such minimum price. In such event the delinquent account shall be credited with the amount for which the property has been sold. Property acquired by the department as herein prescribed may be sold by the director or the director's designee at public or private sale, and the amount realized shall be placed in the state of Washington industrial insurance fund.

In all cases of sale, as aforesaid, the director or the director's designee shall issue a bill of sale or a deed to the purchaser and the bill of sale or deed shall be prima facie evidence of the right of the director or the director's designee to make such sale and conclusive evidence of the regularity of the proceeding in making the sale, and shall transfer to the purchaser all right, title, and interest of the delinquent employer in said property. The proceeds of any such sale, except in those cases wherein the property has been acquired by the department, shall be first applied by the director or the director's designee in satisfaction of the delinquent account, and out of any sum received in excess of the amount of delinquent taxes, interest, and penalties the industrial insurance fund shall be reimbursed for the costs of distraint and sale. Any excess which shall thereafter remain in the hands of the director or the director's designee shall be refunded to the delinquent employer. Sums so refundable to a delinquent employer may be subject to seizure or distraint in the hands of the director or the director's designee by any other taxing authority of the state or its political subdivisions. [1986 c 9 § 16.]

**51.48.200 Search and seizure of property to satisfy tax warrant or assessment—Issuance and execution of search warrant.** (1) When there is probable cause to believe that there is property within this state not otherwise exempt from process or execution in the possession or control of any employer against whom a tax warrant issued under RCW 51.48.140 has been filed which remains unsatisfied, or an assessment issued pursuant to RCW 51.48.170, any judge of the superior court or district court in the county in which such property is located may, upon the request of the sheriff or agent of the department authorized to collect taxes, issue a warrant directed to the officers commanding the search for and seizure of the property described in the request for warrant.

(2) The procedure for the issuance, and execution and return of the warrant authorized by this section and for return of any property seized shall be the criminal rules of the superior court and the district court.

(3) The sheriff or agent of the department shall levy execution upon property seized under this section as provided in RCW 51.48.220 and 51.48.230.

(4) This section does not require the application for or issuance of any warrant not otherwise required by law. [1986 c 9 § 17.]

**51.48.210 Delinquent taxes—Penalties.** If payment of any tax due is not received by the department by the due date, there shall be assessed a penalty of five percent of the amount of the tax for the first month or part thereof of delinquency; there shall be assessed a total penalty of ten percent of the amount of the tax for the second month or part thereof of delinquency; and there shall be assessed a total penalty of twenty percent of the amount of the tax for the third month or part thereof of delinquency. No penalty so added may be less than ten dollars. If a warrant is issued by the department for the collection of taxes, increases, and penalties, there shall be added thereto a penalty of five percent of the amount of the tax, but not less than five dollars nor greater than one hundred dollars. In addition, delinquent taxes shall bear interest at the rate of one percent of the delinquent amount per month or fraction thereof from and after the due date until payment, increases, and penalties are received by the department. [1987 c 111 § 8; 1986 c 9 § 18.]

**Conflict with federal requirements—Severability—Effective date—**1987 c 111: See notes following RCW 50.12.220.

**51.48.220 Order of execution upon property—Procedure—Sale.** The department may issue an order of execution, pursuant to a filed warrant, under its official seal directed to the sheriff of the county in which the warrant has been filed, commanding the sheriff to levy upon and sell the real and/or personal property of the taxpayer found within the county, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the payment of the amount of the warrant, plus the cost of executing the warrant, and return the warrant to the department and pay to it the money collected by virtue thereof within sixty days after the receipt of the warrant. The sheriff shall thereupon proceed upon the same in all respects and with like effect as prescribed by law with respect to execution or other process issued against rights or property upon judgments of the superior court.

The sheriff shall be entitled to fees as provided by law for services in levying execution on a superior court judgment and the clerk shall be entitled to a filing fee as provided by law, which shall be added to the amount of the warrant.

The proceeds received from any sale shall be credited upon the amount due under the warrant and when the final amount due is received, together with interest, penalties, and costs, the judgment docket shall show the claim for taxes to be satisfied and the clerk of the court shall so note upon the docket. Any surplus received from any sale of property shall be paid to the taxpayer or to any lien holder entitled thereto. If the return on the warrant shows that the same has not been satisfied in full, the amount of the deficiency shall remain the same as a judgment against the taxpayer which may be collected in the same manner as the original amount of the warrant. [1986 c 9 § 21.]

**51.48.230 Order of execution upon property—Agents of department authorized to enforce.** In the discretion of the department, an order of execution of like terms, force, and effect may be issued and directed to any agent of the department authorized to collect taxes, and in the execution thereof such agent shall have all the powers

conferred by law upon sheriffs, but shall not be entitled to any fee or compensation in excess of the actual expenses paid in the performance of such duty, which shall be added to the amount of the warrant. [1986 c 9 § 22.]

**51.48.240 Agents and employees of department not personally liable—Conditions.** When recovery is had in any suit or proceeding against an officer, agent, or employee of the department for any act done by that person or for the recovery of any money exacted by or paid to that person and by that person paid over to the department, in the performance of the person's official duty, and the court certifies that there was probable cause for the act done by such officer, agent, or employee, or that he or she acted under the direction of the department or an officer thereof, no execution shall issue against such officer, agent, or employee, but the amount so recovered shall, upon final judgment, be paid by the department as an expense of operation. [1986 c 9 § 23.]

**51.48.250 Liability of persons wilfully obtaining erroneous payments—Civil penalties.** (1) No person, firm, corporation, partnership, association, agency, institution, or other legal entity, but not including an industrially injured recipient of health service, shall, on behalf of himself or others, obtain or attempt to obtain payments under this chapter in a greater amount than that to which entitled by means of:

- (a) A wilful false statement;
- (b) Wilful misrepresentation, or by concealment of any material facts; or
- (c) Other fraudulent scheme or device, including, but not limited to:
  - (i) Billing for services, drugs, supplies, or equipment that were not furnished, of lower quality, or a substitution or misrepresentation of items billed; or
  - (ii) Repeated billing for purportedly covered items, which were not in fact so covered.

(2) Any person, firm, corporation, partnership, association, agency, institution, or other legal entity knowingly violating any of the provisions of subsection (1) of this section shall be liable for repayment of any excess payments received, plus interest on the amount of the excess benefits or payments at the rate of one percent each month for the period from the date upon which payment was made to the date upon which repayment is made to the state. Such person or other entity shall further, in addition to any other penalties provided by law, be subject to civil penalties. The director of the department of labor and industries may assess civil penalties in an amount not to exceed the greater of one thousand dollars or three times the amount of such excess benefits or payments: PROVIDED, That these civil penalties shall not apply to any acts or omissions occurring prior to April 1, 1986.

(3) A criminal action need not be brought against a person, firm, corporation, partnership, association, agency, institution, or other legal entity for that person or entity to be civilly liable under this section.

(4) Civil penalties shall be deposited in the general fund upon their receipt. [1986 c 200 § 4.]

**51.48.260 Liability of persons unintentionally obtaining erroneous payments.** Any person, firm, corporation, partnership, association, agency, institution, or other legal entity, but not including an industrially injured recipient of health services, that, without intent to violate this chapter, obtains payments under Title 51 RCW to which such person or entity is not entitled, shall be liable for: (1) Any excess payments received; and (2) interest on the amount of excess payments at the rate of one percent each month for the period from the date upon which payment was made to the date upon which repayment is made to the state. [1986 c 200 § 3.]

**51.48.270 Criminal liability of persons making false statements or concealing information.** Any person, firm, corporation, partnership, association, agency, institution, or other legal entity, but not including an injured worker or beneficiary, that:

(1) Knowingly makes or causes to be made any false statement or representation of a material fact in any application for any payment under this title; or

(2) At any time knowingly makes or causes to be made any false statement or representation of a material fact for use in determining rights to such payment, or knowingly falsifies, conceals, or covers up by any trick, scheme, or device a material fact in connection with such application or payment; or

(3) Having knowledge of the occurrence of any event affecting (a) the initial or continued right to any payment, or (b) the initial or continued right to any such payment of any other individual in whose behalf he or she has applied for or is receiving such payment, conceals or fails to disclose such event with an intent fraudulently to secure such payment either in a greater amount or quantity than is due or when no such payment is authorized;

shall be guilty of a class C felony: PROVIDED, That the fine, if imposed, shall not be in an amount more than twenty-five thousand dollars, except as authorized by RCW 9A.20.030. [1987 c 470 § 2; 1986 c 200 § 5.]

**51.48.280 Criminal liability for offering, soliciting, or receiving kickback, bribe, or rebate—Exceptions.** (1) Any person, firm, corporation, partnership, association, agency, institution, or other legal entity, that solicits or receives any remuneration (including any kickback, bribe, or rebate) directly or indirectly, overtly or covertly, in cash or in kind:

(a) In return for referring an individual to a person for the furnishing or arranging for the furnishing of any item or service for which payment may be made in whole or in part under this chapter; or

(b) In return for purchasing, leasing, ordering, or arranging for or recommending purchasing, leasing, or ordering any goods, facility, service, or item for which payment may be made in whole or in part under this chapter; shall be guilty of a class C felony: PROVIDED, That the fine, if imposed, shall not be in an amount more than twenty-five thousand dollars, except as authorized by RCW 9A.20.030.

(2) Any person, firm, corporation, partnership, association, agency, institution, or other legal entity, that offers or

pays any remuneration (including any kickback, bribe, or rebate) directly or indirectly, overtly or covertly, in cash or in kind to any person to induce such person:

(a) To refer an individual to a person for the furnishing or arranging for the furnishing of any item or service for which payment may be made, in whole or in part, under this chapter; or

(b) To purchase, lease, order, or arrange for or recommend purchasing, leasing, or ordering any goods, facility, service, or item for which payment may be made in whole or in part under this chapter; shall be guilty of a class C felony: PROVIDED, That the fine, if imposed, shall not be in an amount more than twenty-five thousand dollars, except as authorized by RCW 9A.20.030.

(3) Subsections (1) and (2) of this section shall not apply to:

(a) A discount or other reduction in price obtained by a provider of services or other entity under this chapter if the reduction in price is properly disclosed and appropriately reflected in the costs claimed or charges made by the provider or entity under this chapter; and

(b) Any amount paid by an employer to an employee (who has a bona fide employment relationship with such employer) for employment in the provision of covered items or services.

(4) Subsections (1) and (2) of this section, if applicable to the conduct involved, shall supersede the criminal provisions of chapter 19.68 RCW, but shall not preclude administrative proceedings authorized by chapter 19.68 RCW. [1986 c 200 § 6.]

**51.48.290 Director may require written verification by health services providers—Penalties.** The director of the department of labor and industries may by rule require that any application, statement, or form filled out by any health services provider under this title shall contain or be verified by a written statement that it is made under the penalties of perjury and such declaration shall be in lieu of any oath otherwise required, and each such paper shall in such event so state. The making or subscribing of any such papers or forms containing any false or misleading information may be prosecuted and punished under chapter 9A.72 RCW. [1986 c 200 § 7.]

## Chapter 51.52 APPEALS

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### 51.52.010 Board of industrial insurance appeals.

There shall be a "board of industrial insurance appeals," hereinafter called the "board," consisting of three members appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the senate, as hereinafter provided. One shall be a representative of the public and a lawyer, appointed from a mutually agreed to list of not less than three active members of the Washington state bar association, submitted to the governor by the two organizations defined below, and such member shall be the chairperson of said board. The second member shall be a representative of the majority of workers engaged in employment under this title and selected from a list of not less than three names submitted to the governor by an organization, state-wide in scope, which through its affiliates embraces a cross section and a majority of the organized labor of the state. The third member shall be a representative of employers under this title, and appointed from a list of at least three names submitted to the governor by a recognized state-wide organization of employers, representing a majority of employers. The initial terms of office of the members of the board shall be for six, four, and two years respectively. Thereafter all terms shall be for a period of six years. Each member of the board shall be eligible for reappointment and shall hold office until his or her successor is appointed and qualified. In the event of a vacancy the governor is authorized to appoint a successor to fill the unexpired term of his or her predecessor. All appointments to the board shall be made in conformity with the foregoing plan. Whenever the workload of the board and its orderly and expeditious disposition shall necessitate, the governor may appoint two additional pro-tem members in addition to the regular members. Such appointments shall be for a definite period of time, and shall be made from lists submitted respectively by labor and industry as in the case of regular members. One pro-tem member shall be a representative of labor and one shall be a representative of industry. Members shall devote their entire time to the duties of the board and shall receive for their services a salary as fixed by the governor in accordance with the provisions of RCW 43.03.040 which shall be in addition to travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060 as now existing or hereafter amended. Headquarters for the board

shall be located in Olympia. The board shall adopt a seal which shall be judicially recognized. [1981 c 338 § 10; 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 74; 1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34 § 151; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 68; 1965 ex.s. c 165 § 3; 1961 c 307 § 8; 1961 c 23 § 51.52.010. Prior: 1951 c 225 § 1; prior: 1949 c 219 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 10837-1.]

**Effective date—Severability—1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 34:** See notes following RCW 2.08.115.

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.52.020 Board—Rule-making power.** The board may make rules and regulations concerning its functions and procedure, which shall have the force and effect of law until altered, repealed, or set aside by the board: **PROVIDED,** That the board may not delegate to any other person its duties of interpreting the testimony and making the final decision and order on appeal cases. All rules and regulations adopted by the board shall be printed and copies thereof shall be readily available to the public. [1961 c 23 § 51.52.020. Prior: 1951 c 225 § 2; prior: 1949 c 219 § 3, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 10837-2, part.]

**51.52.030 Board—Expenses.** The board may incur such expenses as are reasonably necessary to carry out its duties hereunder, which expenses shall be paid, one-half from the accident fund and one-half from the medical aid fund upon vouchers approved by the board. [1961 c 23 § 51.52.030. Prior: 1951 c 225 § 3; prior: 1949 c 219 § 3, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 10837-2, part.]

**51.52.040 Board—Removal of member.** Any member of the board may be removed for inefficiency, malfeasance or misfeasance in office, upon specific written charges filed by the governor, who shall transmit the original of such written charges to the chief justice of the supreme court and a copy thereof to the member accused. The chief justice shall thereupon designate a special tribunal composed of three judges of the superior court to hear and adjudicate the charges. Such tribunal shall fix the time, place and procedure for the hearing, and the hearing shall be public. The decision of such tribunal shall be final and not subject to review. [1961 c 23 § 51.52.040. Prior: 1951 c 225 § 4; prior: 1949 c 219 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 10837-3.]

**51.52.050 Copy of departmental action to be served—Demand for repayment by service provider—Reconsideration or appeal of departmental action.** Whenever the department has made any order, decision, or award, it shall promptly serve the worker, beneficiary, employer, or other person affected thereby, with a copy thereof by mail, which shall be addressed to such person at his or her last known address as shown by the records of the department. The copy, in case the same is a final order, decision, or award, shall bear on the same side of the same page on which is found the amount of the award, a statement, set in black faced type of at least ten point body or size, that such final order, decision, or award shall become final within sixty days from the date the order is communicated to the parties unless a written request for reconsideration is filed with the department of labor and industries,

Olympia, or an appeal is filed with the board of industrial insurance appeals, Olympia: **PROVIDED,** That a department order or decision making demand, whether with or without penalty, for repayment of sums paid to a provider of medical, dental, vocational, or other health services rendered to an industrially injured worker, shall state that such order or decision shall become final within twenty days from the date the order or decision is communicated to the parties unless a written request for reconsideration is filed with the department of labor and industries, Olympia, or an appeal is filed with the board of industrial insurance appeals, Olympia.

Whenever the department has taken any action or made any decision relating to any phase of the administration of this title the worker, beneficiary, employer, or other person aggrieved thereby may request reconsideration of the department, or may appeal to the board. In an appeal before the board, the appellant shall have the burden of proceeding with the evidence to establish a prima facie case for the relief sought in such appeal: **PROVIDED,** That in an appeal from an order of the department that alleges fraud, the department or self-insured employer shall initially introduce all evidence in its case in chief. Any such person aggrieved by the decision and order of the board may thereafter appeal to the superior court, as prescribed in this chapter. [1987 c 151 § 1; 1986 c 200 § 10; 1985 c 315 § 9; 1982 c 109 § 4; 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 75; 1975 1st ex.s. c 58 § 1; 1961 c 23 § 51.52.050. Prior: 1957 c 70 § 55; 1951 c 225 § 5; prior: (i) 1947 c 281 § 1, part; 1943 c 210 § 1, part; 1939 c 41 § 1, part; 1937 c 211 § 1, part; 1927 c 310 § 1, part; 1921 c 182 § 1, part; 1919 c 131 § 1, part; 1911 c 74 § 2, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7674, part. (ii) 1947 c 247 § 1, part; 1911 c 74 § 20, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7676e, part. (iii) 1949 c 219 § 6, part; 1943 c 280 § 1, part; 1931 c 90 § 1, part; 1929 c 132 § 6, part; 1927 c 310 § 8, part; 1911 c 74 § 20, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7697, part. (iv) 1923 c 136 § 7, part; 1921 c 182 § 10, part; 1917 c 29 § 3, part; RRS § 7712, part. (v) 1917 c 29 § 11; RRS § 7720. (vi) 1939 c 50 § 1, part; 1927 c 310 § 9, part; 1921 c 182 § 12, part; 1919 c 129 § 5, part; 1917 c 28 § 15, part; RRS § 7724, part.]

**51.52.060 Notice of appeal—Time—Cross-appeal—Department may modify, reverse, change, or hold in abeyance—Denial of appeal without prejudice—Exception.** (1)(a) Except as otherwise specifically provided in this section, a worker, beneficiary, employer, health services provider, or other person aggrieved by an order, decision, or award of the department must, before he or she appeals to the courts, file with the board and the director, by mail or personally, within sixty days from the day on which a copy of the order, decision, or award was communicated to such person, a notice of appeal to the board. However, a health services provider or other person aggrieved by a department order or decision making demand, whether with or without penalty, solely for repayment of sums paid to a provider of medical, dental, vocational, or other health services rendered to an industrially injured worker must, before he or she appeals to the courts, file with the board and the director, by mail or personally, within twenty days from the day on which a copy of the order or decision was communicated to the health services provider upon whom

the department order or decision was served, a notice of appeal to the board.

(b) Failure to file a notice of appeal with both the board and the department shall not be grounds for denying the appeal if the notice of appeal is filed with either the board or the department.

(2) Within ten days of the date on which an appeal has been granted by the board, the board shall notify the other interested parties to the appeal of the receipt of the appeal and shall forward a copy of the notice of appeal to the other interested parties. Within twenty days of the receipt of such notice of the board, the worker or the employer may file with the board a cross-appeal from the order of the department from which the original appeal was taken.

(3) If within the time limited for filing a notice of appeal to the board from an order, decision, or award of the department, the department directs the submission of further evidence or the investigation of any further fact, the time for filing the notice of appeal shall not commence to run until the person has been advised in writing of the final decision of the department in the matter. In the event the department directs the submission of further evidence or the investigation of any further fact, as provided in this section, the department shall render a final order, decision, or award within ninety days from the date further submission of evidence or investigation of further fact is ordered which time period may be extended by the department for good cause stated in writing to all interested parties for an additional ninety days.

(4) The department, either within the time limited for appeal, or within thirty days after receiving a notice of appeal, may:

(a) Modify, reverse, or change any order, decision, or award; or

(b)(i) Except as provided in (b)(ii) of this subsection, hold an order, decision, or award in abeyance for a period of ninety days which time period may be extended by the department for good cause stated in writing to all interested parties for an additional ninety days pending further investigation in light of the allegations of the notice of appeal; or

(ii) Hold an order, decision, or award issued under RCW 51.32.160 in abeyance for a period not to exceed ninety days from the date of receipt of an application under RCW 51.32.160. The department may extend the ninety-day time period for an additional sixty days for good cause.

For purposes of this subsection, good cause includes delay that results from conduct of the claimant that is subject to sanction under RCW 51.32.110.

The board shall deny the appeal upon the issuance of an order under (b)(i) or (ii) of this subsection holding an earlier order, decision, or award in abeyance, without prejudice to the appellant's right to appeal from any subsequent determinative order issued by the department.

This subsection (4)(b) does not apply to applications deemed granted under RCW 51.32.160.

(5) An employer shall have the right to appeal an application deemed granted under RCW 51.32.160 on the same basis as any other application adjudicated pursuant to that section.

(6) A provision of this section shall not be deemed to change, alter, or modify the practice or procedure of the department for the payment of awards pending appeal.

[1995 c 253 § 1; 1995 c 199 § 7; 1986 c 200 § 11; 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 76; 1975 1st ex.s. c 58 § 2; 1963 c 148 § 1; 1961 c 274 § 8; 1961 c 23 § 51.52.060. Prior: 1957 c 70 § 56; 1951 c 225 § 6; prior: 1949 c 219 §§ 1, part, 6, part; 1947 c 246 § 1, part; 1943 c 280 § 1, part; 1931 c 90 § 1, part; 1929 c 132 §§ 2, part, 6, part; 1927 c 310 §§ 4, part, 8, part; 1923 c 136 § 2, part; 1919 c 134 § 4, part; 1917 c 28 § 1, part; 1913 c 148 § 1, part; 1911 c 74 §§ 5, part, 20, part; Rem Supp. 1949 §§ 7679, part, 7697, part.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1995 c 199 § 7 and by 1995 c 253 § 1, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section pursuant to RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Severability—1995 c 199:** See note following RCW 51.12.120.

**51.52.070 Contents of notice—Transmittal of record.** The notice of appeal to the board shall set forth in full detail the grounds upon which the person appealing considers such order, decision, or award is unjust or unlawful, and shall include every issue to be considered by the board, and it must contain a detailed statement of facts upon which such worker, beneficiary, employer, or other person relies in support thereof. The worker, beneficiary, employer, or other person shall be deemed to have waived all objections or irregularities concerning the matter on which such appeal is taken other than those specifically set forth in such notice of appeal or appearing in the records of the department. The department shall promptly transmit its original record, or a legible copy thereof produced by mechanical, photographic, or electronic means, in such matter to the board. [1977 ex.s. c 350 § 77; 1975 1st ex.s. c 224 § 18; 1975 1st ex.s. c 58 § 3; 1961 c 23 § 51.52.070. Prior: 1957 c 70 § 57; 1951 c 225 § 7; prior: 1949 c 219 § 6, part; 1943 c 280 § 1, part; 1931 c 90 § 1, part; 1929 c 132 § 6, part; 1927 c 310 § 8, part; 1911 c 74 § 20, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7697, part.]

**Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 224:** See note following RCW 51.04.110.

**51.52.080 Appeal to board denied, when.** If the notice of appeal raises no issue or issues of fact and the board finds that the department properly and lawfully decided all matters raised by such appeal it may, without further hearing, deny the same and confirm the department's decision or award, or if the department's record sustains the contention of the person appealing to the board, it may, without further hearing, allow the relief asked in such appeal; otherwise, it shall grant the appeal. [1971 ex.s. c 289 § 69; 1963 c 148 § 2; 1961 c 23 § 51.52.080. Prior: 1957 c 70 § 58; 1951 c 225 § 8; prior: 1949 c 219 § 6, part; 1943 c 280 § 1, part; 1931 c 90 § 1, part; 1929 c 132 § 6, part; 1927 c 310 § 8, part; 1911 c 74 § 20, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7697, part.]

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.52.090 Appeal to board deemed granted, when.** If the appeal is not denied within thirty days after the notice is filed with the board, the appeal shall be deemed to have been granted: PROVIDED, That the board may extend the time within which it may act upon such appeal, not exceeding thirty days. [1971 ex.s. c 289 § 70; 1961 c 23 §

51.52.090. Prior: 1957 c 70 § 59; 1951 c 225 § 9; prior: 1949 c 219 § 6, part; 1943 c 280 § 1, part; 1931 c 90 § 1, part; 1929 c 132 § 6, part; 1927 c 310 § 8, part; 1911 c 74 § 20, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7697, part.]

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.52.095 Conference for disposal of matters involved in appeal—Mediation of disputes.** (1) The board, upon request of the worker, beneficiary, or employer, or upon its own motion, may direct all parties interested in an appeal, together with their attorneys, if any, to appear before it, a member of the board, or an authorized industrial appeals judge, for a conference for the purpose of determining the feasibility of settlement, the simplification of issues of law and fact, the necessity of amendments to the notice of appeal or other pleadings, the possibility of obtaining admissions of fact and of documents which will avoid unnecessary proof, the limitation of the number of expert witnesses, and such other matters as may aid in the disposition of the appeal. Such conference may be held prior to the hearing, or it may be held during the hearing, at the discretion of the board member or industrial appeals judge conducting the same, in which case the hearing will be recessed for such conference. Following the conference, the board member or industrial appeals judge conducting the same, shall state on the record the results of such conference, and the parties present or their representatives shall state their concurrence on the record. Such agreement as stated on the record shall control the subsequent course of the proceedings, unless modified at a subsequent hearing to prevent manifest injustice. If agreement concerning final disposition of the appeal is reached by the parties present at the conference, or by the employer and worker or beneficiary, the board may enter a final decision and order in accordance therewith, providing the board finds such agreement is in conformity with the law and the facts.

(2) In order to carry out subsection (1) of this section, the board shall develop expertise to mediate disputes informally. Where possible, industrial appeals judges with a demonstrated history of successfully resolving disputes or who have received training in dispute resolution techniques shall be appointed to perform mediation functions. No industrial appeals judge who mediates in a particular appeal may, without the consent of the parties, participate in writing the proposed decision and order in the appeal: **PROVIDED**, That this shall not prevent an industrial appeals judge from issuing a proposed decision and order responsive to a motion for summary disposition or similar motion. This section shall not operate to prevent the board from developing additional methods and procedures to encourage resolution of disputes by agreement or otherwise making efforts to reduce adjudication time. [1986 c 10 § 1; 1985 c 209 § 2; 1982 c 109 § 7; 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 78; 1963 c 148 § 3; 1963 c 6 § 1; 1961 c 23 § 51.52.095. Prior: 1951 c 225 § 10.]

**51.52.100 Proceedings before board—Contempt.** Hearings shall be held in the county of the residence of the worker or beneficiary, or in the county where the injury occurred, at a place designated by the board. Such hearing

shall be de novo and summary, but no witness' testimony shall be received unless he or she shall first have been sworn to testify the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth in the matter being heard, or unless his or her testimony shall have been taken by deposition according to the statutes and rules relating to superior courts of this state. The department shall be entitled to appear in all proceedings before the board and introduce testimony in support of its order. The board shall cause all oral testimony to be stenographically reported and thereafter transcribed, and when transcribed, the same, with all depositions, shall be filed in, and remain a part of, the record on the appeal. Such hearings on appeal to the board may be conducted by one or more of its members, or a duly authorized industrial appeals judge, and depositions may be taken by a person duly commissioned for the purpose by the board.

Members of the board, its duly authorized industrial appeals judges, and all persons duly commissioned by it for the purpose of taking depositions, shall have power to administer oaths; to preserve and enforce order during such hearings; to issue subpoenas for, and to compel the attendance and testimony of, witnesses, or the production of books, papers, documents, and other evidence, or the taking of depositions before any designated individual competent to administer oaths, and it shall be their duty so to do to examine witnesses; and to do all things conformable to law which may be necessary to enable them, or any of them, effectively to discharge the duties of his or her office.

If any person in proceedings before the board disobeys or resists any lawful order or process, or misbehaves during a hearing or so near the place thereof as to obstruct the same, or neglects to produce, after having been ordered so to do, any pertinent book, paper or document, or refuses to appear after having been subpoenaed, or upon appearing refuses to take oath as a witness, or after having the oath refuses to be examined according to law, the board or any member or duly authorized industrial appeals judge may certify the facts to the superior court having jurisdiction in the place in which said board or member or industrial appeals judge is sitting; the court shall thereupon, in a summary manner, hear the evidence as to the acts complained of, and, if the evidence so warrants, punish such person in the same manner and to the same extent as for a contempt committed before the court, or commit such person upon the same conditions as if the doing of the forbidden act had occurred with reference to the proceedings, or in the presence, of the court. [1982 c 109 § 8; 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 79; 1963 c 148 § 4; 1961 c 23 § 51.52.100. Prior: 1957 c 70 § 60; 1951 c 225 § 11; prior: 1949 c 219 § 6, part; 1943 c 280 § 1, part; 1931 c 90 § 1, part; 1929 c 132 § 6, part; 1927 c 310 § 8, part; 1911 c 74 § 20, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7697, part.]

**51.52.102 Hearing the appeal—Dismissal for failure to present evidence—Evidence—Continuances.** At the time and place fixed for hearing each party shall present all his evidence with respect to the issues raised in the notice of appeal, and if any party fails so to do, the board may determine the issues upon such evidence as may be presented to it at said hearing, or if an appealing party who has the burden of going forward with the evidence fails to present

any evidence, the board may dismiss the appeal: PROVIDED, That for good cause shown in the record to prevent hardship, the board may grant continuances upon application of any party, but such continuances, when granted, shall be to a time and place certain within the county where the initial hearing was held unless it shall appear that a continuance elsewhere is required in justice to interested parties: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That the board may continue hearings on its own motion to secure in an impartial manner such evidence, in addition to that presented by the parties, as the board, in its opinion, deems necessary to decide the appeal fairly and equitably, but such additional evidence shall be received subject to any objection as to its admissibility, and, if admitted in evidence all parties shall be given full opportunity for cross-examination and to present rebuttal evidence. [1963 c 148 § 5; 1961 c 23 § 51.52.102. Prior: 1951 c 225 § 12.]

**51.52.104 Industrial appeals judge—Recommended decision and order—Petition for review—Finality of order not subject to petition for review.** After all evidence has been presented at hearings conducted by an industrial appeals judge, who shall be an active member of the Washington state bar association, the industrial appeals judge shall enter a proposed or recommended decision and order which shall be in writing and shall contain findings and conclusions as to each contested issue of fact and law, as well as the order based thereon. The industrial appeals judge shall file the signed original of the proposed decision and order with the board, and copies thereof shall be mailed by the board to each party to the appeal and to each party's attorney or representative of record. Within twenty days, or such further time as the board may allow on written application of a party, filed within said twenty days from the date of communication of the proposed decision and order to the parties or their attorneys or representatives of record, any party may file with the board a written petition for review of the same. Filing of a petition for review is perfected by mailing or personally delivering the petition to the board's offices in Olympia. Such petition for review shall set forth in detail the grounds therefor and the party or parties filing the same shall be deemed to have waived all objections or irregularities not specifically set forth therein.

In the event no petition for review is filed as provided herein by any party, the proposed decision and order of the industrial appeals judge shall be adopted by the board and become the decision and order of the board, and no appeal may be taken therefrom to the courts. If an order adopting the proposed decision and order is not formally signed by the board on the day following the date the petition for review of the proposed decision and order is due, said proposed decision and order shall be deemed adopted by the board and become the decision and order of the board, and no appeal may be taken therefrom to the courts. [1985 c 314 § 1; 1982 c 109 § 5; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 22; 1963 c 148 § 6.]

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.52.106 Review of decision and order by board.** After the filing of a petition or petitions for review as

provided for in RCW 51.52.104, the proposed decision and order of the industrial appeals judge, petition or petitions for review and, in its discretion, the record or any part thereof, may be considered by the board and on agreement of at least two of the regular members thereof, the board may, within twenty days after the receipt of such petition or petitions, decline to review the proposed decision and order and thereupon deny the petition or petitions. In such event all parties shall forthwith be notified in writing of said denial: PROVIDED, That if a petition for review is not denied within said twenty days it shall be deemed to have been granted. If the petition for review is granted, the proposed decision and order, the petition or petitions for review and the record or any part thereof deemed necessary shall be considered by a panel of at least two of the members of the board, on which not more than one industry and one labor member serve. The chairman may be a member of any panel. The decision and order of any such panel shall be the decision and order of the board. Every final decision and order rendered by the board shall be in writing and shall contain findings and conclusions as to each contested issue of fact and law, as well as the board's order based thereon. The board shall, in all cases, render a final decision and order within one hundred and eighty days from the date a petition for review is filed. A copy of the decision and order, including the findings and conclusions, shall be mailed to each party to the appeal and to his attorney of record. [1982 c 109 § 9; 1975 1st ex.s. c 58 § 4; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 23; 1965 ex.s. c 165 § 4; 1963 c 148 § 7; 1961 c 23 § 51.52.106. Prior: 1951 c 225 § 13.]

**Effective dates—Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289:** See RCW 51.98.060 and 51.98.070.

**51.52.110 Court appeal—Taking the appeal.** Within thirty days after a decision of the board to deny the petition or petitions for review upon such appeal has been communicated to such worker, beneficiary, employer or other person, or within thirty days after the final decision and order of the board upon such appeal has been communicated to such worker, beneficiary, employer or other person, or within thirty days after the appeal is denied as herein provided, such worker, beneficiary, employer or other person aggrieved by the decision and order of the board may appeal to the superior court. If such worker, beneficiary, employer, or other person fails to file with the superior court its appeal as provided in this section within said thirty days, the decision of the board to deny the petition or petitions for review or the final decision and order of the board shall become final.

In cases involving injured workers, an appeal to the superior court shall be to the superior court of the county of residence of the worker or beneficiary, as shown by the department's records, or to the superior court of the county wherein the injury occurred or where neither the county of residence nor the county wherein the injury occurred are in the state of Washington then the appeal may be directed to the superior court for Thurston county. In all other cases the appeal shall be to the superior court of Thurston county. Such appeal shall be perfected by filing with the clerk of the court a notice of appeal and by serving a copy thereof by mail, or personally, on the director and on the board. If the case is one involving a self-insurer, a copy of the notice of appeal shall also be served by mail, or personally, on such

self-insurer. The department shall, in all cases not involving a self-insurer, within twenty days after the receipt of such notice of appeal, serve and file its notice of appearance and such appeal shall thereupon be deemed at issue. If the case is one involving a self-insurer, such self-insurer shall, within twenty days after receipt of such notice of appeal, serve and file its notice of appearance and such appeal shall thereupon be deemed to be at issue. In such cases the department may appear and take part in any proceedings. The board shall serve upon the appealing party, the director, the self-insurer if the case involves a self-insurer, and any other party appearing at the board's proceeding, and file with the clerk of the court before trial, a certified copy of the board's official record which shall include the notice of appeal and other pleadings, testimony and exhibits, and the board's decision and order, which shall become the record in such case. No bond shall be required on appeals to the superior court or on review by the supreme court or the court of appeals, except that an appeal by the employer from a decision and order of the board under \*RCW 51.48.070, shall be ineffectual unless, within five days following the service of notice thereof, a bond, with surety satisfactory to the court, shall be filed, conditioned to perform the judgment of the court. Except in the case last named an appeal shall not be a stay: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That whenever the board has made any decision and order reversing an order of the supervisor of industrial insurance on questions of law or mandatory administrative actions of the director, the department shall have the right of appeal to the superior court. [1988 c 202 § 49; 1982 c 109 § 6; 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 80; 1973 c 40 § 1. Prior: 1972 ex.s. c 50 § 1; 1972 ex.s. c 43 § 36; 1971 ex.s. c 289 § 24; 1971 c 81 § 122; 1961 c 23 § 51.52.110; prior: 1957 c 70 § 61; 1951 c 225 § 14; prior: 1949 c 219 § 6, part; 1943 c 280 § 1, part; 1931 c 90 § 1, part; 1929 c 132 § 6, part; 1927 c 310 § 8, part; 1911 c 74 § 20, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7697, part.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 51.48.070 was repealed by 1996 c 60 § 2.

Rules of court: Cf. Title 8 RAP, RAP 18.22.

Severability—1988 c 202: See note following RCW 2.24.050.

**51.52.112 Court appeal—Payment of taxes, penalties, and interest required.** All taxes, penalties, and interest shall be paid in full before any action may be instituted in any court to contest all or any part of such taxes, penalties, or interest unless the court determines that there would be an undue hardship to the employer. In the event an employer prevails in a court action, the employer shall be allowed interest on all taxes, penalties, and interest paid by the employer but determined by a final order of the court to not be due, from the date such taxes, penalties, and interest were paid. Interest shall be at the rate allowed by law as prejudgment interest. [1986 c 9 § 19.]

**51.52.113 Collection of tax or penalty may not be enjoined.** No restraining order or injunction may be granted or issued by any court to restrain or enjoin the collection of any tax or penalty or any part thereof, except upon the ground that the assessment thereof was in violation of the Constitution of the United States or that of the state. [1986 c 9 § 20.]

**51.52.115 Court appeal—Procedure at trial—Burden of proof.** Upon appeals to the superior court only such issues of law or fact may be raised as were properly included in the notice of appeal to the board, or in the complete record of the proceedings before the board. The hearing in the superior court shall be de novo, but the court shall not receive evidence or testimony other than, or in addition to, that offered before the board or included in the record filed by the board in the superior court as provided in RCW 51.52.110: PROVIDED, That in cases of alleged irregularities in procedure before the board, not shown in said record, testimony thereon may be taken in the superior court. The proceedings in every such appeal shall be informal and summary, but full opportunity to be heard shall be had before judgment is pronounced. In all court proceedings under or pursuant to this title the findings and decision of the board shall be prima facie correct and the burden of proof shall be upon the party attacking the same. If the court shall determine that the board has acted within its power and has correctly construed the law and found the facts, the decision of the board shall be confirmed; otherwise, it shall be reversed or modified. In case of a modification or reversal the superior court shall refer the same to the department with an order directing it to proceed in accordance with the findings of the court: PROVIDED, That any award shall be in accordance with the schedule of compensation set forth in this title. In appeals to the superior court hereunder, either party shall be entitled to a trial by jury upon demand, and the jury's verdict shall have the same force and effect as in actions at law. Where the court submits a case to the jury, the court shall by instruction advise the jury of the exact findings of the board on each material issue before the court. [1961 c 23 § 51.52.115. Prior: 1957 c 70 § 62; 1951 c 225 § 15; prior: (i) 1949 c 219 § 6, part; 1943 c 280 § 1, part; 1931 c 90 § 1, part; 1929 c 132 § 6, part; 1927 c 310 § 8, part; 1911 c 74 § 20, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7697, part. (ii) 1949 c 219 § 6; 1939 c 184 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7697-2.]

**51.52.120 Attorney's fee before department or board—Unlawful attorney's fees.** (1) It shall be unlawful for an attorney engaged in the representation of any worker or beneficiary to charge for services in the department any fee in excess of a reasonable fee, of not more than thirty percent of the increase in the award secured by the attorney's services. Such reasonable fee shall be fixed by the director or the director's designee for services performed by an attorney for such worker or beneficiary, if written application therefor is made by the attorney, worker, or beneficiary within one year from the date the final decision and order of the department is communicated to the party making the application.

(2) If, on appeal to the board, the order, decision, or award of the department is reversed or modified and additional relief is granted to a worker or beneficiary, or in cases where a party other than the worker or beneficiary is the appealing party and the worker's or beneficiary's right to relief is sustained by the board, the board shall fix a reasonable fee for the services of his or her attorney in proceedings before the board if written application therefor is made by the attorney, worker, or beneficiary within one year from the



date the final decision and order of the board is communicated to the party making the application. In fixing the amount of such attorney's fee, the board shall take into consideration the fee allowed, if any, by the director, for services before the department, and the board may review the fee fixed by said director. Any attorney's fee set by the department or the board may be reviewed by the superior court upon application of such attorney, worker, or beneficiary. The department or self-insured employer, as the case may be, shall be served a copy of the application and shall be entitled to appear and take part in the proceedings. Where the board, pursuant to this section, fixes the attorney's fee, it shall be unlawful for an attorney to charge or receive any fee for services before the board in excess of that fee fixed by the board. Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. [1990 c 15 § 1; 1982 c 63 § 22; 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 81; 1965 ex.s. c 63 § 1; 1961 c 23 § 51.52.120. Prior: 1951 c 225 § 16; prior: 1947 c 246 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7679-3.]

**Effective dates—Implementation—1982 c 63:** See note following RCW 51.32.095.

#### **51.52.130 Attorney and witness fees in court appeal.**

If, on appeal to the superior or appellate court from the decision and order of the board, said decision and order is reversed or modified and additional relief is granted to a worker or beneficiary, or in cases where a party other than the worker or beneficiary is the appealing party and the worker's or beneficiary's right to relief is sustained, a reasonable fee for the services of the worker's or beneficiary's attorney shall be fixed by the court. In fixing the fee the court shall take into consideration the fee or fees, if any, fixed by the director and the board for such attorney's services before the department and the board. If the court finds that the fee fixed by the director or by the board is inadequate for services performed before the department or board, or if the director or the board has fixed no fee for such services, then the court shall fix a fee for the attorney's services before the department, or the board, as the case may be, in addition to the fee fixed for the services in the court. If in a worker or beneficiary appeal the decision and order of the board is reversed or modified and if the accident fund or medical aid fund is affected by the litigation, or if in an appeal by the department or employer the worker or beneficiary's right to relief is sustained, or in an appeal by a worker involving a state fund employer with twenty-five employees or less, in which the department does not appear and defend, and the board order in favor of the employer is sustained, the attorney's fee fixed by the court, for services before the court only, and the fees of medical and other witnesses and the costs shall be payable out of the administrative fund of the department. In the case of self-insured employers, the attorney fees fixed by the court, for services before the court only, and the fees of medical and other witnesses and the costs shall be payable directly by the self-insured employer. [1993 c 122 § 1; 1982 c 63 § 23; 1977 ex.s. c 350 § 82; 1961 c 23 § 51.52.130. Prior: 1957 c 70 § 63; 1951 c 225 § 17; prior: 1949 c 219 § 6, part; 1943 c 280 § 1, part; 1931 c 90 § 1, part; 1929 c 132 § 6, part; 1927 c 310 § 8, part; 1911 c 74 § 20, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7697, part.]

**Effective dates—Implementation—1982 c 63:** See note following RCW 51.32.095.

**51.52.132 Unlawful attorney's fees.** Where the department, the board or the court, pursuant to RCW 51.52.120 or 51.52.130 fixes the attorney's fee, it shall be unlawful for an attorney to charge or receive any fee in excess of that fixed by the department, board or the court. Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. [1965 ex.s. c 63 § 2; 1961 c 23 § 51.52.132. Prior: 1951 c 225 § 18.]

**51.52.135 Worker or beneficiary entitled to interest on award—Rate.** (1) When a worker or beneficiary prevails in an appeal by the employer to the board or in an appeal by the employer to the court from the decision and order of the board, the worker or beneficiary shall be entitled to interest at the rate of twelve percent per annum on the unpaid amount of the award after deducting the amount of attorney fees.

(2) When a worker or beneficiary prevails in an appeal by the worker or beneficiary to the board or the court regarding a claim for temporary total disability, the worker or beneficiary shall be entitled to interest at the rate of twelve percent per annum on the unpaid amount of the award after deducting the amount of attorney fees.

(3) The interest provided for in subsections (1) and (2) of this section shall accrue from the date of the department's order granting the award or denying payment of the award. The interest shall be paid by the party having the obligation to pay the award. The amount of interest to be paid shall be fixed by the board or court, as the case may be. [1983 c 301 § 1.]

**51.52.140 Rules of practice—Duties of attorney general—Supreme court appeal.** Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the practice in civil cases shall apply to appeals prescribed in this chapter. Appeal shall lie from the judgment of the superior court as in other civil cases. The attorney general shall be the legal advisor of the department and the board. [1961 c 23 § 51.52.140. Prior: 1957 c 70 § 64; 1951 c 225 § 19; prior: 1949 c 219 § 6, part; 1943 c 280 § 1, part; 1931 c 90 § 1, part; 1929 c 132 § 6, part; 1927 c 310 § 8, part; 1911 c 74 § 20, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7697, part.]

*Rules of court: Method of appellate review superseded by RAP 2.1, 2.2.*

**51.52.150 Costs on appeals.** All expenses and costs incurred by the department for board and court appeals, including fees for medical and other witnesses, court reporter costs and attorney's fees, and all costs taxed against the department, shall be paid one-half out of the medical aid fund and one-half out of the accident fund. [1961 c 23 § 51.52.150. Prior: 1951 c 225 § 20; prior: 1931 c 116 § 1; RRS § 7697-1.]

**51.52.160 Publication and indexing of significant decisions.** The board shall publish and index its significant decisions and make them available to the public at reasonable cost. [1985 c 209 § 1.]

## Chapter 51.60

PILOT PROJECTS TO REDUCE LONG-TERM  
DISABILITY RATE

## Sections

51.60.010	Findings—Intent.
51.60.020	First pilot project to reduce long-term disability rate.
51.60.030	Second pilot project to reduce long-term disability rate.
51.60.040	Evaluation.
51.60.050	Reports.
51.60.060	Exemption from limitation on vocational rehabilitation expenditures.
51.60.900	Captions not law—1994 c 29.
51.60.901	Expiration date—1994 c 29.

**51.60.010 Findings—Intent.** (*Expires June 30, 1999.*) The legislature finds that the financial costs of long-term disability represent a significant amount of lost productivity for the state's economy and tax base, and result in a lower standard of living for many citizens. Further, the uncompensated human costs of long-term disability affect tens of thousands of injured workers and their families and include loss of self-esteem, lower standards of living, dreams denied, divorce, and, in some severe cases, death.

The legislature also finds that long-term disability is a rapidly growing problem and that the most successful strategies for preventing long-term disability and returning injured workers to work emphasize active employer and employee organization involvement, improved medical treatment and decision making, and better coordination and management of cases that are at high risk of long-term disability.

Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature that the department conduct two pilot projects to reduce the rate of long-term disability and initiate a cultural shift from disability management to disability prevention. These pilot projects are intended to test the viability of new ideas and approaches for system-wide implementation and are also intended to be developed in consultation with the workers' compensation advisory committee to allow for some flexibility in design and intent. Both pilot projects are intended to shift resources to the early portions of the most difficult claims in an attempt to prevent the system failures that contribute to long-term disability. [1994 c 29 § 1.]

**51.60.020 First pilot project to reduce long-term disability rate.** (*Expires June 30, 1999.*) The first pilot project must include the following elements:

(1) Preinjury outreach and planning must be used to prevent disabling injuries, to provide appropriate transitional work and reemployment opportunities for those workers who are injured, and to enhance the abilities of employers and providers to prevent long-term disability. Provider education and outreach must encourage and enable attending providers to more adequately and completely fulfill their responsibilities as currently defined.

(2) Lower claims loads must be combined with return-to-work and on-the-job training projects for more intensive claims management, as provided in this subsection:

(a) A team approach must be used to begin working with claimants at risk of long-term disability as soon as possible after the injury occurs. This project must include the following elements: Lower claims loads for claims man-

agers; intensive screening of claims; and intensive claims management for injured workers at high risk of long-term disability.

(b) In cases in which injured workers would otherwise qualify for vocational rehabilitation services, assistance in on-the-job training for alternative work may be provided earlier in the life of the claim. To subsidize the cost of on-the-job training with the employer, the department may use for a specified contract funds that would otherwise have been used to develop and implement a traditional vocational rehabilitation plan. These on-the-job training contracts must be evaluated for possible expanded eligibility at the earliest time feasible. An injured worker who participates in an on-the-job training program under this subsection and utilizes funds that would otherwise be used to develop and implement a traditional vocational rehabilitation plan is not eligible at a later time in the life of the claim for traditional vocational rehabilitation services.

(c) Every effort must be made to move beyond the finding of medically fixed and stable and employable as the basis for closing claims, and instead work to achieve a circumstance of employment that is mutually beneficial to all parties. If this is not possible, and:

(i) If the worker is found to be medically fixed and stable with no work restrictions, then the claim must be closed with either return to work or a seamless transition, coordinated by the claims manager, to other forms of assistance that might be available, including the basic health plan, unemployment insurance benefits, and job services; or

(ii) If the worker is found to be medically fixed and stable with restrictions, then the claims manager shall work with the employer to use job modification and on-the-job training to enable the worker to be reemployed, either with the original employer or a new employer. [1994 c 29 § 2.]

**51.60.030 Second pilot project to reduce long-term disability rate.** (*Expires June 30, 1999.*) The second pilot project must incorporate all of the elements of the first pilot under RCW 51.60.020 and also must provide case managers for injured workers at high risk of long-term disability and reconfigure portions of the current independent medical examination system. In addition to the elements of the first pilot, the second pilot must include the following elements:

(1) Case managers must be used to coordinate a team approach in working with claimants at risk of long-term disability as soon as possible after the injury occurs. It is preferred that case managers be employees of the department.

(2) An intermediate screening of all compensable claims must be used to evaluate their need for intensive services, including the provision of case management.

(3)(a) A medical progress examination, separate from an impairment rating examination, must be used to determine whether a change in diagnosis or treatment is in order. For a claim at six months of time-loss payments or earlier, if there is no clear progress toward return to work or medical progress the claims manager shall request that a medical progress examination be conducted by a physician other than the attending physician. The purpose of the medical progress examination is to determine whether the injured worker's medical condition is making appropriate progress,

is fixed and stable, or, if neither, to recommend appropriate changes in either diagnosis or treatment, or both.

(b)(i) The claims manager shall request the medical progress exam, in consultation with the employer, by selecting an examiner from a pool of qualified examiners, with concurrence by both the injured worker and the employer, or the worker or employer's representative. If agreement among the parties cannot be reached after consideration of three proposed examiners, the claims manager shall select the examiner.

(ii) The pool of qualified examiners must be established using new criteria and standards to be developed by the department and endorsed by the workers' compensation advisory committee, with input from other interested parties, before taking effect.

(c) If the examination finds the claimant's medical condition to be fixed and stable, including if appropriate an evaluation of the claimant's physical conditioning and rehabilitation needs, the case must be referred back to the attending provider for review and comment, and an impairment rating if the attending physician concurs with the findings of the medical progress examination.

(d) The attending provider is encouraged to take a more active role in dispute prevention, so consequently all medical progress reports must be reviewed by the attending provider in consultation with the injured worker. As part of this review, the attending provider shall state in writing why the attending provider agrees or disagrees with the examiner's findings and recommendations. The attending provider must receive reasonable reimbursement for this review.

(4)(a) The attending physician must be encouraged to either conduct or participate, or both, in the permanent impairment rating exam to prevent disputes and achieve more timely and impartial decisions.

(b) If the attending physician performs the examination, special resources must be available to assist the attending physician if necessary.

(c) If the attending physician chooses not to be involved in performing the rating examination, the injured worker must be informed of this choice and may choose one of the following options:

(i) The examination will be performed by a physician agreed to under the current procedures for agreed exams; or

(ii) The injured worker and the employer agree upon an examiner from a pool of qualified rating examiners to recommend a rating to the claims manager. The pool of qualified rating examiners must be established on new criteria and standards to be developed by the department and endorsed by the workers' compensation advisory committee, with input from other interested parties, before taking effect.

(d) If the exam is conducted by a qualified rating examiner, the rating physician shall recommend a rating, sending it to the claim manager and the attending provider, with whom the injured worker is urged to meet to discuss the recommended rating. At this point, the attending provider may either agree to the rating of the qualified rating examiner in writing or disagree with the rating in writing, including any suggestions for changes in the rating. The attending provider must receive a reasonable reimbursement for this review.

(e) If the injured worker disagrees with the attending physician's rating, the injured worker may arrange for an

agreed examination under the procedures under this subsection.

(f) If the employer disagrees with the attending physician's rating, the employer may choose either:

(i) An agreed-upon examination under the procedures under this subsection; or

(ii) The employer may select a rating examiner from the pool of qualified rating examiners. If the rating recommendation from this examination conflicts with that from the attending physician rating examination, the claims manager shall select one or the other of the ratings but may not split the difference between the ratings.

(5) The closure of claims must be handled with greater sensitivity to the anxiety this action might present for the injured worker, including improved closure notification and medical transition procedures. [1994 c 29 § 3.]

**51.60.040 Evaluation.** (*Expires June 30, 1999.*) The department shall evaluate both pilot projects established under RCW 51.60.020 and 51.60.030 on the objective, observable results of the services provided. Outcome measures must include:

(1) A principle measure for the pilots must be the amount of reduction, if any, in the rate of long-term disability among state fund claimants;

(2) The measure of increases, if any, in the rate of appropriate return to work before full medical stability, and any increase in the rate of return to work following claim closure;

(3) The measure of the economic advantages to the employer, if any, of taking a more active role in work safety, return-to-work planning, and disability prevention. The cost of claims and the effects of the pilots on employer premium rates must be measured;

(4) The measure of improvements, if any, in the level of customer satisfaction and any reduction in the rate of disputes and appeals;

(5) The measure of improvements, if any, in the efficient functioning and outcomes of the redesigned claims units;

(6) The duration of follow-up data must be sufficient to provide the desired measurements. Measures of services, characteristics, and outcomes must be gathered for individual injured workers and employers in these pilots and a comparative sample of injured workers and employers not included in the pilots, and collected for comparison and evaluation in a common format; and

(7) Further research must be conducted by the department into the identification of persons who are at high risk of long-term disability in the workers' compensation system. [1994 c 29 § 4.]

**51.60.050 Reports.** (*Expires June 30, 1999.*) The department shall make annual reports to the legislature on the progress and outcomes of the pilot projects specified in RCW 51.60.020 and 51.60.030 beginning on December 1, 1994, and semiannual reports to the workers' compensation advisory committee, beginning with the committee's meeting in the second quarter of 1994. [1994 c 29 § 5.]

**51.60.060 Exemption from limitation on vocational rehabilitation expenditures.** The limitation on the expenditure of three thousand dollars in any fifty-two week period established in RCW 51.32.095 shall not apply to the provision of vocational rehabilitation to workers in either long-term disability pilot project and the supervisor may at any time, in the supervisor's sole discretion, authorize the expenditure of a sum not to exceed six thousand dollars, exclusive of child care and travel, for the costs of vocational rehabilitation, including on-the-job training. [1996 c 59 § 2.]

**51.60.900 Captions not law—1994 c 29.** Captions as used in this act do not constitute any part of the law. [1994 c 29 § 6.]

**51.60.901 Expiration date—1994 c 29.** This act shall expire June 30, 1999. [1994 c 29 § 8.]

## Chapter 51.98 CONSTRUCTION

### Sections

- 51.98.010 Continuation of existing law.
- 51.98.020 Title, chapter, section headings not part of law.
- 51.98.030 Invalidity of part of title not to affect remainder.
- 51.98.040 Repeals and saving.
- 51.98.050 Emergency—1961 c 23.
- 51.98.060 Effective dates—1971 ex.s. c 289.
- 51.98.070 Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289.
- 51.98.080 Severability—1972 ex.s. c 43.

**Construction—1947 c 246:** "The increased benefits and compensation authorized by this act shall not be applicable to a case of death, or injury or aggravation thereof, occurring prior to the effective date of this act." [1947 c 246 § 2.]

**Construction—1923 c 136:** "For all cases of injuries to workmen which occurred and for all claims or actions pending or causes of action existing before this act shall go into effect, Sections 7673 to 7796 of Remington's Compiled Statutes of Washington shall continue in force as they were prior to and they shall be unaffected by the passage of this amendatory act." [1923 c 136 § 20.] The internal references refer to the entire industrial insurance act as it existed in 1923.

**Construction—1919 c 131:** "For all cases of injuries to workmen which occurred before this act shall be into effect Sections 6604-3, 6604-5, 6604-6, and 6604-10 shall continue in force as they were prior to and they shall be unaffected by the passage of this amendatory act. The amendatory provisions of sections 2, 4, 5, and 6 of this act shall apply only to injuries occurring after they shall go into effect." [1919 c 131 § 9.] The internal references to prior compilations refer to such sections as amended in the 1919 act by sections 2, 4, 5, and 6 as repeated in the last sentence of the above quotation. Such sections are scattered throughout chapters 51.16, 51.20, 51.32, and 51.48 RCW.

**51.98.010 Continuation of existing law.** The provisions of this title insofar as they are substantially the same as statutory provisions repealed by this chapter, and relating to the same subject matter, shall be construed as restatements and continuations, and not as new enactments. [1961 c 23 § 51.98.010.]

**51.98.020 Title, chapter, section headings not part of law.** Title headings, chapter headings, and section or subsection headings, as used in this title do not constitute any part of the law. [1961 c 23 § 51.98.020.]

**51.98.030 Invalidity of part of title not to affect remainder.** If any provision of this title, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the title, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected: PROVIDED, That nothing in this section shall affect or invalidate any of the provisions of RCW 51.04.090. [1961 c 23 § 51.98.030.]

**51.98.040 Repeals and saving.** See 1961 c 23 § 51.98.040.

**51.98.050 Emergency—1961 c 23.** 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. [1961 c 23 § 51.98.050.]

**51.98.060 Effective dates—1971 ex.s. c 289.** The provisions of this 1971 amendatory act are 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 on July 1, 1971: PROVIDED, That RCW 51.08.070 as amended by section 1 of this 1971 amendatory act, RCW 51.12.010 as amended in section 2 of this 1971 amendatory act, RCW 51.12.020 as amended in section 3 of this 1971 amendatory act and RCW 51.16.110 as amended in section 4 of this 1971 amendatory act shall take effect and become operative without any further action of the legislature on January 1, 1972. [1971 ex.s. c 289 § 90.]

**51.98.070 Severability—1971 ex.s. c 289.** If any provision of this 1971 amendatory act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected: PROVIDED, That nothing in this section shall affect or invalidate any of the provisions of RCW 51.04.090. [1971 ex.s. c 289 § 91.]

**51.98.080 Severability—1972 ex.s. c 43.** If any provision of this 1972 amendatory act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provisions to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1972 ex.s. c 43 § 38.]

# Title 52

## FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS

### Chapters

- 52.02** Formation.
- 52.04** Annexation.
- 52.06** Merger.
- 52.08** Withdrawal.
- 52.10** Dissolution.
- 52.12** Powers—Burning permits.
- 52.14** Commissioners.
- 52.16** Finances.
- 52.18** Benefit charges.
- 52.20** Local improvement districts.
- 52.22** Special proceedings.
- 52.30** Miscellaneous provisions.

*Annexation of district territory to cities and towns: Chapter 35.13 RCW.*

*Conveyance of real property by public bodies—Recording: RCW 65.08.095.*

*Credit card use by local governments: RCW 43.09.2855.*

*Fire department vehicles; lighting, plates: RCW 46.37.184 through 46.37.188.*

*Fire fighting equipment, standardization: Chapter 70.75 RCW.*

*Fire fighters' relief and pensions: Chapters 41.16, 41.18, and 41.24 RCW.*

*Forest protection: Chapter 76.04 RCW.*

*Hospitalization and medical aid for public employees and dependents—Premiums, governmental contributions authorized: RCW 41.04.180, 41.04.190.*

*Local governmental organizations, actions affecting boundaries, etc., review by boundary review board: Chapter 36.93 RCW.*

*Metropolitan municipal corporations: Chapter 35.58 RCW.*

*Municipal corporation may authorize investment of funds which are in custody of county treasurer or other municipal corporation treasurer: RCW 36.29.020.*

*Public bodies may retain collection agencies to collect public debts: RCW 19.16.500.*

*Retirement—Law enforcement officers' and fire fighters' retirement system: Chapter 41.26 RCW.*

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*Trade centers—Annual service fee—Distribution to fire districts: RCW 53.29.030.*

### Chapter 52.02 FORMATION

#### Sections

- 52.02.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.
- 52.02.020 Districts authorized.
- 52.02.030 Petition—Certification.
- 52.02.035 Petition—Notice of sufficiency.
- 52.02.040 Petition—Public hearing.
- 52.02.050 Public hearing—Notice—Publication and posting.
- 52.02.060 Hearing—Inclusion and exclusion of land.
- 52.02.070 Action on petition—Resolution—Election—District name when located in more than one county.
- 52.02.080 Election.
- 52.02.110 Declaration of election results—Resolution.
- 52.02.140 Appeal.
- 52.02.150 Organization conclusive.

**52.02.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.** Actions taken under chapter 52.02 RCW may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1989 c 84 § 41.]

**52.02.020 Districts authorized.** Fire protection districts for the provision of fire prevention services, fire suppression services, emergency medical services, and for the protection of life and property in areas outside of cities and towns, except where the cities and towns have been annexed into a fire protection district or where the district is continuing service pursuant to RCW 35.02.202, are authorized to be established as provided in this title. [1991 c 360 § 10; 1984 c 230 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 179 § 5; 1959 c 237 § 1; 1947 c 254 § 1; 1945 c 162 § 1; 1943 c 121 § 1; 1941 c 70 § 1; 1939 c 34 § 1; Rem. Supp. 5654-101. Formerly RCW 52.04.020.]

**Construction—Severability—1939 c 34:** "The provisions of this act and proceedings thereunder shall be liberally construed with a view to effect their objects. If any section or provision of this act shall be adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the act as a whole or any section, provision or part thereof not adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional." [1939 c 34 § 51.]

**Validating—Saving—1939 c 34:** "Any petition heretofore drawn, signed and filed with the county auditor in compliance with the provisions of section 1 to section 6, inclusive, of the Laws of 1933, Extraordinary Session, shall be valid and the various steps required by this act for the creation of a fire-protection district may be continued, if the further steps to be taken are begun within ninety (90) days after the taking effect of this act [March 1, 1939], and it shall not be necessary to prepare, sign and file with the county auditor a new petition, and any district so created shall not be invalid by reason of the failure to draw, sign and file a new petition under the provisions of this act." [1939 c 34 § 49.]

**52.02.030 Petition—Certification.** (1) For the purpose of the formation of a fire protection district, a petition designating the boundaries of the proposed district, by metes and bounds, or by describing the lands to be included in the proposed district by United States townships, ranges and legal subdivisions, signed by not less than ten percent of the registered voters who reside within the boundaries of the proposed district who voted in the last general municipal election, and setting forth the object for the creation of the proposed district and alleging that the establishment of the proposed district will be conducive to the public safety, welfare, and convenience, and will be a benefit to the property included in the proposed district, shall be filed with the county auditor of the county in which all, or the largest portion of, the proposed district is located, accompanied by an obligation signed by two or more petitioners, agreeing to pay the cost of the publication of the notice required by this title. The organization of any fire protection district previously formed is hereby approved and confirmed as a legally organized fire protection district in the state of Washington.

(2) The county auditor shall, within thirty days from the date of filing the petition, examine the signatures and certify to the sufficiency or insufficiency of the signatures. If the proposed fire protection district is located in more than one county, the auditor of the county in which the largest portion of the proposed fire protection district is located shall be the lead auditor and shall transmit a copy of the petition to the auditor or auditors of the other county or counties within which the proposed fire protection district is located. Each of these other auditors shall certify to the lead auditor both the total number of registered voters residing in that portion of the proposed fire protection district that is located in the county and the number of valid signatures of such voters who have signed the petition. The lead auditor shall certify the sufficiency or insufficiency of the signatures. The books and records of the auditor shall be prima facie evidence of the truth of the certificate. No person having signed the petition is allowed to withdraw his or her name after the filing of the petition with the county auditor.

(3) If the petition is found to contain a sufficient number of signatures of registered voters residing within the proposed district, the county auditor shall transmit the petition, together with the auditor's certificate of sufficiency, to the county legislative authority or authorities of the county or counties in which the proposed fire protection district is located. [1990 c 259 § 12; 1989 c 63 § 1; 1984 c 230 § 2; 1963 ex.s. c 13 § 1; 1947 c 254 § 2; 1939 c 34 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5654-102. Prior: 1933 c 60 § 2. Formerly RCW 52.04.030.]

**52.02.035 Petition—Notice of sufficiency.** The county auditor who certifies the sufficiency of the petition shall notify the person or persons who submitted the petition of its sufficiency or insufficiency within five days of when the determination of sufficiency or insufficiency is made. Notice shall be by certified mail and additionally may be made by telephone. If a boundary review board exists in the county or counties in which the proposed fire protection district is located and the petition has been certified as being sufficient, the petitioners shall file notice of the proposed incorporation with the boundary review board or boards. [1989 c 63 § 2.]

**52.02.040 Petition—Public hearing.** (1) A public hearing on the petition shall be held by the county legislative authority of the county in which the proposed fire protection district is located if: (a) No boundary review board exists in the county; (b) jurisdiction by the boundary review board over the proposal has not been invoked; or (c) the boundary review board fails to take action on the proposal over which its jurisdiction has been invoked within the time period that the board must act or a proposal is deemed to have been approved. If such a public hearing is held by the county legislative authority, the hearing shall be held not less than twenty nor more than forty days from the date of receipt of the petition with the certificate of sufficiency from the county auditor if there is no boundary review board in the county, or not more than one hundred days from when the notice of the proposal was submitted to the boundary review board if the jurisdiction of the boundary review board was not invoked, or not less than forty days after the date that

the boundary review board that has had its jurisdiction invoked over the proposal must act if the proposal is deemed to have been approved. The hearing by the county legislative authority may be completed at the scheduled time or may be adjourned from time to time as may be necessary for a determination of the petition, but such adjournment or adjournments shall not extend the time for considering the petition more than twenty days from the date of the initial hearing on the petition.

(2) If the proposed fire protection district is located in more than one county, a public hearing shall be held in each of the counties by the county legislative authority or boundary review board. Joint public hearings may be held by two or more county legislative authorities, or two or more boundary review boards, on the proposal. [1989 c 63 § 3; 1984 c 230 § 3; 1939 c 34 § 3; RRS § 5654-103. Prior: 1933 c 60 § 2. Formerly RCW 52.04.040.]

**52.02.050 Public hearing—Notice—Publication and posting.** Notice of the public hearing by the county legislative authority on such a proposal shall be published for three consecutive weeks in the official paper of the county prior to the date set for the hearing and shall be posted for not less than fifteen days prior to the date of the hearing in each of three public places within the boundaries of the proposed district. The notices shall contain the time, date, and place of the public hearing. [1989 c 63 § 4; 1984 c 230 § 4; 1939 c 34 § 4; RRS § 5654-104. Prior: 1933 c 60 § 2. Formerly RCW 52.04.050.]

**52.02.060 Hearing—Inclusion and exclusion of land.** At the time and place of the hearing on the petition or at any adjournment thereof, the county legislative authority shall consider the petition and shall receive evidence as it deems material in favor of or opposed to the formation of the district or to the inclusion or exclusion of any lands. No lands outside of the boundaries of the proposed district as described in the petition may be included within the district without a written petition describing the land, executed by all persons having an interest of record in the lands, and filed with the proceedings on the petition. No land within the boundaries described in the petition, except that land which the county legislative authority finds will receive no benefits from the proposed district, may be excluded from the district. [1984 c 230 § 5; 1947 c 254 § 3; 1939 c 34 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5654-105. Prior: 1933 c 60 § 3. Formerly RCW 52.04.060.]

**52.02.070 Action on petition—Resolution—Election—District name when located in more than one county.** The county legislative authority has the authority to consider the petition and, if it finds that the lands or any portion of the lands described in the petition, and any lands added thereto by petition of those interested, will be benefited and that the formation of the district will be conducive to the public safety, welfare, and convenience, it shall make a finding by resolution; otherwise it shall deny the petition. The county legislative authority shall consider only those areas located within the county when considering the petition. If the county legislative authority approves the petition, it shall designate the name and number of the

district, fix the boundaries of the district that are located within the county, and direct that an election be held within the proposed district for the purpose of determining whether the district shall be organized under this title and for the purpose of the election of its first fire commissioners.

Where a proposed fire protection district is located in more than a single county, the fire protection district shall be identified by the name of each county in which the proposed fire protection district is located, listed alphabetically, followed by a number that is the next highest number available for a fire protection district in the one of these counties that has the greatest number of fire protection districts. An election on a proposed fire protection district that is located in more than one county shall not be held unless the proposed district has been approved by the county legislative authorities, or boundary review boards, of each county within which the proposed district is located. [1989 c 63 § 5; 1984 c 230 § 6; 1939 c 34 § 6; RRS § 5654-106. Prior: 1933 c 60 § 3. Formerly RCW 52.04.070.]

**52.02.080 Election.** The election on the formation of the district and to elect the initial fire commissioners shall be conducted by the election officials of the county or counties in which the proposed district is located in accordance with the general election laws of the state. This election shall be held at the next general election date, as specified under RCW 29.13.020, that occurs forty-five or more days after the date of the action by the boundary review board, or county legislative authority or authorities, approving the proposal. [1989 c 63 § 6; 1984 c 230 § 7; 1939 c 34 § 7; RRS § 5654-107. Formerly RCW 52.04.080.]

*Elections: Title 29 RCW.*

**52.02.110 Declaration of election results—Resolution.** If three-fifths of all the votes cast at the election were cast in favor of the ballot proposition to create the proposed fire protection district, the county legislative authority of the county in which all, or the largest portion of, the proposed district is located shall by resolution declare the territory organized as a fire protection district under the name designated and shall declare the candidate for each fire commissioner position who receives the highest number of votes for that position to be an initial fire commissioner of the district. [1989 c 63 § 7; 1984 c 230 § 10; 1941 c 70 § 2; 1939 c 34 § 10; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 5654-110. Formerly RCW 52.04.110.]

**52.02.140 Appeal.** Any person or entity having a substantial interest and feeling aggrieved by any finding, determination, or resolution of the county legislative authority in the proceedings for the organization of a fire protection district under this title, may appeal within five days after the action of the county legislative authority to the superior court of the county, in the same manner as provided by law for appeals from the orders and determinations of the county legislative authority. [1984 c 230 § 13; 1939 c 34 § 13; RRS § 5654-113. Formerly RCW 52.04.140.]

*Appeal from board's action: RCW 36.32.330.*

**52.02.150 Organization conclusive.** After the expiration of five days from the approval of the resolution of

the county legislative authority declaring the district to be organized, and the filing of the certified copies of the resolution of the county legislative authority with the county auditor and the county assessor, the creation of the district is complete and its legal existence cannot thereafter be questioned by any person by reason of a defect in the proceedings for the organization of the district. [1984 c 230 § 14; 1939 c 34 § 14; RRS § 5654-114. Formerly RCW 52.04.150.]

## Chapter 52.04 ANNEXATION

### Sections

- 52.04.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.
- 52.04.011 Annexation of territory by election method—Procedure—Indebtedness—Election dispensed with, when.
- 52.04.021 Annexation by petition method—Alternative to election method.
- 52.04.031 Annexation by petition method—Petition—Signers—Content.
- 52.04.041 Annexation by petition method—Hearing—Notice.
- 52.04.051 Annexation by petition method—Resolution providing for annexation.
- 52.04.056 Withdrawal or reannexation of areas.
- 52.04.061 Annexation of contiguous city or town—Procedure.
- 52.04.071 Annexation of contiguous city or town—Election.
- 52.04.081 Annexation of contiguous city or town—Annual tax levies—Limitations.
- 52.04.091 Additional territory annexed by city to be part of district.
- 52.04.101 Withdrawal by annexed city or town—Election.
- 52.04.111 Annexation of city or town—Transfer of employees.
- 52.04.121 Annexation of city or town—Transfer of employees—Rights and benefits.
- 52.04.131 Annexation of city or town—Transfer of employees—Notice—Time limitation.
- 52.04.141 Annexation of contiguous territory not in same county.
- 52.04.151 Annexation of territory not in same county—District name.
- 52.04.161 Newly incorporated city or town deemed annexed by district—Withdrawal.

*Merger of part of district with adjacent district: RCW 52.06.090.*

**52.04.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.** Actions taken under chapter 52.04 RCW may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1989 c 84 § 42.]

**52.04.011 Annexation of territory by election method—Procedure—Indebtedness—Election dispensed with, when.** (1) A territory contiguous to a fire protection district and not within the boundaries of a city, town, or other fire protection district may be annexed to the fire protection district by petition of fifteen percent of the qualified registered electors residing within the territory proposed to be annexed. Such contiguous territory may be located in a county or counties other than the county or counties within which the fire protection district is located. The petition shall be filed with the fire commissioners of the fire protection district and if the fire commissioners concur in the petition they shall file the petition with the county auditor of the county within which the territory is located. If this territory is located in more than one county, the original petition shall be filed with the auditor of the county within which the largest portion of the territory is located, who shall be designated as the lead auditor, and a copy shall

be filed with the auditor of each other county within which such territory is located. Within thirty days after the date of the filing of the petition the auditor shall examine the signatures on the petition and certify to the sufficiency or insufficiency of the signatures. If this territory is located in more than one county, the auditor of each other county who receives a copy of the petition shall examine the signatures and certify to the lead auditor the number of valid signatures and the number of registered voters residing in that portion of the territory that is located within the county. The lead auditor shall certify the sufficiency or insufficiency of the signatures.

After the county auditor has certified the sufficiency of the petition, the county legislative authority or authorities, or the boundary review board or boards, of the county or counties in which such territory is located shall consider the proposal under the same basis that a proposed incorporation of a fire protection district is considered, with the same authority to act on the proposal as in a proposed incorporation, as provided under chapter 52.02 RCW. If the proposed annexation is approved by the county legislative authority or boundary review board, the board of fire commissioners shall adopt a resolution requesting the county auditor to call a special election, as specified under RCW 29.13.020, at which the ballot proposition is to be submitted. No annexation shall occur when the territory proposed to be annexed is located in more than one county unless the county legislative authority or boundary review board of each county approves the proposed annexation.

(2) The county legislative authority or authorities of the county or counties within which such territory is located have the authority and duty to determine on an equitable basis, the amount of any obligation which the territory to be annexed to the district shall assume to place the property owners of the existing district on a fair and equitable relationship with the property owners of the territory to be annexed as a result of the benefits of annexing to a district previously supported by the property owners of the existing district. If a boundary review board has had its jurisdiction invoked on the proposal and approves the proposal, the county legislative authority of the county within which such territory is located may exercise the authority granted in this subsection and require such an assumption of indebtedness. This obligation may be paid to the district in yearly benefit charge installments to be fixed by the county legislative authority. This benefit charge shall be collected with the annual tax levies against the property in the annexed territory until fully paid. The amount of the obligation and the plan of payment established by the county legislative authority shall be described in general terms in the notice of election for annexation and shall be described in the ballot proposition on the proposed annexation that is presented to the voters for their approval or rejection. Such benefit charge shall be limited to an amount not to exceed a total of fifty cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That the special election on the proposed annexation shall be held only within the boundaries of the territory proposed to be annexed to the fire protection district.

(3) On the entry of the order of the county legislative authority incorporating the territory into the existing fire protection district, the territory shall become subject to the

indebtedness, bonded or otherwise, of the existing district. If the petition is signed by sixty percent of the qualified registered electors residing within the territory proposed to be annexed, and if the board of fire commissioners concur, an election in the territory and a hearing on the petition shall be dispensed with and the county legislative authority shall enter its order incorporating the territory into the existing fire protection district. [1989 c 63 § 8; 1984 c 230 § 22; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 49; 1965 ex.s. c 18 § 1; 1959 c 237 § 3; 1947 c 254 § 5; 1945 c 162 § 2; 1941 c 70 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5654-116a. Formerly RCW 52.08.060.]

**Severability—Effective dates and termination dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

**52.04.021 Annexation by petition method—Alternative to election method.** The method of annexation provided for in RCW 52.04.031, 52.04.041, and 52.04.051 shall be an alternate method to that specified in RCW 52.04.011. [1984 c 230 § 23; 1965 c 59 § 1. Formerly RCW 52.08.065.]

**52.04.031 Annexation by petition method—Petition—Signers—Content.** A petition for annexation of an area contiguous to a fire district shall be in writing, addressed to and filed with the board of fire commissioners of the district to which annexation is desired. Such contiguous territory may be located in a county or counties other than the county or counties within which the fire protection district is located. It must be signed by the owners, according to the records of the county auditor or auditors, of not less than sixty percent of the area of land included in the annexation petition, shall set forth a legal description of the property and shall be accompanied by a plat which outlines the boundaries of the property to be annexed. The petition shall state the financial obligation, if any, to be assumed by the area to be annexed. [1989 c 63 § 9; 1984 c 230 § 24; 1965 c 59 § 2. Formerly RCW 52.08.066.]

**52.04.041 Annexation by petition method—Hearing—Notice.** If the petition for annexation filed with the board of commissioners complies with the requirements of law, the board may accept the petition, fix a date for public hearing, and publish notice of the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the area proposed to be annexed and also post the notice in three public places within the area proposed for annexation. The notice shall specify the time and place of the hearing and invite interested persons to attend. The expense of publication of the notice shall be paid by the district. [1984 c 230 § 25; 1965 c 59 § 3. Formerly RCW 52.08.067.]

**52.04.051 Annexation by petition method—Resolution providing for annexation.** After the hearing, the board of fire commissioners shall determine by resolution whether the area shall be annexed. It may annex all or any portion of the proposed area but may not include in the annexation property not described in the petition. The proposed annexation shall be subject to action by the county legislative authority, as provided under RCW 52.04.011, to the same extent as if the annexation were done under the election method of annexation. If the area proposed to be



annexed under this procedure is reduced, the annexation shall occur only if the owners of not less than sixty percent of the remaining area have signed the petition. After adoption of the resolution a copy shall be filed with the county legislative authority or authorities within which the territory is located. [1989 c 63 § 10; 1984 c 230 § 26; 1965 c 59 § 4. Formerly RCW 52.08.068.]

**52.04.056 Withdrawal or reannexation of areas.** (1)

As provided in this section, a fire protection district may withdraw areas from its boundaries, or reannex areas into the fire protection district that previously had been withdrawn from the fire protection district under this section.

(2) The withdrawal of an area shall be authorized upon:

(a) Adoption of a resolution by the board of fire commissioners requesting the withdrawal and finding that, in the opinion of the board, inclusion of this area within the fire protection district will result in a reduction of the district's tax levy rate under the provisions of RCW 84.52.010; and (b) adoption of a resolution by the city or town council approving the withdrawal, if the area is located within the city or town, or adoption of a resolution by the county legislative authority or authorities of the county or counties within which the area is located approving the withdrawal, if the area is located outside of a city or town. A withdrawal shall be effective at the end of the day on the thirty-first day of December in the year in which the resolutions are adopted, but for purposes of establishing boundaries for property tax purposes, the boundaries shall be established immediately upon the adoption of the second resolution.

The authority of an area to be withdrawn from a fire protection district as provided under this section is in addition, and not subject, to the provisions of RCW 52.04.101.

The withdrawal of an area from the boundaries of a fire protection district shall not exempt any property therein from taxation for the purpose of paying the costs of redeeming any indebtedness of the fire protection district existing at the time of the withdrawal.

(3) An area that has been withdrawn from the boundaries of a fire protection district under this section may be reannexed into the fire protection district upon: (a) Adoption of a resolution by the board of fire commissioners proposing the reannexation; and (b) adoption of a resolution by the city or town council approving the reannexation, if the area is located within the city or town, or adoption of a resolution by the county legislative authority or authorities of the county or counties within which the area is located approving the reannexation, if the area is located outside of a city or town. The reannexation shall be effective at the end of the day on the thirty-first day of December in the year in which the adoption of the second resolution occurs, but for purposes of establishing boundaries for property tax purposes, the boundaries shall be established immediately upon the adoption of the second resolution. Referendum action on the proposed reannexation may be taken by the voters of the area proposed to be reannexed if a petition calling for a referendum is filed with the city or town council, or county legislative authority or authorities, within a thirty-day period after the adoption of the second resolution, which petition has been signed by registered voters of the area proposed to

be reannexed equal in number to ten percent of the total number of the registered voters residing in that area.

If a valid petition signed by the requisite number of registered voters has been so filed, the effect of the resolutions shall be held in abeyance and a ballot proposition to authorize the reannexation shall be submitted to the voters of the area at the next special election date specified in \*RCW 29.13.020 that occurs forty-five or more days after the petitions have been validated. Approval of the ballot proposition authorizing the reannexation by a simple majority vote shall authorize the reannexation. [1989 c 63 § 11; 1987 c 138 § 3.]

\*Reviser's note: As enacted by 1987 c 138 § 3, this section contained an apparently erroneous reference to RCW 29.13.030, a section repealed in 1965. Pursuant to RCW 1.08.015, this reference has been changed to RCW 29.13.020, a later enactment of the section repealed.

**52.04.061 Annexation of contiguous city or town—**

**Procedure.** A city or town lying contiguous to a fire protection district may be annexed to such district if at the time of the initiation of annexation the population of the city or town is 100,000 or less. The legislative authority of the city or town may initiate annexation by the adoption of an ordinance stating an intent to join the fire protection district and finding that the public interest will be served thereby. If the board of fire commissioners of the fire protection district shall concur in the annexation, notification thereof shall be transmitted to the legislative authority or authorities of the counties in which the city or town and the district are situated. [1985 c 313 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 179 § 1. Formerly RCW 52.04.170.]

**52.04.071 Annexation of contiguous city or town—**

**Election.** The county legislative authority or authorities shall by resolution call a special election to be held in the city or town and in the fire protection district at the next date provided in RCW 29.13.010 but not less than forty-five days from the date of the declaration of the finding, and shall cause notice of the election to be given as provided for in RCW 29.27.080.

The election on the annexation of the city or town into the fire protection district shall be conducted by the auditor of the county or counties in which the city or town and the fire protection district are located in accordance with the general election laws of the state. The results thereof shall be canvassed by the canvassing board of the county or counties. No person is entitled to vote at the election unless he or she is a qualified elector in the city or town or unless he or she is a qualified elector within the boundaries of the fire protection district. The ballot proposition shall be in substantially the following form:

"Shall the city or town of . . . . . be annexed to and be a part of . . . . . fire protection district?"

YES . . . . .  
NO . . . . . "

If a majority of the persons voting on the proposition in the city or town and a majority of the persons voting on the proposition in the fire protection district vote in favor thereof, the city or town shall be annexed and shall be a part

of the fire protection district. [1984 c 230 § 16; 1979 ex.s. c 179 § 2. Formerly RCW 52.04.180.]

*Elections: Title 29 RCW.*

**52.04.081 Annexation of contiguous city or town—Annual tax levies—Limitations.** The annual tax levies authorized by chapter 52.16 RCW shall be imposed throughout the fire protection district, including any city or town annexed thereto. Any city or town annexed to a fire protection district is entitled to levy up to three dollars and sixty cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation less any regular levy made by the fire protection district or by a library district under RCW 27.12.390 in the incorporated area: PROVIDED, That the limitations upon regular property taxes imposed by chapter 84.55 RCW apply. [1984 c 230 § 17; 1979 ex.s. c 179 § 4. Formerly RCW 52.04.190.]

**52.04.091 Additional territory annexed by city to be part of district.** When any city, code city, or town is annexed to a fire protection district under RCW 52.04.061 and 52.04.071, thereafter, any territory annexed by the city shall also be annexed and be a part of the fire protection district. [1989 c 76 § 1.]

**52.04.101 Withdrawal by annexed city or town—Election.** The legislative body of such a city or town which has annexed to such a fire protection district, may, by resolution, present to the voters of such city or town a proposition to withdraw from said fire protection district at any general election held at least three years following the annexation to the fire protection district. If the voters approve such a proposition to withdraw from said fire protection district, the city or town shall have a vested right in the capital assets of the district proportionate to the taxes levied within the corporate boundaries of the city or town and utilized by the fire district to acquire such assets. [1979 ex.s. c 179 § 3. Formerly RCW 52.04.200.]

**52.04.111 Annexation of city or town—Transfer of employees.** When any city, code city or town is annexed to a fire protection district under RCW 52.04.061 and 52.04.071, any employee of the fire department of such city, code city or town who (1) was at the time of annexation employed exclusively or principally in performing the powers, duties, and functions which are to be performed by the fire protection district (2) will, as a direct consequence of annexation, be separated from the employ of the city, code city or town, and (3) can perform the duties and meet the minimum requirements of the position to be filled, then such employee may transfer his employment to the fire protection district as provided in this section and RCW 52.04.121 and 52.04.131.

For purposes of this section and RCW 52.04.121 and 52.04.131, employ~~oe~~ means an individual whose employment with a city, code city or town has been terminated because the city, code city or town was annexed by a fire protection district for purposes of fire protection. [1986 c 254 § 10.]

**52.04.121 Annexation of city or town—Transfer of employees—Rights and benefits.** (1) An eligible employee may transfer into the fire protection district civil service system, if any, or if none, then may request transfer of employment under this section by filing a written request with the board of fire commissioners of the fire protection district and by giving written notice to the legislative authority of the city, code city, or town. Upon receipt of such request by the board of fire commissioners the transfer of employment shall be made. The employee so transferring will (a) be on probation for the same period as are new employees of the fire protection district in the position filled, but if the transferring employee has already completed a probationary period as a fire fighter prior to the transfer, then the employee may only be terminated during the probationary period for failure to adequately perform assigned duties, not meeting the minimum qualifications of the position, or behavior that would otherwise be subject to disciplinary action, (b) be eligible for promotion no later than after completion of the probationary period, (c) receive a salary at least equal to that of other new employees of the fire protection district in the position filled, and (d) in all other matters, such as retirement, vacation, and sick leave, have all the rights, benefits, and privileges to which he or she would have been entitled as an employee of the fire protection district from the beginning of employment with the city, code city, or town fire department: PROVIDED, That for purposes of layoffs by the annexing fire agency, only the time of service accrued with the annexing agency shall apply unless an agreement is reached between the collective bargaining representatives of the employees of the annexing and annexed fire agencies and the annexing and annexed fire agencies. The city, code city, or town shall, upon receipt of such notice, transmit to the board of fire commissioners a record of the employee's service with the city, code city, or town which shall be credited to such employee as a part of the period of employment in the fire protection district. All accrued benefits are transferable provided that the recipient agency provides comparable benefits. All benefits shall then accrue based on the combined seniority of each employee in the recipient agency.

(2) As many of the transferring employees shall be placed upon the payroll of the fire protection district as the district determines are needed to provide services. These needed employees shall be taken in order of seniority and the remaining employees who transfer as provided in this section and RCW 52.04.111 and 52.04.131 shall head the list for employment in the civil service system in order of their seniority, to the end that they shall be the first to be reemployed in the fire protection district when appropriate positions become available: PROVIDED, That employees who are not immediately hired by the fire protection district shall be placed on a reemployment list for a period not to exceed thirty-six months unless a longer period is authorized by an agreement reached between the collective bargaining representatives of the employees of the annexing and annexed fire agencies and the annexing and annexed fire agencies. [1994 c 73 § 4; 1986 c 254 § 11.]

**Effective date—1994 c 73:** See note following RCW 35.10.365.

**52.04.131 Annexation of city or town—Transfer of employees—Notice—Time limitation.** When a city, code city or town is annexed to a fire protection district and as a result any employee is laid off who is eligible to transfer to the fire protection district pursuant to this section and RCW 52.04.111 and 52.04.121, the city, code city or town shall notify the employee of the right to transfer and the employee shall have ninety days to transfer employment to the fire protection district. [1986 c 254 § 12.]

**52.04.141 Annexation of contiguous territory not in same county.** Any attempted annexation in 1987 and thereafter by a fire protection district of contiguous territory, that is located in a county other than the county in which the fire protection district was located, is validated where the annexation would have occurred if the territory had been located in the same county as the fire protection district. The effective date of such annexations occurring in 1987 shall be February 1, 1988; for purposes of establishing the boundaries of taxing districts for purposes of imposing property taxes as provided in RCW 84.09.030.

Any reference to a county official of the county in which a fire protection district is located or proposed to be located shall be deemed to refer to the appropriate county official of each county in which the fire protection district is located or proposed to be located. [1988 c 274 § 12.]

**Purpose—Severability—1988 c 274:** See notes following RCW 84.52.010.

**52.04.151 Annexation of territory not in same county—District name.** Any fire protection district located in a single county that annexes territory in another county shall be identified by the name of each county in which the fire protection district is located, listed alphabetically, followed by a number that is the next highest number available for a fire protection district in the one of these counties that has the greatest number of fire protection districts. [1989 c 63 § 12.]

**52.04.161 Newly incorporated city or town deemed annexed by district—Withdrawal.** If the area of a newly incorporated city or town is located in one or more fire protection districts, the city or town is deemed to have been annexed by the fire protection district or districts effective immediately on the city's or town's official date of incorporation, unless the city or town council adopts a resolution during the interim transition period precluding the annexation of the newly incorporated city or town by the fire protection district or districts. The newly incorporated city or town shall remain annexed to the fire protection district or districts for the remainder of the year of the city's or town's official date of incorporation, or through the following year if such extension is approved by resolution adopted by the city or town council and by the board or boards of fire commissioners, and shall be withdrawn from the fire protection district or districts at the end of this period, unless a ballot proposition is adopted by the voters pursuant to RCW 52.04.071 providing for annexation of the city or town to a fire protection district.

If the city or town is withdrawn from the fire protection district or districts, the maximum rate of the first property

tax levy that is imposed by the city or town after the withdrawal is calculated as if the city or town never had been annexed by the fire protection district or districts. [1993 c 262 § 1.]

## Chapter 52.06 MERGER

### Sections

- 52.06.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.
- 52.06.010 Merger of districts authorized—Review.
- 52.06.020 Petition—Contents.
- 52.06.030 Action on petition—Special election.
- 52.06.050 Vote required—Status after favorable vote.
- 52.06.060 Merger by petition.
- 52.06.070 Obligations of merged districts.
- 52.06.080 Delivery of property and funds.
- 52.06.085 Board membership upon merger of districts—Subsequent boards—Creation of commissioner districts.
- 52.06.090 Merger of part of district with adjacent district.
- 52.06.100 Merger of part of district with adjacent district—When election unnecessary.
- 52.06.110 Transfer of employees.
- 52.06.120 Transfer of employees—Rights and benefits.
- 52.06.130 Transfer of employees—Notice—Time limitation.
- 52.06.140 Merger of districts located in different counties—District name.
- 52.06.150 Merger of districts located in same county—District name.

**52.06.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.** Actions taken under chapter 52.06 RCW may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1989 c 84 § 43.]

**52.06.010 Merger of districts authorized—Review.** A fire protection district may merge with another adjacent fire protection district, on such terms and conditions as they agree upon, in the manner provided in this title. The fire protection districts may be located in different counties. The district desiring to merge with another district, or the district from which it is proposed that a portion of the district be merged with another district, shall be called the "merging district." The district into which the merger is to be made shall be called the "merger district." The merger of any districts under chapter 52.06 RCW is subject to potential review by the boundary review board or boards of the county in which the merging district, or the portion of the merging district that is proposed to be merged with another district, is located. [1989 c 63 § 13; 1984 c 230 § 57; 1947 c 254 § 12; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5654-151a. Formerly RCW 52.24.010.]

**52.06.020 Petition—Contents.** To effect such a merger, a petition to merge shall be filed with the board of the merger district by the commissioners of the merging district. The commissioners of the merging district may sign and file the petition on their own initiative, and they shall file a petition when it is signed by ten percent of the registered voters resident in the merging district who voted in the last general municipal election and presented to the board of commissioners. The petition shall state the reasons for the merger, state the terms and conditions under which the merger is proposed, and request the merger. [1990 c 259

§ 13; 1984 c 230 § 58; 1947 c 254 § 13; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5654-151b. Formerly RCW 52.24.020.]

**52.06.030 Action on petition—Special election.** The board of the merger district may, by resolution, reject or approve the petition as presented, or it may modify the terms and conditions of the proposed merger, and shall transmit the petition, together with a copy of its resolution to the merging district.

If the petition is approved as presented or as modified, the board of the merging district shall send an elector-signed petition, if there is one, to the auditor or auditors of the county or counties in which the merging district is located, who shall within thirty days examine the signatures and certify to the sufficiency or insufficiency of the signatures. If the merging district is located in more than one county, the auditor of the county within which the largest portion of the merging district is located shall be the lead auditor. Each other auditor shall certify to the lead auditor the number of valid signatures and the number of registered voters of the merging district who reside in the county. The lead auditor shall certify as to the sufficiency or insufficiency of the signatures. No signatures may be withdrawn from the petition after the filing. A certificate of sufficiency shall be provided to the board of the merging district, which shall adopt a resolution requesting the county auditor or auditors to call a special election, as provided in RCW 29.13.020, for the purpose of presenting the question of merging the districts to the voters of the merging district.

If there is no elector-signed petition, the merging district board shall adopt a resolution requesting the county auditor or auditors to call a special election in the merging district, as specified under RCW 29.13.020, for the purpose of presenting the question of the merger to the electors. [1989 c 63 § 14; 1984 c 230 § 59; 1947 c 254 § 14; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5654-151c. Formerly RCW 52.24.030.]

**52.06.050 Vote required—Status after favorable vote.** The board of the merging district shall notify the board of the merger district of the results of the election. If a majority of the votes cast at the election favor the merger, the respective district boards shall adopt concurrent resolutions, declaring the districts merged, under the name of the merger district. Thereupon the districts are merged into one district, under the name of the merger district; the merging district is dissolved without further proceedings; and the boundaries of the merger district are thereby extended to include all the area of the merging district. Thereafter the legal existence cannot be questioned by any person by reason of any defect in the proceedings had for the merger. [1995 c 79 § 1; 1947 c 254 § 16; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5654-151e. Formerly RCW 52.24.050.]

**52.06.060 Merger by petition.** If three-fifths of all the qualified electors in the merging district sign the petition to merge, no election on the question of the merger is necessary and the auditor, or lead auditor if the merging district is located in more than a single county, shall return the petition, together with a certificate of sufficiency to the board of the merging district. The boards of the respective districts shall then adopt resolutions declaring the districts

merged in the same manner and to the same effect as if the merger had been authorized by an election. [1989 c 63 § 15; 1984 c 230 § 61; 1947 c 254 § 17; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5654-151f. Formerly RCW 52.24.060.]

**52.06.070 Obligations of merged districts.** None of the obligations of the merged districts or of a local improvement district located in the merged districts may be affected by the merger and dissolution, and all land liable to be assessed to pay any of the indebtedness shall remain liable to the same extent as if the districts had not been merged and any assessments previously levied against the land shall remain unimpaired and shall be collected in the same manner as if the districts had not merged. The commissioners of the merged district shall have all the powers of the two districts to levy, assess, and cause to be collected all assessments against any land in both districts that may be necessary to pay for the indebtedness thereof, and until the assessments are collected and all indebtedness of the districts paid, separate funds shall be maintained for each district as were maintained before the merger: PROVIDED, That the board of the merged district may, with the consent of the creditors of the districts merged, cancel any or all assessments previously levied, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the merger, so that the lands in the respective districts bear their fair and proportionate share of the indebtedness. [1984 c 230 § 62; 1947 c 254 § 18; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5654-151g. Formerly RCW 52.24.070.]

**52.06.080 Delivery of property and funds.** The commissioners of the merging district shall, upon completion of the merger, transfer, convey, and deliver to the merged district all property and funds of the merging district, together with all interest in and right to collect any assessments previously levied. [1984 c 230 § 63; 1947 c 254 § 19; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5654-151h. Formerly RCW 52.24.080.]

**52.06.085 Board membership upon merger of districts—Subsequent boards—Creation of commissioner districts.** (1) Whenever two or more fire protection districts merge, the board of fire commissioners of the merged fire protection district shall consist of all of the fire commissioners of the districts that are merging, including a person who is elected as a fire commissioner of one of the merging districts at that same election that the ballot proposition was approved authorizing the merger, who shall retain the same terms of office they would possess as if the merger had not been approved. The number of members on the board of the merged district shall be reduced to either three or five members as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section, depending on whether the district has chosen to eventually have either a three-member or a five-member board under RCW 52.14.020.

(2) The number of members on the board of the merged district shall be reduced by one whenever a fire commissioner resigns from office or a vacancy otherwise occurs on the board, until the number of remaining members is reduced to the number of members that is chosen for the board eventually to have. The reduction of membership on the board shall not be considered to be a vacancy that is to be filled

until the number of remaining members is less than the number of members on the board that is chosen for the board eventually to have.

(3) At the next three district general elections after the merger is approved, the number of fire commissioners for the merged district that are elected shall be as follows, notwithstanding the number of fire commissioners whose terms expire:

(a) In the first election after the merger, only one position shall be filled, whether the new fire protection district be a three-member district or a five-member district.

(b) In each of the two subsequent elections, one position shall be filled if the new fire protection district is a three-member district and two positions shall be filled if the new fire protection district is a five-member district.

Thereafter, the fire commissioners shall be elected in the same manner as prescribed for such fire protection districts of the state.

(4) A ballot proposition to create commissioner districts may be submitted to the voters of the fire protection districts proposed to be merged at the same election the ballot proposition is submitted authorizing the merging of the fire protection districts. The procedure to create commissioner districts shall conform with RCW 52.14.013, except that: (a) Resolutions proposing the creation of commissioner districts must be adopted by unanimous vote of the boards of fire commissioners of each of the fire protection districts that are proposed to be merged; and (b) commissioner districts will be authorized only if the ballot propositions to authorize the merger and to create commissioner districts are both approved. A ballot proposition authorizing the creation of commissioner districts is approved if it is approved by a simple majority vote of the combined voters of all the fire protection districts proposed to be merged. The commissioner districts shall not be drawn until the number of commissioners in the fire protection district has been reduced under subsections (1) through (3) of this section to either three or five commissioners. After this reduction of fire commissioners has occurred the commissioner districts shall be drawn and used for the election of the successor fire commissioners. [1994 c 14 § 1; 1992 c 74 § 1; 1985 c 7 § 118; 1977 ex.s. c 121 § 1; 1971 c 55 § 1. Formerly RCW 52.24.085.]

**52.06.090 Merger of part of district with adjacent district.** A part of one district may be transferred and merged with an adjacent district if the area can be better served by the merged district. To effect such a merger, a petition, signed by a majority of the commissioners of the merging district or signed by not less than fifteen percent of the qualified electors residing in the area to be merged, shall be filed with the commissioners of the merging district, if signed by electors, or with the commissioners of the merger district if signed by commissioners of the merging district. If the commissioners of the merging district approve the petition, the petition shall be presented to the commissioners of the merger district. If the commissioners of the merger district approve the petition, an election shall be called in the area to be merged.

In the event that either board of fire district commissioners does not approve the petition, the petition may be

approved by the boundary review board of the county or the county legislative authority of the county in which the area to be merged is situated, and may approve the merger if it decides the area can be better served by a merger. If the part of the merging district that is proposed to merge with the merger district is located in more than one county, the approval must be by the boundary review board or county legislative authority of each county. If there is an affirmative decision, an election shall be called in the area to be merged.

A majority of the votes cast is necessary to approve the transfer. [1989 c 63 § 16; 1984 c 230 § 64; 1965 ex.s. c 18 § 2; 1963 c 42 § 1; 1953 c 176 § 5. Formerly RCW 52.24.090.]

**52.06.100 Merger of part of district with adjacent district—When election unnecessary.** If three-fifths of the qualified electors in the area to be merged sign a petition to merge the districts, no election on the question of the merger is necessary, in which case the auditor or lead auditor shall return the petition, together with a certificate of sufficiency, to the board of the merger district. The board of the merger district shall then adopt a resolution declaring the portion of the district merged in the same manner and to the same effect as if the same had been authorized by an election. [1989 c 63 § 17; 1984 c 230 § 65; 1953 c 176 § 6. Formerly RCW 52.24.100.]

**52.06.110 Transfer of employees.** When any portion of a fire protection district merges with another fire protection district, any employee of the merging district who (1) was at the time of merger employed exclusively or principally in performing the powers, duties, and functions which are to be performed by the merger district (2) will, as a direct consequence of the merger, be separated from the employ of the merging district, and (3) can perform the duties and meet the minimum requirements of the position to be filled, then such employee may transfer employment to the merger district as provided in this section and RCW 52.06.120 and 52.06.130.

For purposes of this section and RCW 52.06.120 and 52.06.130, employee means an individual whose employment with a fire protection district has been terminated because the fire protection district merged with another fire protection district for purposes of fire protection. [1986 c 254 § 13.]

**52.06.120 Transfer of employees—Rights and benefits.** (1) An eligible employee may transfer into the merger district by filing a written request with the board of fire commissioners of the merger district and by giving written notice to the board of fire commissioners of the merging district. Upon receipt of such request by the board of the merger district the transfer of employment shall be made. The employee so transferring will (a) be on probation for the same period as are new employees of the merger district in the position filled, but if the transferring employee has already completed a probationary period as a fire fighter prior to the transfer, then the employee may only be terminated during the probationary period for failure to adequately perform assigned duties, not meeting the minimum qualifica-

tions of the position, or behavior that would otherwise be subject to disciplinary action, (b) be eligible for promotion no later than after completion of the probationary period, (c) receive a salary at least equal to that of other new employees of the merger district in the position filled, and (d) in all other matters, such as retirement, vacation, and sick leave, have, all the rights, benefits, and privileges to which he or she would have been entitled to as an employee of the merger district from the beginning of employment with the merging district: **PROVIDED**, That for purposes of layoffs by the merger fire agency, only the time of service accrued with the merger agency shall apply unless an agreement is reached between the collective bargaining representatives of the employees of the merging and merger fire agencies and the merging and merger fire agencies. The board of the merging district shall, upon receipt of such notice, transmit to the board of the merger district a record of the employee's service with the merging district which shall be credited to such employee as a part of the period of employment in the merger district. All accrued benefits are transferable provided that the recipient agency provides comparable benefits. All benefits shall then accrue based on the combined seniority of each employee in the recipient agency.

(2) As many of the transferring employees shall be placed upon the payroll of the merger district as the merger district determines are needed to provide services. These needed employees shall be taken in order of seniority and the remaining employees who transfer as provided in this section and RCW 52.06.110 and 52.06.130 shall head the list for employment in order of their seniority, to the end that they shall be the first to be reemployed in the merger district when appropriate positions become available: **PROVIDED**, That employees who are not immediately hired by the fire protection district shall be placed on a reemployment list for a period not to exceed thirty-six months unless a longer period is authorized by an agreement reached between the collective bargaining representatives of the employees of the merging and merged fire agencies and the merging and merged fire agencies. [1994 c 73 § 5; 1986 c 254 § 14.]

**Effective date—1994 c 73:** See note following RCW 35.10.365.

**52.06.130 Transfer of employees—Notice—Time limitation.** If, as a result of merging of districts any employee is laid off who is eligible to transfer to the merger district under this section and RCW 52.06.110 and 52.06.120, the merging district shall notify the employee of the right to transfer and the employee shall have ninety days to transfer employment to the merger district. [1986 c 254 § 15.]

**52.06.140 Merger of districts located in different counties—District name.** A merger fire protection district located in a single county, that merged with a merging fire protection district located in another county or counties, shall be identified by the name of each county in which the fire protection district is located, listed alphabetically, followed by a number that is the next highest number available for a fire protection district in the one of these counties that has the greatest number of fire protection districts. [1989 c 63 § 18.]

**52.06.150 Merger of districts located in same county—District name.** A fire protection district resulting from the merger of two or more fire protection districts located in the same county shall be identified by the name of the county and the number of the merger fire protection district. However, the fire protection district resulting from such a merger shall be identified by the number of the merging district or one of the merging districts if a resolution providing for this number change is adopted by the board of fire commissioners of the district resulting from the merger or if resolutions providing for this number change are adopted by each of the boards of fire commissioners of the districts proposed to be merged. [1992 c 74 § 3.]

## Chapter 52.08 WITHDRAWAL

### Sections

- 52.08.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.
- 52.08.011 Withdrawal authorized.
- 52.08.021 Withdrawal by incorporation of part of district.
- 52.08.025 City may not be included within district—Exceptions—Withdrawal of city.
- 52.08.032 Levy for emergency medical care and services.
- 52.08.035 City withdrawn to determine fire and emergency medical protection methods—Contracts—Joint operations—Sale, lease, etc., of property.
- 52.08.041 Taxes and assessments unaffected.
- 52.08.051 Commissioners residing in territory withdrawn—Vacancy created.

*Special purpose districts, expenditures to recruit job candidates: RCW 42.24.170.*

**52.08.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.** Actions taken under chapter 52.08 RCW may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1989 c 84 § 44.]

**52.08.011 Withdrawal authorized.** Territory within a fire protection district may be withdrawn from the district in the same manner provided by law for withdrawal of territory from water districts, as provided by chapter 57.28 RCW. [1984 c 230 § 54; 1955 c 111 § 1. Formerly RCW 52.22.010.]

*Withdrawal or reannexation of areas: RCW 52.04.056.*

**52.08.021 Withdrawal by incorporation of part of district.** The incorporation of any previously unincorporated land lying within a fire protection district shall operate to automatically withdraw such lands from the fire protection district. [1959 c 237 § 5; 1955 c 111 § 2. Formerly RCW 52.22.020.]

**52.08.025 City may not be included within district—Exceptions—Withdrawal of city.** Effective January 1, 1960, every city or town, or portion thereof, which is situated within the boundaries of a fire protection district shall become automatically removed from such fire protection district, and no fire protection district shall thereafter include any city or town, or portion thereof, within its boundaries except as provided for in RCW 52.02.020, 52.04.061, 52.04.071, 52.04.081, 52.04.101, and 52.04.161.

However, if the area which incorporates or is annexed includes all of a fire protection district, the fire protection district, for purposes of imposing regular property taxes, shall continue in existence: (1)(a) Until the first day of January in the year in which the initial property tax collections of the newly incorporated city or town will be made, if a resolution is adopted under RCW 52.04.161 precluding annexation of the city or town to the district; (b) until the city or town is withdrawn from the fire protection district, if no such resolution is adopted and no ballot proposition under RCW 52.04.161 is approved; or (c) indefinitely, if such a ballot proposition is approved; or (2) until the first day of January in the year the annexing city or town will collect its property taxes imposed on the newly annexed area. The members of the city or town council or commission shall act as the board of commissioners to impose, receive, and expend these property taxes. [1993 c 262 § 2; 1986 c 234 § 35; 1985 c 7 § 119; 1979 ex.s. c 179 § 6; 1959 c 237 § 6. Formerly RCW 52.22.030.]

**52.08.032 Levy for emergency medical care and services.** See RCW 84.52.069.

**52.08.035 City withdrawn to determine fire and emergency medical protection methods—Contracts—Joint operations—Sale, lease, etc., of property.** A city or town encompassing territory withdrawn under chapter 52.08 RCW shall determine the most effective and feasible fire protection and emergency medical protection for the withdrawn territory, or any part thereof, and the legislative authority of the city or town and the commissioners of the fire protection district may, without limitation of any other powers provided by law:

(1) Enter into contracts to the same extent as fire protection districts and cities and towns may enter into contracts under authority of RCW 52.12.031(3), and

(2) Sell, purchase, rent, lease, or exchange property of every nature. [1984 c 230 § 55; 1959 c 237 § 8. Formerly RCW 52.22.040.]

**52.08.041 Taxes and assessments unaffected.** The provisions of RCW 57.28.110 shall apply to territory withdrawn from a fire protection district under the provision of chapter 52.08 RCW. [1985 c 7 § 120; 1959 c 237 § 7. Formerly RCW 52.22.050.]

**52.08.051 Commissioners residing in territory withdrawn—Vacancy created.** Fire protection district commissioners residing in territory withdrawn from a fire protection district shall be replaced in the manner provided for the filling of vacancies in RCW 52.14.050. [1984 c 230 § 56; 1959 c 237 § 9. Formerly RCW 52.22.060.]

**Chapter 52.10  
DISSOLUTION**

Sections

- 52.10.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.
- 52.10.010 Dissolution—Election method.

52.10.020 Disincorporation of district located in county with a population of two hundred ten thousand or more and inactive for five years.

**52.10.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.** Actions taken under chapter 52.10 RCW may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1989 c 84 § 45.]

**52.10.010 Dissolution—Election method.** Fire protection districts may be dissolved by a majority vote of the registered electors of the district at an election conducted by the election officials of the county or counties in which the district is located in accordance with the general election laws of the state. The proceedings for dissolution may be initiated by the adoption of a resolution by the board of commissioners of the district calling for the dissolution. The dissolution of the district shall not cancel outstanding obligations of the district or of a local improvement district within the district, and the county legislative authority or authorities of the county or counties in which the district was located may make annual levies against the lands within the district until the obligations of the districts are paid. When the obligations are fully paid, all moneys in district funds and all collections of unpaid district taxes shall be transferred to the expense fund of the county. Where the fire protection district that was dissolved was located in more than one county, the amount of money transferred to the expense fund of each county shall be in direct proportion to the amount of assessed valuation of the fire protection district that was located in each county at the time of its dissolution. [1989 c 63 § 19; 1984 c 230 § 15; 1939 c 34 § 46; RRS § 5654-146. Formerly RCW 52.04.155.]

*Dissolution of special purpose districts: Chapters 36.96 and 53.48 RCW.*

**52.10.020 Disincorporation of district located in county with a population of two hundred ten thousand or more and inactive for five years.** See chapter 57.90 RCW.

**Chapter 52.12**

**POWERS—BURNING PERMITS**

Sections

- 52.12.011 Status.
- 52.12.021 General powers.
- 52.12.031 Specific powers—Acquisition or lease of property or equipment—Contracts—Association of districts—Group life insurance—Building inspections—Fire investigations.
- 52.12.041 Eminent domain.
- 52.12.051 Condemnation proceedings.
- 52.12.061 Contracts, promissory notes, deeds of trust, and mortgages for purchase of property—Limit on indebtedness—Election, when.
- 52.12.071 Liability insurance for officials and employees.
- 52.12.101 Burning permits authorized—Resolution.
- 52.12.102 Burning permits—Resolution to be published and posted.
- 52.12.103 Burning permits—Issuance—Contents.
- 52.12.104 Burning permits—Duties of permittee.
- 52.12.105 Burning permits—Penalty.
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- 52.12.140 Hazardous materials response teams.
- 52.12.150 Setting fires for fire fighter instruction—When burning permit not required—Notice, inspection required.

*Association of fire commissioners to furnish information to legislature and governor: RCW 44.04.170.*

**52.12.011 Status.** Fire protection districts created under this title are political subdivisions of the state and shall be held to be municipal corporations within the laws and Constitution of the state of Washington. A fire protection district shall constitute a body corporate and possess all the usual powers of a corporation for public purposes as well as all other powers that may now or hereafter be specifically conferred by law. [1984 c 230 § 18; 1967 c 164 § 5; 1939 c 34 § 15; RRS § 5654-115. Formerly RCW 52.08.010.]

**Purpose—Severability—1967 c 164:** See notes following RCW 4.96.010.

*Tortious conduct of political subdivisions, municipal corporations, and quasi municipal corporations, liability for damages: Chapter 4.96 RCW.*

**52.12.021 General powers.** Fire protection districts have full authority to carry out their purposes and to that end may acquire, purchase, hold, lease, manage, occupy, and sell real and personal property, or any interest therein, to enter into and to perform any and all necessary contracts, to appoint and employ the necessary officers, agents, and employees, to sue and be sued, to exercise the right of eminent domain, to levy and enforce the collection of assessments and special taxes in the manner and subject to the limitations provided in this title against the lands within the district for district revenues, and to do any and all lawful acts required and expedient to carry out the purpose of this title. [1984 c 230 § 19; 1939 c 34 § 16; RRS § 5654-116. Formerly RCW 52.08.020.]

**52.12.031 Specific powers—Acquisition or lease of property or equipment—Contracts—Association of districts—Group life insurance—Building inspections—Fire investigations.** Any fire protection district organized under this title may:

(1) Lease, acquire, own, maintain, operate, and provide fire and emergency medical apparatus and all other necessary or proper facilities, machinery, and equipment for the prevention and suppression of fires, the providing of emergency medical services and the protection of life and property;

(2) Lease, acquire, own, maintain, and operate real property, improvements, and fixtures for housing, repairing, and maintaining the apparatus, facilities, machinery, and equipment described in subsection (1) of this section;

(3) Contract with any governmental entity under chapter 39.34 RCW or private person or entity to consolidate, provide, or cooperate for fire prevention protection, fire suppression, investigation, and emergency medical purposes. In so contracting, the district or governmental entity is

deemed for all purposes to be acting within its governmental capacity. This contracting authority includes the furnishing of fire prevention, fire suppression, investigation, emergency medical services, facilities, and equipment to or by the district, governmental entity, or private person or entity;

(4) Encourage uniformity and coordination of fire protection district operations. The fire commissioners of fire protection districts may form an association to secure information of value in suppressing and preventing fires and other district purposes, to hold and attend meetings, and to promote more economical and efficient operation of the associated fire protection districts. The commissioners of fire protection districts in the association shall adopt articles of association or articles of incorporation for a nonprofit corporation, select a chairman, secretary, and other officers as they may determine, and may employ and discharge agents and employees as the officers deem convenient to carry out the purposes of the association. The expenses of the association may be paid from funds paid into the association by fire protection districts: PROVIDED, That the aggregate contributions made to the association by a district in a calendar year shall not exceed two and one-half cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation;

(5) Enter into contracts to provide group life insurance for the benefit of the personnel of the fire districts;

(6) Perform building and property inspections that the district deems necessary to provide fire prevention services and pre-fire planning within the district and any area that the district serves by contract in accordance with RCW 19.27.110: PROVIDED, That codes used by the district for building and property inspections shall be limited to the applicable codes adopted by the state, county, city, or town that has jurisdiction over the area in which the property is located. A copy of inspection reports prepared by the district shall be furnished by the district to the appropriate state, county, city, or town that has jurisdiction over the area in which the property is located: PROVIDED, That nothing in this subsection shall be construed to grant code enforcement authority to a district. This subsection shall not be construed as imposing liability on any governmental jurisdiction;

(7) Determine the origin and cause of fires occurring within the district and any area the district serves by contract. In exercising the authority conferred by this subsection, the fire protection district and its authorized representatives shall comply with the provisions of RCW 48.48.060;

(8) Perform acts consistent with this title and not otherwise prohibited by law. [1995 c 369 § 65; 1986 c 311 § 1; 1984 c 238 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 48; 1963 c 101 § 1; 1959 c 237 § 2; 1947 c 254 § 6; 1941 c 70 § 4; 1939 c 34 § 20; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5654-120. Formerly RCW 52.08.030.]

**Effective date—1995 c 369:** See note following RCW 43.43.930.

**Severability—Effective dates and termination dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

*Hospitalization and medical insurance authorized: RCW 41.04.180.*

*Use of city fire apparatus beyond city limits: RCW 35.84.040.*

**52.12.041 Eminent domain.** The taking and damaging of property or property rights by a fire protection district



to carry out the purposes of its organization are declared to be for a public use. A district organized under this title may exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire property or property rights either inside or outside the district, for the use of the district. A district exercising the power of eminent domain shall proceed in the name of the district in the manner provided by law for the appropriation of real property or of real property rights by private corporations. [1984 c 230 § 20; 1939 c 34 § 18; RRS § 5654-118. Formerly RCW 52.08.040.]

*Eminent domain: State Constitution Art. I § 16 (Amendment 9); chapter 8.20 RCW.*

**52.12.051 Condemnation proceedings.** A fire protection district may unite in a single action, proceedings to condemn property which is held by separate owners. Two or more condemnation suits instituted separately may also, in the discretion of the court, upon a motion of an interested party, be consolidated into a single action. In these cases, the jury shall render separate verdicts for each tract of land in different ownership. A finding of the jury or decree of the court as to damages shall not in any manner be construed to abridge or destroy the right of the district to levy and collect taxes for district purposes against the uncondemned land situated within the district. The title acquired by a fire protection district in condemnation proceedings shall be the fee simple title or a lesser estate as designated in the decree of appropriation. [1984 c 230 § 21; 1939 c 34 § 19; RRS § 5654-119. Formerly RCW 52.08.050.]

**52.12.061 Contracts, promissory notes, deeds of trust, and mortgages for purchase of property—Limit on indebtedness—Election, when.** Fire protection districts may execute executory conditional sales contracts, installment promissory notes secured by a deed of trust, or mortgages with a governmental entity or a private party for the purchase or sale of any real or personal property, or property rights: PROVIDED, That the purchase price specified in a contract or promissory note to purchase property does not result in a total indebtedness in excess of three-eighths of one percent of the value of the taxable property in the fire protection district: PROVIDED FURTHER, That if a proposed purchase contract or promissory note would result in a total indebtedness in excess of that amount, a proposition to determine whether that contract or promissory note may be executed shall be submitted to the voters for approval or rejection in the same manner that bond issues for capital purposes are submitted to the voters: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That a fire protection district may jointly execute contracts, promissory notes, deeds of trust, or mortgages authorized by this section with any governmental entity.

The term "value of the taxable property" shall have the meaning set forth in RCW 39.36.015. [1984 c 230 § 27; 1970 ex.s. c 42 § 29; 1965 c 21 § 1. Formerly RCW 52.08.080.]

**Severability—Effective date—1970 ex.s. c 42:** See notes following RCW 39.36.015.

**52.12.071 Liability insurance for officials and employees.** The board of commissioners of each fire district

may purchase liability insurance with limits it deems reasonable for the purpose of protecting its officials and employees against liability for personal or bodily injuries and property damage arising from their acts or omissions while performing or in good faith purporting to perform their official duties. [1984 c 230 § 28; 1973 c 125 § 3. Formerly RCW 52.08.090.]

**52.12.101 Burning permits authorized—Resolution.** In any district in which the commissioners have adopted and published a resolution assuming the authority of issuing burning permits, a person, firm, or corporation shall not start, permit, or cause to be started or permitted an open fire on any land within a fire protection district; without a written permit issued by the district under terms and conditions as the district establishes by resolution. A fire district shall not assume authority to issue a burning permit for a fire on any forest or cut over land, except as otherwise provided by law. A fire district shall have the authority to revoke a permit issued by the district for the protection of life or property or to prevent or abate the nuisances caused by such burning. [1987 c 21 § 1; 1984 c 229 § 1; 1947 c 254 § 20; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5654-151i. Formerly RCW 52.28.010.]

**52.12.102 Burning permits—Resolution to be published and posted.** The commissioners of a district may adopt a resolution authorizing the district to issue fire permits and establishing the terms and conditions under which the permit shall be issued. Notice of the resolution shall be published once a week for three consecutive weeks in a newspaper published in the county and of general circulation in the district and post it in three public places in the district. The affidavit of publication by the publisher and of the clerk of the district of the posting shall be filed in the records of the district. Ten days after the posting and the last publication, the resolution shall take effect. [1984 c 229 § 2; 1947 c 254 § 21; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5654-151j. Formerly RCW 52.28.020.]

**52.12.103 Burning permits—Issuance—Contents.** Burning permits may be issued upon request, by the persons authorized by the commissioners when the issuing officer deems it appropriate. The permit shall designate the premises and the exact location where the fire may be started and permitted, the nature of the material to be burned, the time limit of the permit, and may contain any special requirements and conditions pertaining to the fire and the control of the fire as the issuing officer deems appropriate. [1984 c 229 § 3; 1947 c 254 § 22; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5654-151k. Formerly RCW 52.28.030.]

**52.12.104 Burning permits—Duties of permittee.** The permittee shall comply with the terms and conditions of the permit, and shall maintain a responsible person in charge of the fire at all times who shall maintain the fire under control, not permit it to spread to other property or structures, and extinguish the fire when the authorized burning is completed or when directed by district personnel. The possession of a permit shall not relieve the permittee from liability for damages resulting from the fire for which the permittee may otherwise be liable. [1984 c 229 § 4; 1947

c 254 § 23; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5654-1511. Formerly RCW 52.28.040.]

*Crimes relating to fires: Chapter 9A.48 RCW.*

*Liability for fire damage: RCW 4.24.040, 4.24.050, 4.24.060, 76.04.495, 76.04.750.*

**52.12.105 Burning permits—Penalty.** The violation of or failure to comply with any provision of this chapter pertaining to fire permits, or of any term or condition of the permit, is a misdemeanor. [1947 c 254 § 24; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5654-151m. Formerly RCW 52.28.050.]

**52.12.106 Burning permits—Penalty.** The violation of or failure to comply with any provision of this chapter pertaining to fire permits, or of any term or condition of the permit, is a misdemeanor. [1984 c 229 § 5.]

**52.12.108 Burning permits—Liability for fire suppression costs.** If a person starts a fire without a permit or if a permit holder fails to comply with any provision of this chapter pertaining to fire permits, or of any term or condition of the permit, and as a result of that failure the district is required to suppress a fire, the person or permit holder is liable to the district to reimburse it for the costs of the fire suppression services. [1984 c 229 § 6.]

**52.12.111 Use of equipment and personnel beyond district boundaries—Governmental function.** A fire protection district may permit, under conditions prescribed by the fire commissioners of the district, the use of its equipment and personnel beyond the boundaries of the district. Any use made of the equipment or personnel under this section shall be deemed an exercise of a governmental function of the district. [1984 c 230 § 77; 1980 c 43 § 1; 1969 c 88 § 2. Formerly RCW 52.36.025.]

**52.12.121 Use of equipment and personnel outside district—Duty of fire fighter deemed duty for district—Benefits not impaired.** If a fire fighter engages in any duty outside the boundaries of the district the duty shall be considered as part of the duty as fire fighter for the district, and a fire fighter who is injured while engaged in duties outside the boundaries of the district shall be entitled to the same benefits that the fire fighter or the fire fighter's dependents would be entitled to receive if the injury occurred within the district. [1984 c 230 § 78; 1969 c 88 § 3. Formerly RCW 52.36.027.]

**52.12.125 Reimbursement for fire suppression costs on state lands—Limitations.** Fire protection districts in proximity to land protected by a state agency are encouraged to enter into mutually beneficial contracts covering reciprocal response arrangements. In the absence of such a contractual agreement, a fire protection district that takes immediate action on such land outside of its jurisdictional boundaries, if such immediate response could prevent the spread of the fire onto lands protected by the district, shall be reimbursed by the state agency for its reasonable fire suppression costs that are incurred until the responsible agency takes charge, but in no event shall the costs exceed a twenty-four hour

period. A fire protection district suppressing a fire on such lands shall as soon as practicable notify the responsible agency. The state agency shall not be responsible to pay such reimbursement if it is not so notified.

Reasonable efforts shall be taken to protect evidence of the fire's origin. The state agency shall not be responsible to pay such reimbursement if reasonable efforts are not taken to protect such evidence.

Requests for reimbursement shall be submitted within thirty days of the complete suppression of the fire. Reasonable costs submitted for reimbursement include all salaries and expenses of personnel, equipment, and supplies and shall take into consideration the amount of compensation, if any, paid by the fire protection district to its fire fighters. [1986 c 311 § 2.]

**52.12.131 Emergency medical services—Establishment and collection of charges.** Any fire protection district which provides emergency medical services, may by resolution establish and collect reasonable charges for these services in order to reimburse the district for its costs of providing emergency medical services. [1984 c 230 § 81; 1975 c 64 § 1. Formerly RCW 52.36.090.]

**52.12.140 Hazardous materials response teams.** Fire protection districts may cooperate and participate with counties, cities, or towns in providing hazardous materials response teams under the county, city, or town emergency management plan provided for in RCW 38.52.070. The participation and cooperation shall be pursuant to an agreement or contract entered into under chapter 39.34 RCW. [1986 c 278 § 49.]

*Severability—1986 c 278: See note following RCW 36.01.010.*

**52.12.150 Setting fires for fire fighter instruction—When burning permit not required—Notice, inspection required.** Without obtaining a permit issued under RCW 70.94.650, fire protection district fire fighters may set fire to structures located outside of urban growth areas in counties that plan under the requirements of RCW 36.70A.040, and outside of any city with a population of ten thousand or more in all other counties, for instruction in methods of fire fighting, if all of the following conditions are met:

(1) The fire conforms with any other permits, licenses, or approvals that are required;

(2) The fire is not located in an area that is declared to be in an air pollution episode or any stage of an impaired air quality as defined in RCW 70.94.715 and 70.94.473;

(3) Nuisance laws are applicable to the fire, including nuisances related to the unreasonable interference with the enjoyment of life and property and the depositing of particulate matter or ash on other property;

(4) Notice of the fire is provided to the owners of property adjoining the property on which the fire will occur, to other persons who potentially will be impacted by the fire, and to additional persons in a broader manner as specifically requested by the local air pollution control agency or the department of ecology;

(5) Each structure that is proposed to be set on fire must be identified specifically as a structure to be set on fire. Each other structure on the same parcel of property that is

not proposed to be set on fire must be identified specifically as a structure not to be set on fire; and

(6) Before setting a structure on fire, a good-faith inspection is conducted to determine if materials containing asbestos are present, the inspection is documented in writing and forwarded to the appropriate local air authority or the department of ecology if there is no local air authority, and asbestos that is found is removed as required by state and federal laws. [1994 c 28 § 1.]

## Chapter 52.14 COMMISSIONERS

### Sections

- 52.14.010 Number—Qualifications—Insurance—Compensation—Service as volunteer fire fighter—Waiver of compensation.
- 52.14.013 Commissioner districts—Creation—Boundaries.
- 52.14.015 Increase from three to five commissioners—Election.
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- 52.14.050 Vacancies.
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- 52.14.080 Chairman—Secretary—Duties and oath.
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- 52.14.100 Meetings—Powers and duties of board.
- 52.14.110 Purchases and public works—Competitive bids required—Exceptions.
- 52.14.120 Purchases and public works—Competitive bidding procedures.
- 52.14.130 Low bidder claiming error—Prohibition on later bid for same project.

**52.14.010 Number—Qualifications—Insurance—Compensation—Service as volunteer fire fighter—Waiver of compensation.** The affairs of the district shall be managed by a board of fire commissioners composed of three registered voters residing in the district except as provided in RCW 52.14.015 and 52.14.020. Each member shall each receive fifty dollars per day or portion thereof, not to exceed four thousand eight hundred dollars per year, for attendance at board meetings and for performance of other services in behalf of the district.

In addition, they shall receive necessary expenses incurred in attending meetings of the board or when otherwise engaged in district business, and shall be entitled to receive the same insurance available to all fire fighters of the district: PROVIDED, That the premiums for such insurance, except liability insurance, shall be paid by the individual commissioners who elect to receive it.

Any commissioner may waive all or any portion of his or her compensation payable under this section as to any month or months during his or her term of office, by a written waiver filed with the secretary as provided in this section. The waiver, to be effective, must be filed any time after the commissioner's election and prior to the date on which the compensation would otherwise be paid. The waiver shall specify the month or period of months for which it is made.

The board shall fix the compensation to be paid the secretary and all other agents and employees of the district. The board may, by resolution adopted by unanimous vote,

authorize any of its members to serve as volunteer fire fighters without compensation. A commissioner actually serving as a volunteer fire fighter may enjoy the rights and benefits of a volunteer fire fighter. [1994 c 223 § 48; 1985 c 330 § 2; 1980 c 27 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 126 § 31; 1973 c 86 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 242 § 2; 1969 ex.s. c 67 § 1; 1967 c 51 § 1; 1965 c 112 § 1; 1959 c 237 § 4; 1957 c 238 § 1; 1945 c 162 § 3; 1939 c 34 § 22; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 5654-122. Formerly RCW 52.12.010.]

**Purpose—1979 ex.s. c 126:** See RCW 29.04.170(1).

*Terms of commissioners:* RCW 52.14.060.

**52.14.013 Commissioner districts—Creation—Boundaries.** The board of fire commissioners of a fire protection district may adopt a resolution by unanimous vote causing a ballot proposition to be submitted to voters of the district authorizing the creation of commissioner districts. The board of fire commissioners shall create commissioner districts if the ballot proposition authorizing the creation of commissioner districts is approved by a simple majority vote of the voters of the fire protection district voting on the proposition. Three commissioner districts shall be created for a fire protection district with three commissioners, and five commissioner districts shall be created for a fire protection district with five commissioners. No two commissioners may reside in the same commissioner district.

No change in the boundaries of any commissioner district shall be made within one hundred twenty days next before the date of a general district election, nor within twenty months after the commissioner districts have been established or altered. However, if a boundary change results in one commissioner district being represented by two or more commissioners, those commissioners having the shortest unexpired terms shall be assigned by the commission to commissioner districts where there is a vacancy, and the commissioners so assigned shall be deemed to be residents of the commissioner districts to which they are assigned for purposes of determining whether those positions are vacant.

The population of each commissioner district shall include approximately equal population. Commissioner districts shall be redrawn as provided in chapter 29.70 RCW. Commissioner districts shall be used as follows: (1) Only a registered voter who resides in a commissioner district may be a candidate for, or serve as, a commissioner of the commissioner district; and (2) only voters of a commissioner district may vote at a primary to nominate candidates for a commissioner of the commissioner district. Voters of the entire fire protection district may vote at a general election to elect a person as a commissioner of the commissioner district.

When a board of fire commissioners that has commissioner districts has been increased to five members under RCW 52.14.015, the board of fire commissioners shall divide the fire protection district into five commissioner districts before it appoints the two additional fire commissioners. The two additional fire commissioners who are appointed shall reside in separate commissioner districts in which no other fire commissioner resides. [1994 c 223 § 49; 1992 c 74 § 2.]

*Creation of commissioner districts upon merger:* RCW 52.06.085.

**52.14.015 Increase from three to five commissioners—Election.** In the event a three member board of commissioners of any fire protection district determines by resolution that it would be in the best interest of the district to increase the number of commissioners from three to five, or in the event the board is presented with a petition signed by ten percent of the registered voters resident within the district who voted in the last general municipal election calling for such an increase in the number of commissioners of the district, the board shall submit a resolution to the county legislative authority or authorities of the county or counties in which the district is located requesting that an election be held. Upon receipt of the resolution, the legislative authority or authorities of the county or counties shall call a special election to be held within the fire protection district at which election the following proposition shall be submitted to the voters substantially as follows:

Shall the board of commissioners of . . . . county fire protection district no. . . . . be increased from three members to five members?

Yes . . . . .

No . . . . .

If the fire protection district is located in more than a single county, this proposition shall indicate the name of the district.

If the proposition receives a majority approval at the election, the board of commissioners of the fire protection district shall be increased to five members. The two additional members shall be appointed in the same manner as provided in RCW 52.14.020. [1994 c 223 § 50; 1990 c 259 § 14; 1989 c 63 § 20; 1984 c 230 § 85.]

**52.14.020 Number in district having full-time, fully-paid personnel—Terms of first appointees.** In a fire protection district maintaining a fire department consisting wholly of personnel employed on a full-time, fully-paid basis, there shall be five fire commissioners. The two positions created on boards of fire commissioners by this section shall be filled initially as for a vacancy, except that the appointees shall draw lots, one appointee to serve until the next general fire district election after the appointment, at which two commissioners shall be elected for six-year terms, and the other appointee to serve until the second general fire district election after the appointment, at which two commissioners shall be elected for six-year terms. [1984 c 230 § 29; 1971 ex.s. c 242 § 3. Formerly RCW 52.12.015.]

**52.14.030 Polling places.** The polling places for a fire protection district election may be located inside or outside the boundaries of the district, as determined by the auditor of the county in which the fire protection district is located, and the elections of the fire protection district shall not be held to be irregular or void on that account. [1994 c 223 § 51; 1984 c 230 § 31; 1939 c 34 § 24; RRS § 5654-124. Formerly RCW 52.12.030.]

**52.14.050 Vacancies.** Vacancies on a board of fire commissioners shall occur as provided in chapter 42.12 RCW. In addition, if a fire commissioner is absent from the

district for three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings unless by permission of the board, the office shall be declared vacant by the board of commissioners. However, such an action shall not be taken unless the commissioner is notified by mail after two consecutive unexcused absences that the position will be declared vacant if the commissioner is absent without being excused from the next regularly scheduled meeting. Vacancies on a board of fire commissioners shall be filled as provided in chapter 42.12 RCW. [1994 c 223 § 52; 1989 c 63 § 21; 1984 c 238 § 2; 1977 c 64 § 1; 1974 ex.s. c 17 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 153 § 1; 1939 c 34 § 26; RRS § 5654-126. Formerly RCW 52.12.050.]

**52.14.060 Commissioner's terms.** The initial three members of the board of fire commissioners shall be elected at the same election as when the ballot proposition is submitted to the voters authorizing the creation of the fire protection district. If the district is not authorized to be created, the election of the initial fire commissioners shall be null and void. If the district is authorized to be created, the initial fire commissioners shall take office immediately when qualified. Candidates shall file for each of the three separate fire commissioner positions. Elections shall be held as provided in chapter 29.21 RCW, with the county auditor opening up a special filing period as provided in RCW 29.15.170 and 29.15.180, as if there were a vacancy. The person who receives the greatest number of votes for each position shall be elected to that position. The terms of office of the initial fire commissioners shall be staggered as follows: (1) The person who is elected receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected to a six-year term of office if the election is held in an odd-numbered year or a five-year term of office if the election is held in an even-numbered year; (2) the person who is elected receiving the next greatest number of votes shall be elected to a four-year term of office if the election is held in an odd-numbered year or a three-year term of office if the election is held in an even-numbered year; and (3) the other person who is elected shall be elected to a two-year term of office if the election is held in an odd-numbered year or a one-year term of office if the election is held in an even-numbered year. The initial commissioners shall take office immediately when elected and qualified and their terms of office shall be calculated from the first day of January in the year following their election.

The term of office of each subsequent commissioner shall be six years. Each commissioner shall serve until a successor is elected and qualified and assumes office in accordance with RCW 29.04.170. [1994 c 223 § 53; 1989 c 63 § 22; 1984 c 230 § 33; 1979 ex.s. c 126 § 33; 1939 c 34 § 27; RRS § 5654-127. Formerly RCW 52.12.060.]

**Purpose—1979 ex.s. c 126:** See RCW 29.04.170(1).

**52.14.070 Oath of office.** Before beginning the duties of office, each fire commissioner shall take and subscribe the official oath for the faithful discharge of the duties of office as required by RCW 29.01.135, which oath shall be filed in the office of the auditor of the county in which all, or the largest portion of, the district is located. [1989 c 63 § 23; 1986 c 167 § 22; 1984 c 230 § 34; 1939 c 34 § 29; RRS § 5654-129. Formerly RCW 52.12.070.]

**Severability—1986 c 167:** See note following RCW 29.01.055.

**52.14.080 Chairman—Secretary—Duties and oath.**

The fire commissioners shall elect a chairman from their number and shall appoint a secretary of the district, who may or may not be a member of the board, for such term as they shall by resolution determine. The secretary, if a member of the board, shall not receive additional compensation for serving as secretary.

The secretary of the district shall keep a record of the proceedings of the board, shall perform other duties as prescribed by the board or by law, and shall take and subscribe an official oath similar to that of the fire commissioners which oath shall be filed in the same office as that of the commissioners. [1984 c 230 § 35; 1965 c 112 § 2; 1939 c 34 § 30; RRS § 5654-130. Formerly RCW 52.12.080.]

**52.14.090 Office—Meetings.** (1) The office of the fire commissioners and principal place of business of the district shall be at some place within the county in which the district is situated, to be designated by the board of fire commissioners.

(2) The board shall hold regular monthly meetings at a place and date as it determines by resolution, and may adjourn its meetings as required for the proper transaction of business. Special meetings of the board shall be called at any time under the provisions of RCW 42.30.080. [1984 c 230 § 36; 1947 c 254 § 8; 1939 c 34 § 31; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5654-131. Formerly RCW 52.12.090.]

**52.14.100 Meetings—Powers and duties of board.**

All meetings of the board of fire commissioners shall be conducted in accordance with chapter 42.30 RCW and a majority constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business. All records of the board shall be open to inspection in accordance with the provisions of RCW 42.17.250 through 42.17.340. The board has the power and duty to adopt a seal of the district, to manage and conduct the business affairs of the district, to make and execute all necessary contracts, to employ any necessary services, and to adopt reasonable rules to govern the district and to perform its functions, and generally to perform all such acts as may be necessary to carry out the objects of the creation of the district. [1984 c 230 § 37; 1939 c 34 § 32; RRS § 5654-132. Formerly RCW 52.12.100.]

*Open public meetings: Chapters 42.30, 42.32 RCW.*

**52.14.110 Purchases and public works—Competitive bids required—Exceptions.** Insofar as practicable, purchases and any public works by the district shall be based on competitive bids. A formal sealed bid procedure shall be used as standard procedure for purchases and contracts for purchases executed by the board of commissioners. Formal sealed bidding shall not be required for:

(1) Emergency purchases if the sealed bidding procedure would prevent or hinder the emergency from being addressed appropriately. The term emergency means an occurrence that creates an immediate threat to life or property;

(2) The purchase of any materials, supplies, or equipment if the cost will not exceed the sum of four thousand five hundred dollars. However, whenever the estimated cost is from four thousand five hundred dollars up to ten thousand dollars, the commissioners may by resolution use the process provided in RCW 39.04.190 to award contracts;

(3) Contracting for work to be done involving the construction or improvement of a fire station or other buildings where the estimated cost will not exceed the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars, which includes the costs of labor, material, and equipment. However, whenever the estimated cost is from two thousand five hundred dollars up to ten thousand dollars, the commissioner may by resolution use the small works roster process provided in RCW 39.04.155;

(4) Purchases which are clearly and legitimately limited to a single source of supply, or services, in which instances the purchase price may be best established by direct negotiation: PROVIDED, That this subsection shall not apply to purchases or contracts relating to public works as defined in chapter 39.04 RCW; and

(5) Purchases of insurance and bonds. [1993 c 198 § 11; 1984 c 238 § 3.]

**52.14.120 Purchases and public works—Competitive bidding procedures.** (1) Notice of the call for bids shall be given by publishing the notice in a newspaper of general circulation within the district at least thirteen days before the last date upon which bids will be received. If no bid is received on the first call, the commissioners may readvertise and make a second call, or may enter into a contract without a further call.

(2) A public work involving three or more specialty contractors requires that the district retain the services of a general contractor as defined in RCW 18.27.010. [1993 c 198 § 12; 1984 c 238 § 4.]

**52.14.130 Low bidder claiming error—Prohibition on later bid for same project.** A low bidder who claims error and fails to enter into a contract with a fire protection district for a public works project is prohibited from bidding on the same project if a second or subsequent call for bids is made for the project. [1996 c 18 § 10.]

**Chapter 52.16  
FINANCES**

**Sections**

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**52.16.010 County treasurer as financial agent.** It is the duty of the county treasurer of the county in which all, or the largest portion of, any fire protection district created under this title is located to receive and disburse district revenues, to collect taxes and assessments authorized and levied under this title, and to credit district revenues to the proper fund. However, where a fire protection district is located in more than one county, the county treasurer of each other county in which the district is located shall collect the fire protection district's taxes and assessments that are imposed on property located within the county and transfer these funds to the county treasurer of the county in which the largest portion of the district is located. [1989 c 63 § 24; 1984 c 230 § 38; 1939 c 34 § 33; RRS § 5654-133.]

**52.16.020 Funds.** In each county in which a fire protection district is situated, there shall be in the county treasurer's office of each district the following funds: (1) Expense fund; (2) reserve fund; (3) local improvement district No. . . . fund; (4) general obligation bond fund; and (5) such other funds as the board of commissioners of the district may establish. Taxes levied for administrative, operative, and maintenance purposes and for the purchase of fire fighting and emergency medical equipment and apparatus and for the purchase of real property, when collected, and proceeds from the sale of general obligation bonds shall be placed by the county treasurer in the proper fund. Taxes levied for the payment of general obligation bonds and interest thereon, when collected, shall be placed by the county treasurer in the general obligation bond fund. The board of fire commissioners may include in its annual budget items of possible outlay to be provided for and held in reserve for any district purpose, and taxes shall be levied therefor. Such taxes, when collected, shall be placed by the county treasurer in the reserve fund. The reserve fund, or any part of it, may be transferred by the county treasurer to other funds of the district at any time by order of the board of fire commissioners. Special assessments levied against the lands in any improvement district within the district, when collected, shall be placed by the county treasurer in the local improvement district fund for the local improvement district. [1984 c 230 § 39; 1983 c 167 § 120; 1959 c 221 § 1; 1955 c 134 § 1; 1953 c 176 § 2; 1951 2nd ex.s. c 24 § 1; 1949 c 22 § 1; 1947 c 254 § 9; 1939 c 34 § 34; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5654-134.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**52.16.030 Budget for each fund.** Annually after the county board or boards of equalization of the county or counties in which the district is located have equalized the assessments for general tax purposes in that year, the secretary of the district shall prepare and certify a budget of the requirements of each district fund, and deliver it to the county legislative authority or authorities of the county or counties in which the district is located in ample time for the

tax levies to be made for district purposes. [1989 c 63 § 25; 1984 c 230 § 40; 1939 c 34 § 35; RRS § 5654-135.]

**52.16.040 Tax levies—Assessment roll—Collection.** At the time of making general tax levies in each year the county legislative authority or authorities of the county or counties in which a fire protection district is located shall make the required levies for district purposes against the real and personal property in the district in accordance with the equalized valuations of the property for general tax purposes and as a part of the general taxes. The tax levies shall be a part of the general tax roll and shall be collected as a part of the general taxes against the property in the district. [1989 c 63 § 26; 1984 c 230 § 41; 1939 c 34 § 36; RRS § 5654-136.]

*Levy of taxes: Chapter 84.52 RCW.*

**52.16.050 Disbursal of funds—Monthly reports.** The county treasurer shall pay out money received for the account of the district on warrants issued by the county auditor against the proper funds of the district. The warrants shall be issued on vouchers approved and signed by a majority of the district board and by the district secretary. The county treasurer may also pay general obligation bonds and the accrued interest thereon in accordance with their terms from the general obligation bond fund when interest or principal payments become due. The county treasurer shall report in writing monthly to the secretary of the district the amount of money held by the county in each fund and the amounts of receipts and disbursements for each fund during the preceding month. [1984 c 230 § 42; 1983 c 167 § 121; 1939 c 34 § 37; RRS § 5654-137.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**52.16.061 General obligation bonds—Issuance—Limitations.** The board of fire commissioners of the district shall have authority to contract indebtedness and to refund same for any general district purpose, including expenses of maintenance, operation and administration, and the acquisition of firefighting facilities, and evidence the same by the issuance and sale of general obligation bonds of the district payable at such time or times not longer than twenty years from the issuing date of the bonds. Such bonds shall be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. Such bonds shall not exceed an amount, together with any outstanding nonvoter approved general obligation indebtedness, equal to three-eighths of one percent of the value of the taxable property within the fire protection district, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in RCW 39.36.015. [1993 c 231 § 1; 1984 c 186 § 39; 1983 c 167 § 122; 1970 ex.s. c 56 § 66; 1969 ex.s. c 232 § 89; 1955 c 134 § 2; 1953 c 176 § 3.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

**Validation—Saving—Severability—1969 ex.s. c 232:** See notes following RCW 39.52.020.

**52.16.070 Obligations shall not exceed taxes, revenues, and cash balances—Exceptions.** Except as authorized by the issuance and sale of general obligation bonds, the creation of local improvements districts, and the issuance of local improvement bonds and warrants of the fire protection district, the board of fire commissioners may not incur expenses or other financial obligations payable in any year in excess of the aggregate amount of taxes levied for that year, revenues derived from all other sources, and the cash balances on hand in the expense and reserve funds of the district on the first day of that year. In the event that there are any unpaid warrants drawn on any district funds for expenses and obligations incurred and outstanding at the end of any calendar year, the warrants may be paid from taxes collected in the subsequent year or years and from other income. [1984 c 230 § 43; 1983 c 167 § 123; 1975 1st ex.s. c 130 § 1; 1972 ex.s. c 16 § 1; 1959 c 221 § 2; 1955 c 134 § 3; 1951 2nd ex.s. c 24 § 10; 1947 c 254 § 11; 1943 c 106 § 1; 1941 c 70 § 5; 1939 c 34 § 39; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5654-139.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**Severability—Construction—1975 1st ex.s. c 130:** "If any section, clause, or other provision of this 1975 amendatory act, or its application to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the remainder of such 1975 amendatory act, or the application of such section, clause, or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected. The rule of strict construction shall have no application to this 1975 amendatory act, but the same shall be liberally construed, in order to carry out the purposes and objects for which this 1975 amendatory act is intended. When this 1975 amendatory act comes in conflict with any provision, limitation, or restriction in any other law, this 1975 amendatory act shall govern and control." [1975 1st ex.s. c 130 § 6.]

**52.16.080 Bonds may be issued for capital purposes—Excess property tax levies.** Fire protection districts additionally are authorized to incur general indebtedness for capital purposes and to issue general obligation bonds not to exceed an amount, together with any outstanding general obligation indebtedness, equal to three-fourths of one percent of the value of the taxable property within such district, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in RCW 39.36.015, and to provide for the retirement thereof by excess property tax levies, when the voters of the district have approved a proposition authorizing such indebtedness and levies by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of those voting on the proposition at such election, at which election the total number of persons voting shall constitute not less than forty percent of the voters in the fire protection district who voted at the last preceding general state election. The maximum term of such bonds may not exceed twenty years. Such bonds shall be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. Such elections shall be held as provided in RCW 39.36.050. [1984 c 186 § 40; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 50; 1970 ex.s. c 42 § 30; 1953 c 176 § 4; 1951 2nd ex.s. c 24 § 3.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

**Severability—Effective dates and termination dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

**Severability—Effective date—1970 ex.s. c 42:** See notes following RCW 39.36.015.

**52.16.130 General levy authorized—Limit—Excess levy at special election.** To carry out the purposes for which fire protection districts are created, the board of fire commissioners of a district may levy each year, in addition to the levy or levies provided in RCW 52.16.080 for the payment of the principal and interest of any outstanding general obligation bonds, an ad valorem tax on all taxable property located in the district not to exceed fifty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value: PROVIDED, That in no case may the total general levy for all purposes, except the levy for the retirement of general obligation bonds, exceed one dollar per thousand dollars of assessed value. Levies in excess of one dollar per thousand dollars of assessed value or in excess of the aggregate dollar rate limitations or both may be made for any district purpose when so authorized at a special election under RCW 84.52.052. Any such tax when levied shall be certified to the proper county officials for the collection of the tax as for other general taxes. The taxes when collected shall be placed in the appropriate district fund or funds as provided by law, and shall be paid out on warrants of the auditor of the county in which all, or the largest portion of, the district is located, upon authorization of the board of fire commissioners of the district. [1989 c 63 § 27; 1985 c 7 § 121; 1984 c 230 § 44; 1983 c 167 § 126; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 52; 1971 ex.s. c 105 § 1; 1963 ex.s. c 13 § 2; 1951 2nd ex.s. c 24 § 8.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**Severability—Effective dates and termination dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

**52.16.140 General levy may exceed limit—When.** Notwithstanding the limitation of dollar rates contained in RCW 52.16.130, the board of fire commissioners of any district may levy, in addition to any levy for the payment of the principal and interest of outstanding general obligation bonds, an ad valorem tax on all property located in the district of not to exceed fifty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value and which will not cause the combined levies to exceed the constitutional or statutory limitations, and the additional levy, or any portion of the levy, may also be made when dollar rates of other taxing units are released by agreement with the other taxing units from their authorized levies. [1984 c 230 § 45; 1983 c 167 § 127; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 53; 1951 2nd ex.s. c 24 § 9.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**Severability—Effective dates and termination dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

*Levy of taxes: Chapter 84.52 RCW.*

**52.16.150 Donations and bequests to district.** A fire protection district may accept and receive in behalf of the district any money or property donated, devised, or bequeathed to the district, and may carry out the terms of the donation, devise, or bequest, if within the powers granted by law to fire protection districts. In the absence of such terms, a fire protection district may expend or use the money or property for district purposes as determined by the board. [1984 c 230 § 46; 1951 2nd ex.s. c 24 § 11.]

**52.16.160 Tax levy by district where no township has been formed or where township disorganized and no longer making a levy.** Notwithstanding the limitation of dollar rates contained in RCW 52.16.130, and in addition to any levy for the payment of the principal and interest of any outstanding general obligation bonds and in addition to any levy authorized by RCW 52.16.130, 52.16.140 or any other statute, if in any county where a township has never been formed or where there are one or more townships in existence making annual tax levies and such township or townships are disorganized as a result of a county-wide disorganization procedure prescribed by statute and is no longer making any tax levy, or any township or townships for any other reason no longer makes any tax levy, the board of fire commissioners of any fire protection district within such county, which fire protection district has at least one full time, paid employee, is hereby authorized to levy each year an ad valorem tax on all taxable property within such district of not to exceed fifty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value, which levy may be made only if it will not affect dollar rates which other taxing districts may lawfully claim nor cause the combined levies to exceed the constitutional and/or statutory limitations. [1985 c 112 § 1; 1983 c 167 § 128; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 54; 1969 ex.s. c 243 § 2; 1961 c 53 § 9.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**Severability—Effective dates and termination dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

**Severability—1969 ex.s. c 243:** See note following RCW 45.82.010. *County-wide disorganization of townships: Chapter 45.80 RCW.*

**52.16.170 Taxation and assessment of lands lying both within a fire protection district and forest protection assessment area.** In the event that lands lie within both a fire protection district and a forest protection assessment area they shall be taxed and assessed as follows:

(1) If the lands are wholly unimproved, they shall be subject to forest protection assessments but not to fire protection district levies;

(2) If the lands are wholly improved, they shall be subject to fire protection district levies but not to forest protection assessments;

(3) If the lands are partly improved and partly unimproved they shall be subject both to fire protection district levies and to forest protection assessments: **PROVIDED,** That upon request, accompanied by appropriate legal descriptions, the county assessor shall segregate any unimproved portions which each consist of twenty or more acres, and thereafter the unimproved portion or portions shall be subject only to forest protection assessments. [1984 c 230 § 47; 1963 ex.s. c 13 § 3.]

*Forest protection assessments: RCW 76.04.610.*

## Chapter 52.18

### BENEFIT CHARGES

(Formerly: Service charges)

#### Sections

52.18.010 Benefit charges authorized—Exceptions—Amounts—Limitations.

52.18.020 Personal property, improvements to real property—Defined.  
52.18.030 Resolution establishing benefit charges—Contents—Listing—Collection.  
52.18.040 Reimbursement of county for administration and collection expenses.  
52.18.050 Voter approval of benefit charges required—Election—Ballot.  
52.18.060 Public hearing—Required—Report—Benefit charge resolution to be filed—Notification to property owners.  
52.18.065 Property tax limited if benefit charge imposed.  
52.18.070 Review board.  
52.18.080 Model resolution.  
52.18.090 Exemptions.  
52.18.900 Severability—1974 ex.s. c 126.  
52.18.901 Severability—1990 c 294.

*Assessments and charges against state lands: Chapter 79.44 RCW.*

**52.18.010 Benefit charges authorized—Exceptions—Amounts—Limitations.** The board of fire commissioners of a fire protection district may by resolution, for fire protection district purposes authorized by law, fix and impose a benefit charge on personal property and improvements to real property which are located within the fire protection district on the date specified and which have or will receive the benefits provided by the fire protection district, to be paid by the owners of the properties: **PROVIDED,** That a benefit charge shall not apply to personal property and improvements to real property owned or used by any recognized religious denomination or religious organization as, or including, a sanctuary or for purposes related to the bona fide religious ministries of the denomination or religious organization, including schools and educational facilities used for kindergarten, primary, or secondary educational purposes or for institutions of higher education and all grounds and buildings related thereto, but not including personal property and improvements to real property owned or used by any recognized religious denomination or religious organization for business operations, profit-making enterprises, or activities not including use of a sanctuary or related to kindergarten, primary, or secondary educational purposes or for institutions of higher education. The aggregate amount of such benefit charges in any one year shall not exceed an amount equal to sixty percent of the operating budget for the year in which the benefit charge is to be collected: **PROVIDED,** That it shall be the duty of the county legislative authority or authorities of the county or counties in which the fire protection district is located to make any necessary adjustments to assure compliance with such limitation and to immediately notify the board of fire commissioners of any changes thereof.

A benefit charge imposed shall be reasonably proportioned to the measurable benefits to property resulting from the services afforded by the district. It is acceptable to apportion the benefit charge to the values of the properties as found by the county assessor or assessors modified generally in the proportion that fire insurance rates are reduced or entitled to be reduced as the result of providing the services. Any other method that reasonably apportions the benefit charges to the actual benefits resulting from the degree of protection, which may include but is not limited to the distance from regularly maintained fire protection equipment, the level of fire prevention services provided to the properties, or the need of the properties for specialized services, may be specified in the resolution and shall be



subject to contest on the ground of unreasonable or capricious action or action in excess of the measurable benefits to the property resulting from services afforded by the district. The board of fire commissioners may determine that certain properties or types or classes of properties are not receiving measurable benefits based on criteria they establish by resolution. A benefit charge authorized by this chapter shall not be applicable to the personal property or improvements to real property of any individual, corporation, partnership, firm, organization, or association maintaining a fire department and whose fire protection and training system has been accepted by a fire insurance underwriter maintaining a fire protection engineering and inspection service authorized by the state insurance commissioner to do business in this state, but such property may be protected by the fire protection district under a contractual agreement. [1990 c 294 § 1; 1989 c 63 § 28; 1987 c 325 § 1; 1985 c 7 § 122; 1974 ex.s. c 126 § 1.]

**52.18.020 Personal property, improvements to real property—Defined.** The term "personal property" for the purposes of this chapter shall include every form of tangible personal property, including but not limited to, all goods, chattels, stock in trade, estates, or crops: PROVIDED, That all personal property not assessed and subjected to ad valorem taxation under Title 84 RCW, all property under contract or for which the district is receiving payment for as authorized by RCW 52.30.020 and all property subject to the provisions of chapter 54.28 RCW, or all property that is subject to a contract for services with a fire protection district, shall be exempt from the benefit charge imposed under this chapter: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the term "personal property" shall not include any personal property used for farming, field crops, farm equipment or livestock: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That the term "improvements to real property" shall not include permanent growing crops, field improvements installed for the purpose of aiding the growth of permanent crops, or other field improvements normally not subject to damage by fire. [1990 c 294 § 2; 1987 c 325 § 2; 1985 c 7 § 123; 1974 ex.s. c 126 § 2.]

**52.18.030 Resolution establishing benefit charges—Contents—Listing—Collection.** The resolution establishing benefit charges as specified in RCW 52.18.010 shall specify, by legal geographical areas or other specific designations, the charge to apply to each property by location, type, or other designation, or other information that is necessary to the proper computation of the benefit charge to be charged to each property owner subject to the resolution. The county assessor of each county in which the district is located shall determine and identify the personal properties and improvements to real property which are subject to a benefit charge in each fire protection district and shall furnish and deliver to the county treasurer of that county a listing of the properties with information describing the location, legal description, and address of the person to whom the statement of benefit charges is to be mailed, the name of the owner, and the value of the property and improvements, together with the benefit charge to apply to each. These benefit charges shall be certified to the county treasurer for collection in the same manner that is used for the collection of fire protection

charges for forest lands protected by the department of natural resources under RCW 76.04.610 and the same penalties and provisions for collection shall apply. [1990 c 294 § 3; 1989 c 63 § 29; 1987 c 325 § 3; 1986 c 100 § 53; 1974 ex.s. c 126 § 3.]

**52.18.040 Reimbursement of county for administration and collection expenses.** Each fire protection district shall contract, prior to the imposition of a benefit charge, for the administration and collection of the benefit charge by each county treasurer, who shall deduct a percent, as provided by contract to reimburse the county for expenses incurred by the county assessor and county treasurer in the administration of the resolution and this chapter. The county treasurer shall make distributions each year, as the charges are collected, in the amount of the benefit charges imposed on behalf of each district, less the deduction provided for in the contract. [1990 c 294 § 4; 1989 c 63 § 30; 1987 c 325 § 4; 1974 ex.s. c 126 § 4.]

**52.18.050 Voter approval of benefit charges required—Election—Ballot.** (1) Any benefit charge authorized by this chapter shall not be effective unless a proposition to impose the benefit charge is approved by a sixty percent majority of the voters of the district voting at a general election or at a special election called by the district for that purpose, held within the fire protection district. An election held pursuant to this section shall be held not more than twelve months prior to the date on which the first such charge is to be assessed: PROVIDED, That a benefit charge approved at an election shall not remain in effect for a period of more than six years nor more than the number of years authorized by the voters if fewer than six years unless subsequently reapproved by the voters.

(2) The ballot shall be submitted so as to enable the voters favoring the authorization of a fire protection district benefit charge to vote "Yes" and those opposed thereto to vote "No," and the ballot shall be:

"Shall . . . . county fire protection district No. . . . be authorized to impose benefit charges each year for . . . (insert number of years not to exceed six) years, not to exceed an amount equal to sixty percent of its operating budget, and be prohibited from imposing an additional property tax under RCW 52.16.160?

YES                      NO  
                             

[1990 c 294 § 5; 1989 c 27 § 1; 1987 c 325 § 5; 1974 ex.s. c 126 § 5.]

**52.18.060 Public hearing—Required—Report—Benefit charge resolution to be filed—Notification to property owners.** (1) Not less than ten days nor more than six months before the election at which the proposition to impose the benefit charge is submitted as provided in this chapter, the board of fire commissioners of the district shall hold a public hearing specifically setting forth its proposal to impose benefit charges for the support of its legally authorized activities which will maintain or improve the services afforded in the district. A report of the public hearing shall

be filed with the county treasurer of each county in which the property is located and be available for public inspection.

(2) Prior to November 15 of each year the board of fire commissioners shall hold a public hearing to review and establish the fire district benefit charges for the subsequent year.

All resolutions imposing or changing the benefit charges shall be filed with the county treasurer or treasurers of each county in which the property is located, together with the record of each public hearing, before November 30 immediately preceding the year in which the benefit charges are to be collected on behalf of the district.

After the benefit charges have been established, the owners of the property subject to the charge shall be notified of the amount of the charge. [1990 c 294 § 6; 1989 c 63 § 31; 1987 c 325 § 6; 1974 ex.s. c 126 § 6.]

**52.18.065 Property tax limited if benefit charge imposed.** A fire protection district that imposes a benefit charge under this chapter shall not impose all or part of the property tax authorized under RCW 52.16.160. [1990 c 294 § 7; 1987 c 325 § 9.]

**52.18.070 Review board.** After notice has been given to the property owners of the amount of the charge, the board of fire commissioners of a fire protection district imposing a benefit charge under this chapter shall form a review board for at least a two-week period and shall, upon complaint in writing of a party aggrieved owning property in the district, reduce the charge of a person who, in their opinion, has been charged too large a sum, to a sum or amount as they believe to be the true, fair, and just amount. [1990 c 294 § 8; 1987 c 325 § 7; 1974 ex.s. c 126 § 7.]

**52.18.080 Model resolution.** The Washington fire commissioners association, as soon as practicable, shall draft a model resolution to impose the fire protection district benefit charge authorized by this chapter and may provide assistance to fire protection districts in the establishment of a program to develop benefit charges. [1990 c 294 § 9; 1987 c 325 § 8; 1974 ex.s. c 126 § 8.]

**52.18.090 Exemptions.** A person who is receiving the exemption contained in RCW 84.36.381 through 84.36.389 shall be exempt from any legal obligation to pay a portion of the charge imposed by this chapter according to the following.

(1) A person who meets the income limitation contained in RCW 84.36.381(5)(a) and does not meet the income limitation contained in RCW 84.36.381(5)(b) (i) or (ii) shall be exempt from twenty-five percent of the charge.

(2) A person who meets the income limitation contained in RCW 84.36.381(5)(b)(i) shall be exempt from fifty percent of the charge.

(3) A person who meets the income limitation contained in RCW 84.36.381(5)(b)(ii) shall be exempt from seventy-five percent of the charge. [1990 c 294 § 10.]

**52.18.900 Severability—1974 ex.s. c 126.** If any provision of this 1974 act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the

application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1974 ex.s. c 126 § 9.]

**52.18.901 Severability—1990 c 294.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1990 c 294 § 11.]

## Chapter 52.20

### LOCAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

#### Sections

- 52.20.010 L.I.D.'s authorized—Petition or resolution method.
- 52.20.020 Dismissal, approval of petition or resolution of intention—Notice of hearing.
- 52.20.022 Notice must contain statement that assessments may vary from estimates.
- 52.20.025 Hearing and subsequent proceedings to be in accordance with laws applicable to cities and towns—Definitions.
- 52.20.027 Lands subject to forest fire protection assessments exempt—Separation of forest-type lands for tax and assessment purposes.
- 52.20.060 Coupon or registered warrants—Payment—Interest—Registration.
- 52.20.070 Contracts not general district obligations.

*Assessments and charges against state lands: Chapter 79.44 RCW.*

*Local improvements, supplemental authority: Chapter 35.51 RCW.*

**52.20.010 L.I.D.'s authorized—Petition or resolution method.** If, for fire protection or emergency medical purposes the acquisition, maintenance, and operation of real property, buildings, apparatus, and instrumentalities needed to provide such services are of special benefit to part or all of the lands in the fire protection district, the board of fire commissioners may include the lands in a local improvement district, and may levy special assessments under a mode of annual installments extending over a period not exceeding twenty years on all property specially benefited by any local improvement, on the basis of the special benefits to pay in whole or in part the damages or costs of improvements ordered in the local improvement district. Local improvement districts may be initiated either by resolution of the board of fire commissioners or by petition signed by the owners of a majority of the acreage of lands to be included within the local improvement district.

If the petition procedure is followed, the petition shall set forth generally the necessity for the creation of a local improvement district, outline the plan of fire or emergency medical protection to be accomplished, and the means by which the cost shall be financed. Upon receipt of a petition, the board of fire commissioners of the district shall at its next regular meeting review the petition. The owners of the lands as shown on the general tax roll in the county treasurer's office, last equalized, shall be used to determine the ownership of the lands to be included in the local improvement district. If the petition is sufficient, the district board shall consider the petition and determine whether the proposed local improvement appears feasible and of special benefit to the lands concerned.

If the board of fire commissioners desire[s] to initiate the formation of a local improvement district by resolution, it shall adopt a resolution declaring its intention to order the

proposed improvement, set forth the nature and territorial extent of the proposed improvement, designate the number of the proposed district, describe the boundaries, state the estimated costs and expenses of the improvement and the proportionate amount of the costs which will be borne by the property within the proposed district, and fix a date, time, and place for a public hearing on the formation of the proposed district. [1984 c 230 § 48; 1975 1st ex.s. c 130 § 2; 1961 c 161 § 1; 1939 c 34 § 40; RRS § 5654-140.]

**Severability—Construction—1975 1st ex.s. c 130:** See note following RCW 52.16.070.

**52.20.020 Dismissal, approval of petition or resolution of intention—Notice of hearing.** If the petition is found insufficient or if the district board determines that a local improvement district is not feasible or is of no special benefit to the lands concerned, it shall dismiss the petition. If the district board approves the petition or adopts a resolution of intention to order an improvement, it shall fix a date, hour, and place for hearing the matter and shall (1) mail notice of the hearing at least fifteen days before the date fixed for the public hearing to the owner or reputed owner of each lot, tract, or parcel of land within the proposed local improvement district as shown on the tax rolls of the county treasurer at the address shown thereon, and (2) publish notice of the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the county, for three consecutive weeks prior to the day of the hearing. The cost of publication shall be paid by the fire protection district. The notices shall describe the boundaries of the proposed local improvement district and the plan of fire or emergency medical protection proposed, or may refer to the resolution of intention describing the nature and territorial extent of the proposed improvement. The notices shall state the means by which the cost shall be financed, shall state the date, hour, and place of the hearing on the petition and shall be signed by the secretary of the fire protection district. In addition, the notice given each owner or reputed owner by mail shall state the estimated cost and expense of the improvement to be borne by the particular lot, tract, or parcel. [1984 c 230 § 49; 1975 1st ex.s. c 130 § 3; 1961 c 161 § 2; 1939 c 34 § 41; RRS § 5654-141.]

**Severability—Construction—1975 1st ex.s. c 130:** See note following RCW 52.16.070.

**52.20.022 Notice must contain statement that assessments may vary from estimates.** Any notice given to the public or to the owners of specific lots, tracts, or parcels of land relating to the formation of a local improvement district shall contain a statement that actual assessments may vary from assessment estimates so long as they do not exceed a figure equal to the increased true and fair value the improvement adds to the property. [1989 c 243 § 7.]

**52.20.025 Hearing and subsequent proceedings to be in accordance with laws applicable to cities and towns—Definitions.** The hearing and all subsequent proceedings in connection with the local improvement, including but not limited to the levying, collection, and enforcement of local improvement assessments, and the authorization, issuance, and payment of local improvement

bonds and warrants shall be in accordance with the provisions of law applicable to cities and towns set forth in chapters 35.43, 35.44, 35.45, 35.49, 35.50, and 35.53 RCW. Fire protection districts may exercise the powers set forth in those chapters: PROVIDED, That no local improvement guaranty fund may be created: PROVIDED FURTHER, That for the purposes of RCW 52.16.070, 52.20.010, 52.20.020, and 52.20.025, with respect to the powers granted and the duties imposed in chapters 35.43, 35.44, 35.45, 35.50, and 35.53 RCW:

(1) The words "city or town" mean fire protection district.

(2) The secretary of a fire protection district shall perform the duties of the "clerk" or "city or town clerk."

(3) The board of fire commissioners of a fire protection district shall perform the duties of the "council" or "city or town council" or "legislative authority of a city or town."

(4) The board of fire commissioners of a fire protection district shall perform the duties of the "mayor."

(5) The word "ordinance" means a resolution of the board of fire commissioners of a fire protection district.

(6) The treasurer or treasurers of the county or counties in which a fire protection district is located shall perform the duties of the "treasurer" or "city or town treasurer." [1989 c 63 § 32; 1984 c 230 § 50; 1975 1st ex.s. c 130 § 4; 1961 c 161 § 3.]

**Severability—Construction—1975 1st ex.s. c 130:** See note following RCW 52.16.070.

**52.20.027 Lands subject to forest fire protection assessments exempt—Separation of forest-type lands for tax and assessment purposes.** RCW 52.20.010, 52.20.020, and 52.20.025 shall not apply to any tracts or parcels of wholly forest-type lands within the district which are required to pay forest fire protection assessments, as required by RCW 76.04.610; however, both the tax levy or special assessments of the district and the forest fire protection assessment shall apply to the forest land portion of any tract or parcel which is in the district containing a combination of both forest-type lands and nonforest-type lands or improvements: PROVIDED, That an owner has the right to have forest-type lands of more than twenty acres in extent separated from land bearing improvements and from nonforest-type lands for taxation and assessment purposes upon furnishing to the assessor a written request containing the proper legal description. [1986 c 100 § 54; 1984 c 230 § 51; 1961 c 161 § 5.]

**52.20.060 Coupon or registered warrants—Payment—Interest—Registration.** (1) The district board may also, if in accordance with the adopted method of financing the local improvement district, issue and sell at par and accrued interest coupon or registered warrants payable within three years from the date thereof exclusively from the local improvement fund of the district. The coupon or registered warrants shall bear semiannual interest and shall be in such form as the board determines and shall state on their face that they are payable exclusively from the local improvement fund of the district. Interest shall be payable on the first day of January and of July. Such warrants may be registered as provided in RCW 39.46.030.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such warrants may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1984 c 230 § 52; 1983 c 167 § 129; 1970 ex.s. c 56 § 68; 1969 ex.s. c 232 § 90; 1939 c 34 § 45; RRS § 5654-145.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

**Validation—Saving—Severability—1969 ex.s. c 232:** See notes following RCW 39.52.020.

### 52.20.070 Contracts not general district obligations.

A fire protection district shall not be liable under any contract creating an obligation chargeable against the lands of any local improvement district therein, unless the liability and the extent thereof is specifically stated in the contract. [1984 c 230 § 53; 1939 c 34 § 21; RRS § 5654-121.]

## Chapter 52.22

### SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS

#### Sections

52.22.011	Legislative validation.
52.22.021	Special proceedings for judicial confirmation of organization, bonds, warrants, contracts, etc.
52.22.031	Petition.
52.22.041	Hearing date to be fixed—Notice.
52.22.051	Answer of petition.
52.22.061	Pleading and practice—Motion for new trial.
52.22.071	Jurisdiction of court.
52.22.081	Minor irregularities to be disregarded.
52.22.091	Costs.
52.22.101	Appellate review.
52.22.111	Districts governed by Title 52 RCW.

**52.22.011 Legislative validation.** The respective areas, organized and established or attempted to be organized and established under the authority granted in Title 52 RCW which since their organization and establishment or attempted organization and establishment have continuously maintained their organization as fire protection districts established under the authority of these statutes are declared to be properly organized fire protection districts existing under and by virtue of the statutes having in each case, the boundaries set forth in the respective organization proceedings of each of them as shown by the files and records in the offices of the legislative authority or authorities and auditor or auditors of the county or counties in which the particular area lies. [1989 c 63 § 33; 1984 c 230 § 66; 1947 c 230 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5654-151o. Formerly RCW 52.32.010.]

**52.22.021 Special proceedings for judicial confirmation of organization, bonds, warrants, contracts, etc.** The board of fire commissioners of a fire protection district now existing or which may be organized under the laws of this state may commence a special proceeding in the superior court of the state of Washington. These proceedings for the organization of the fire district, for the formation of any local improvement district therein, or proceedings for the authorization, issuance, and sale of coupon or registered warrants or general obligation bonds issued pursuant to RCW 52.16.061, either of the fire district or for a local improvement district therein, or both, whether the bonds or coupon

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or registered warrants have been sold, or proceedings for any contract of the district involving the fire district or any local improvement district therein, and any other proceedings that may affect the legality of the proceedings concerned or any or all of the proceedings above outlined, may be judicially examined, approved, and confirmed. [1984 c 230 § 67; 1983 c 167 § 130; 1947 c 255 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5654-153a. Formerly RCW 52.34.010 and 52.32.020.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**Severability—1947 c 255:** "If any section or provision of this act shall be adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the act as a whole or of any section, provision, or part thereof not adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional." [1947 c 255 § 10.] This applies to RCW 52.22.021 through 52.22.101.

**52.22.031 Petition.** The board of fire commissioners of the fire protection district shall file in the superior court of the county in which the fire protection district was organized, a petition requesting in effect that the proceedings be examined, approved, and confirmed by the court. The petition shall state the facts showing any of the proceedings that the petition asks the court to examine, approve, and confirm, but need allege only generally that the fire protection district was properly organized and that the first board of fire commissioners was properly elected. [1984 c 230 § 68; 1947 c 255 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5654-153b. Formerly RCW 52.34.020 and 52.32.030.]

**52.22.041 Hearing date to be fixed—Notice.** The court shall fix the time for the hearing of the petition and direct the clerk of the court to give notice of the filing of the petition and of the time and place fixed for the hearing. The notice shall state the time and place of the hearing of the petition and that any person interested in the proceedings sought by the petition to be examined, approved, and confirmed by the court, may on or before the date of the hearing of the petition, answer the petition. The petition may be referred to and described in the notice as the petition of the board of fire commissioners of . . . . . county fire protection district No. . . . . (giving the county and its number or any other name by which it is officially designated), requesting that the proceedings (naming them as set out in the request of the petition), be examined, approved, and confirmed by the court, and shall be signed by the clerk.

The notice shall be given by posting and publishing for the same length of time that the notice of the hearing on the petition before the county legislative body to form the district was required by law to be posted and published, and it may be published in any legal newspaper designated in the order of the court fixing the time and place of the hearing of the petition and directing the clerk of the court to give notice thereof. [1984 c 230 § 69; 1947 c 255 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5654-153c. Formerly RCW 52.34.030 and 52.32.040.]

*Public hearing—Notice—Publication and posting:* RCW 52.02.050.

**52.22.051 Answer of petition.** A person interested in the fire protection district, or in a local improvement district therein, involved in the petition or in any proceedings sought by the petition to be examined, approved, and confirmed by the court, may answer the petition. The statutes of this state

respecting answers to verified complaints are applicable to answers to the petition. The person so answering the petition shall be the defendant in the special proceeding, and the board of fire commissioners shall be the plaintiff. Every material statement of the petition not specifically controverted by the answer must, for purposes of the special proceedings, be taken as true, and each person failing to answer the petition is deemed to admit as true all the material statements of the petition. [1984 c 230 § 70; 1947 c 255 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5654-153d. Formerly RCW 52.34.040 and 52.32.050.]

*Pleadings: Chapters 4.32, 4.36 RCW.*

**52.22.061 Pleading and practice—Motion for new trial.** The rules of pleading and practice governing civil actions are applicable to the special proceedings provided for except where inconsistent with this chapter. A motion for a new trial must be made upon the minutes of the court and in case of an order granting a new trial, the order must specify the issue to be reexamined at the new trial. The findings of the court on the other issues shall not be affected by the order granting a new trial. [1984 c 230 § 71; 1947 c 255 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5654-153e. Formerly RCW 52.34.050 and 52.32.060.]

*New trials: Chapter 4.76 RCW.*

**52.22.071 Jurisdiction of court.** At the hearing of the special proceedings, the court has power and jurisdiction to examine and determine the legality and validity of, and to approve and confirm, each and all of the proceedings for the organization of the fire protection district and for the formation of any local improvement district therein under the law relating to such districts from and including the petition for the organization of the fire district and for the formation of any local improvement district therein and all other proceedings which affect the legality of the districts, or the validity and legality of any coupon or registered warrants or bonds either of the fire district or for a local improvement district therein and all proceedings conducted by the fire district for a contract of the district involving the fire district or a local improvement district therein, and any other proceeding which may affect the legality of the proceedings concerned. [1984 c 230 § 72; 1983 c 167 § 131; 1947 c 255 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5654-153f. Formerly RCW 52.34.060 and 52.32.070.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**52.22.081 Minor irregularities to be disregarded.** The court has full authority and jurisdiction to consider any question of laches, estoppel, and other infirmities in the position and claims of the defendants, to question the legality of the proceedings sought by the plaintiff to be confirmed by the court, and to pass upon and determine them. The court, in inquiring into the regularity, legality, and correctness of the proceedings sought by the board of fire commissioners in its petition to be examined, approved, and confirmed by the court, must disregard any error, irregularity, or omission which does not affect the substantial rights of the parties to the special proceedings. The court may approve and confirm the proceedings in part, and disapprove and declare illegal or

invalid other or subsequent parts of the proceedings, or it may approve and confirm all of the proceedings, and make and enter its decree accordingly. [1984 c 230 § 73; 1947 c 255 § 7; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5654-153g. Formerly RCW 52.34.070 and 52.32.080.]

**52.22.091 Costs.** The court shall find and determine, in these special proceedings, whether the notice of the filing of the petition and of the time and place of hearing on the petition has been properly posted and published for the time and in the manner prescribed in this chapter. The costs of the special proceedings may be allowed and apportioned between all the parties, in the court's discretion. [1984 c 230 § 74; 1947 c 255 § 8; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5654-153h. Formerly RCW 52.34.080 and 52.32.090.]

**52.22.101 Appellate review.** Appellate review of an order granting or refusing a new trial, or from the judgment, in the special proceedings must be taken by the party aggrieved within thirty days after the entry of the order or the judgment. [1988 c 202 § 50; 1984 c 230 § 75; 1947 c 255 § 9; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5654-153i. Formerly RCW 52.34.090 and 52.32.100.]

*Rules of court: Cf. RAP 2.2, 18.22.*

**Severability—1988 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.24.050.

**52.22.111 Districts governed by Title 52 RCW.** All fire protection districts are governed by Title 52 RCW. [1984 c 230 § 86.]

## Chapter 52.30

### MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

#### Sections

- 52.30.020 Property of public agency included within district—  
Contracts for services.
- 52.30.040 Civil service for employees.
- 52.30.050 Residency not grounds for discharge of civil service employees.
- 52.30.060 Change of district name—Resolution.

**52.30.020 Property of public agency included within district—Contracts for services.** Wherever a fire protection district has been organized which includes within its area or is adjacent to, buildings and equipment, except those leased to a nontax exempt person or organization, owned by the legislative or administrative authority of a state agency or institution or a municipal corporation, the agency or institution or municipal corporation involved shall contract with such district for fire protection services necessary for the protection and safety of personnel and property pursuant to the provisions of chapter 39.34 RCW, as now or hereafter amended: PROVIDED, That nothing in this section shall be construed to require that any state agency, institution, or municipal corporation contract for services which are performed by the staff and equipment of such state agency, institution, or municipal corporation: PROVIDED FURTHER, That nothing in this section shall apply to state agencies or institutions or municipal corporations which are receiving fire protection services by contract from another municipality, city, town or other entities: AND PROVIDED

FURTHER, That school districts shall receive fire protection services from the fire protection districts in which they are located without the necessity of executing a contract for such fire protection services: PROVIDED FURTHER, That prior to September 1, 1974 the superintendent of public instruction, the insurance commissioner, the director of financial management, and the executive director of the Washington fire commissioners association, or their designees, shall develop criteria to be used by the insurance commissioner in establishing uniform rates governing payments to fire districts by school districts for fire protection services. On or before September 1, 1974, the insurance commissioner shall establish such rates to be payable by school districts on or before January 1st of each year commencing January 1, 1975, payable July 1, 1975: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That beginning with the 1975-77 biennium and in each biennium thereafter the superintendent of public instruction shall present in his budget submittal to the governor an amount sufficient to reimburse affected school districts for the moneys necessary to pay the costs of the uniform rates established by the insurance commissioner. [1979 c 151 § 164; 1974 ex.s. c 88 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 64 § 1; 1941 c 139 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 5654-143a. Formerly RCW 52.36.020.]

**Effective date—1974 ex.s. c 88:** "This 1974 amendatory act shall take effect on July 1, 1974." [1974 ex.s. c 88 § 2.]

**Effective date—1973 1st ex.s. c 64:** "This 1973 amendatory act shall take effect on July 1, 1974." [1973 1st ex.s. c 64 § 2.]

*Fire, medical, or other emergency services provided to county by political subdivision—Financial assistance authorized: RCW 36.32.470.*

*Fire protection services for state-owned facilities: RCW 35.21.775.*

**52.30.040 Civil service for employees.** A fire protection district with a fully-paid fire department may, by resolution of its board of fire commissioners, provide for civil service in its fire department in the same manner, with the same powers, and with the same force and effect as provided by chapter 41.08 RCW for cities, towns, and municipalities, including restrictions against the discharge of an employee because of residence outside the limits of the fire protection district. [1984 c 230 § 79; 1971 ex.s. c 256 § 2; 1949 c 72 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 5654-120a. Formerly RCW 52.36.060.]

**52.30.050 Residency not grounds for discharge of civil service employees.** Residence of an employee outside the limits of a fire protection district is not grounds for discharge of any regularly-appointed civil service employee otherwise qualified. [1984 c 230 § 80; 1971 ex.s. c 256 § 1. Formerly RCW 52.36.065.]

**52.30.060 Change of district name—Resolution.** The name of a fire protection district shall be changed, as proposed by resolution of the board of fire commissioners of the district, upon the adoption of a resolution approving the change by the county legislative authority of the county in which all, or the largest portion, of a fire protection district is located. [1989 c 63 § 34.]

# Title 53

## PORT DISTRICTS

### Chapters

- 53.04 Formation.**
- 53.06 Coordination of administrative programs and operations.**
- 53.08 Powers.**
- 53.12 Commissioners—Elections.**
- 53.16 Revision of commissioner districts.**
- 53.18 Employment relations—Collective bargaining and arbitration.**
- 53.20 Harbor improvements.**
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- 53.31 Export trading companies.**
- 53.34 Toll facilities.**
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- 53.40 Revenue bonds and warrants.**
- 53.44 Funding and refunding indebtedness—1947 act.**
- 53.46 Consolidation.**
- 53.47 Dissolution of inactive port districts.**
- 53.48 Dissolution of port and other districts.**
- 53.49 Disposition of funds on dissolution of certain districts.**
- 53.54 Aircraft noise abatement.**

*Airport districts: Chapter 14.08 RCW.*

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*Conveyance of real property by public bodies—Recording: RCW 65.08.095.*

*Credit card use by local governments: RCW 43.09.2855.*

*Disincorporation of water-sewer and other districts in counties with a population of two hundred ten thousand or more: Chapter 57.90 RCW.*

*Hospitalization and medical aid for public employees and dependents—Premiums, governmental contributions authorized: RCW 41.04.180, 41.04.190.*

*Material removed for channel or harbor improvement, or flood control—Use for public purpose: RCW 79.90.150.*

*Municipal corporation may authorize investment of funds which are in custody of county treasurer or other municipal corporation treasurer: RCW 36.29.020.*

*Outdoor recreation land acquisition or improvement under marine recreation land act: Chapter 43.99 RCW.*

*Pollution control—Municipal bonding authority: Chapter 70.95A RCW.*

*Public bodies may retain collection agencies to collect public debts: RCW 19.16.500.*

*Title to certain second class shorelands vested in port districts: RCW 79.94.230.*

*Vacation of streets or alleys abutting on bodies of water by city or town prohibited with specified exceptions such as when the vacated property is to be used for port, recreational, educational, etc. purposes: RCW 35.79.035.*

### Chapter 53.04

### FORMATION

#### Sections

- 53.04.010 Port districts authorized—Purposes.
- 53.04.015 Port districts in areas lacking appropriate bodies of water—Authorized—Purposes.
- 53.04.016 Port districts in areas lacking appropriate bodies of water—Authority an additional and concurrent method.
- 53.04.017 Port districts in areas lacking appropriate bodies of water—Elections.
- 53.04.020 Formation of county-wide district.
- 53.04.023 Formation of less than county-wide district—Expiration of section.
- 53.04.031 Initiating petition, commissioner district descriptions—Initial election of commissioners.
- 53.04.060 District declared formed.
- 53.04.070 Expense of election.
- 53.04.080 Annexation of territory—Petition—Election.
- 53.04.085 Petition for annexation to port district.
- 53.04.100 Order of annexation—Liability of area annexed.
- 53.04.110 Change of name.
- 53.04.120 Transfer of port district property to adjacent district—Procedure—Boundary changes—Jurisdiction.

**53.04.010 Port districts authorized—Purposes.** Port districts are hereby authorized to be established in the various counties of the state for the purposes of acquisition, construction, maintenance, operation, development and regulation within the district of harbor improvements, rail or motor vehicle transfer and terminal facilities, water transfer and terminal facilities, air transfer and terminal facilities, or any combination of such transfer and terminal facilities, and other commercial transportation, transfer, handling, storage and terminal facilities, and industrial improvements. [1963 c 147 § 1; 1911 c 92 § 1; RRS § 9688.]

**Construction—1911 c 92:** "This act shall not be construed to repeal, amend or modify any law heretofore enacted providing a method of harbor improvement, regulation or control in this state, but shall be held to be an additional and concurrent method providing for such purpose." [1911 c 92 § 14.]

*Establishment of harbor lines: State Constitution Art. 15 § 1 (Amendment 15).*

**53.04.015 Port districts in areas lacking appropriate bodies of water—Authorized—Purposes.** In areas which lack appropriate bodies of water so that harbor improvements cannot be established, port districts are hereby authorized to be established under the laws of the state, for the purposes for which port districts may be established under RCW 53.04.010, and such port districts shall have all of the powers, privileges and immunities conferred upon all other port districts under the laws of this state, including the same powers and rights relating to municipal airports that other port districts now have or hereafter may be granted. [1963 c 147 § 2; 1959 c 94 § 1.]

**53.04.016 Port districts in areas lacking appropriate bodies of water—Authority an additional and concurrent method.** RCW 53.04.015 shall not be construed to repeal, amend or modify any law heretofore enacted providing a method of harbor improvement, regulation or control; acquisition, maintenance and operation of municipal airports; or industrial development; but shall be held to be an additional and concurrent method providing such purposes. [1959 c 94 § 2.]

**53.04.017 Port districts in areas lacking appropriate bodies of water—Elections.** All elections with respect to any such port districts authorized by RCW 53.04.015 and 53.04.016 shall be held, conducted and the results canvassed in the same manner and at the same time as now or hereafter provided by law for other port districts. [1959 c 94 § 3.]

**53.04.020 Formation of county-wide district.** At any general election or at any special election which may be called for that purpose, the county legislative authority of any county in this state may, or on petition of ten percent of the registered voters of such county based on the total vote cast in the last general county election, shall, by resolution submit to the voters of such county the proposition of creating a port district coextensive with the limits of such county. Such petition shall be filed with the county auditor, who shall within fifteen days examine the signatures thereof and certify to the sufficiency or insufficiency thereof, and for such purpose the county auditor shall have access to all registration books in the possession of the officers of any incorporated city or town in such proposed port district. If such petition be found to be insufficient, it shall be returned to the persons filing the same, who may amend or add names thereto for ten days, when the same shall be returned to the county auditor, who shall have an additional fifteen days to examine the same and attach his or her certificate thereto. No person having signed such petition shall be allowed to withdraw his or her name therefrom after the filing of the same with the county auditor. Whenever such petition shall be certified to as sufficient, the county auditor shall forthwith transmit the same, together with his or her certificate of sufficiency attached thereto, to the legislative authority of the county, who shall submit such proposition at the next general election or, if such petition so requests, the county legislative authority shall, at their first meeting after the date of such certificate, by resolution, call a special election to be held in accordance with RCW 29.13.010 and 29.13.020. The notice of election shall state the boundaries of the proposed port district and the object of such election. In submitting the question to the voters for their approval or rejection, the proposition shall be expressed on the ballot substantially in the following terms:

"Port of . . . . ., Yes." (giving the name of the principal seaport city within such proposed port district, or if there be more than one city of the same class within such district, such name as may be determined by the legislative authority of the county).

"Port of . . . . ., No." (giving the name of the principal seaport city within such port district, or if there be more than one city of the same class within such district, such name as may be determined by the legislative authority of the

county). [1992 c 147 § 1; 1990 c 259 § 15; 1986 c 262 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 157 § 1; 1913 c 62 § 1; 1911 c 92 § 2; RRS § 9689. Formerly RCW 53.04.020 through 53.04.040.]

**Severability—1992 c 147:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1992 c 147 § 4.]

**Effective date—1971 ex.s. c 157:** "The effective date of this act shall be May 1, 1972." [1971 ex.s. c 157 § 4.]

**53.04.023 Formation of less than county-wide district—Expiration of section.** A less than county-wide port district with an assessed valuation of at least seventy-five million dollars may be created in a county that already has a less than county-wide port district located within its boundaries. Except as provided in this section, such a port district shall be created in accordance with the procedure to create a county-wide port district.

The effort to create such a port district is initiated by the filing of a petition with the county auditor calling for the creation of such a port district, describing the boundaries of the proposed port district, designating either three or five commissioner positions, describing commissioner districts if the petitioners propose that the commissioners represent districts, and providing a name for the proposed port district. The petition must be signed by voters residing within the proposed port district equal in number to at least ten percent of such voters who voted at the last county general election.

A public hearing on creation of the proposed port district shall be held by the county legislative authority if the county auditor certifies that the petition contained sufficient valid signatures. Notice of the public hearing must be published in the county's official newspaper at least ten days prior to the date of the public hearing. After taking testimony, the county legislative authority may make changes in the boundaries of the proposed port district if it finds that such changes are in the public interest and shall determine if the creation of the port district is in the public interest. No area may be added to the boundaries unless a subsequent public hearing is held on the proposed port district.

The county legislative authority shall submit a ballot proposition authorizing the creation of the proposed port district to the voters of the proposed port district, at any special election date provided in RCW 29.13.020, if it finds the creation of the port district to be in the public interest.

The port district shall be created if a majority of the voters voting on the ballot proposition favor the creation of the port district. The initial port commissioners shall be elected at the same election, from districts or at large, as provided in the petition initiating the creation of the port district. The election shall be otherwise conducted as provided in RCW 53.12.172, but the election of commissioners shall be null and void if the port district is not created.

This section shall expire July 1, 1997. [1994 c 223 § 84; 1993 c 70 § 1; 1992 c 147 § 2.]

**Severability—1992 c 147:** See note following RCW 53.04.020.

**53.04.031 Initiating petition, commissioner district descriptions—Initial election of commissioners.** Three commissioner districts, each with approximately the same population, shall be described in the petition proposing the creation of a port district under RCW 53.04.020, if the



process to create the port district was initiated by voter petition, or shall be described by the county legislative authority, if the process to initiate the creation of the port district was by action of the county legislative authority. However, commissioner districts shall not be described if the commissioner districts of the proposed port district shall be the same as the county legislative authority districts.

The initial port commissioners shall be elected as provided in RCW 53.12.172. [1994 c 223 § 83.]

**53.04.060 District declared formed.** Within five days after an election held under the provisions of RCW 53.04.020, the board of county commissioners shall canvass the returns, and if at such election a majority of the voters voting upon the proposition shall vote in favor of the formation of the district, the board of county commissioners shall so declare in its canvass of the returns of such election, and the port district shall then be and become a municipal corporation of the state of Washington and the name of such port district shall be "Port of . . . ." (inserting the name appearing on the ballot). [1959 c 17 § 2. Prior: 1913 c 62 § 2, part; 1911 c 92 § 3, part; RRS § 9690, part.]

**53.04.070 Expense of election.** All expenses of elections for the formation of such port districts shall be paid by the county holding such election, and such expenditure is hereby declared to be for a county purpose, and the money paid out for such purpose shall be repaid to such county by the port district, if formed. [1959 c 17 § 6. Prior: 1913 c 62 § 2, part; 1911 c 92 § 3, part; RRS § 9690, part.]

**53.04.080 Annexation of territory—Petition—Election.** At any general election or at any special election which may be called for that purpose the county legislative authority of any county in this state in which there exists a port district which is not coextensive with the limits of the county, shall on petition of the commissioners of such port district, by resolution, submit to the voters residing within the limits of any territory which the existing port district desires to annex or include in its enlarged port district, the proposition of enlarging the limits of such existing port districts so as to include therein the whole of the territory embraced within the boundaries of such county, or such territory as may be described in the petition by legal subdivisions. Such petition shall be filed with the county auditor, who shall forthwith transmit the same to the county legislative authority, who shall submit such proposition at the next general election, or, if such petition so request, the county legislative authority, shall at their first meeting after the date of filing such petition, by resolution, call a special election to be held in accordance with RCW 29.13.010 and 29.13.020. The notice of election shall state the boundaries of the proposed enlarged port district and the object of the special election. In submitting the question to the voters of the territory proposed to be annexed or included for their approval or rejection, the proposition shall be expressed on the ballots substantially in the following terms:

"Enlargement of the port of . . . . ., yes." (Giving then [the] name of the port district which it is proposed to enlarge);

"Enlargement of the port of . . . . ., no." (Giving the name of the port district which it is proposed to enlarge).

Such election, whether general or special, shall be held in each precinct wholly or partially embraced within the limits of the territory proposed to be annexed or included and shall be conducted and the votes cast thereat counted, canvassed, and the returns thereof made in the manner provided by law for holding general or special county elections. [1990 c 259 § 16; 1935 c 16 § 1; 1921 c 130 § 1; RRS § 9707. Formerly RCW 53.04.080 and 53.04.090.]  
*Elections: Title 29 RCW.*

**53.04.085 Petition for annexation to port district.** If an area, not currently part of an existing port district desires to be annexed to a port district in the same county, upon receipt of a petition bearing the names of ten percent of the registered voters residing within the proposed boundaries of the area desiring to be annexed who voted in the last general municipal election, the commissioners of such port district shall petition the county legislative authority to annex such territory, as provided in RCW 53.04.080. [1990 c 259 § 17; 1971 ex.s. c 157 § 2.]

**Effective date—1971 ex.s. c 157:** See note following RCW 53.04.020.

**53.04.100 Order of annexation—Liability of area annexed.** If a majority of all the votes cast at any such election upon the proposition of enlarging such port district shall be for the "Enlargement of the port of . . . . ., yes" then and in that event the board of county commissioners shall enter an order declaring such port district enlarged so as to embrace within the limits thereof the territory described in the petition for such election, and thereupon the boundaries of said port district shall be so enlarged and the commissioners thereof shall have jurisdiction over the whole of said district as enlarged to the same extent, and with like power and authority, as though the additional territory had been originally embraced within the boundaries of the existing port district: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That none of the lands or property embraced within the territory added to and incorporated within such port district shall be liable to assessment for the payment of any outstanding bonds, warrants or other indebtedness of such original port district, but such outstanding bonds, warrants or other indebtedness, together with interest thereon, shall be paid exclusively from assessments levied and collected on the lands and property embraced within the boundaries of the preexisting port district. [1921 c 130 § 2; RRS § 9708.]

**53.04.110 Change of name.** Any port district now existing or which may hereafter be organized under the laws of the state of Washington is hereby authorized to change its corporate name under the following conditions and in the following manner:

(1) On presentation, at least forty-five days before any general port election to be held in the port district, of a petition to the commissioners of any port district now existing or which may hereafter be established under the laws of the state of Washington, signed by not less than two hundred fifty registered voters residing within the port district and asking that the corporate name of the port district

be changed, it shall be the duty of the commissioners to submit to the voters of the port district at the next general port election held in the port district in accordance with RCW 29.13.010 and 29.13.020 the proposition as to whether the corporate name of the port shall be changed.

(2) The petition shall contain the present corporate name of the port district and the corporate name which is proposed to be given to the port district.

(3) On submitting the proposition to the voters of the port district it shall be the duty of the port commissioners to cause to be printed on the official ballot used at the election the following proposition:

"Shall the corporate name, 'Port of . . . . . ' be changed to 'Port of . . . . . ' . . . . . YES  
"Shall the corporate name, 'Port of . . . . . ' be changed to 'Port of . . . . . ' . . . . . NO"

(4) At the time when the returns of the general election shall be canvassed by the commissioners of the port district, it shall be the duty of the commissioners to canvass the vote upon the proposition so submitted, recording in their record the result of the canvass.

(5) Should a majority of the registered voters of the port district voting at the general port election vote in favor of the proposition it shall be the duty of the port commissioners to certify the fact to the auditor of the county in which the port district shall be situated and to the secretary of state of the state of Washington, under the seal of the port district. On and after the filing of the certificate with the county auditor as aforesaid and with the secretary of state of the state of Washington, the corporate name of the port district shall be changed, and thenceforth the port district shall be known and designated in accordance therewith. [1990 c 259 § 18; 1929 c 140 § 1; RRS § 9689-1.]

**53.04.120 Transfer of port district property to adjacent district—Procedure—Boundary changes—Jurisdiction.** Property may be acquired and owned by any port district, at least one boundary of which property is contiguous to or within one-quarter air mile of such port district and is also located in an adjacent port district, and such property may be transferred to the owning port district upon unanimous resolution of the boards of commissioners of both port districts authorizing the same. The resolution of the port district within which such property is located shall be a resolution to permit the acquisition and to make the transfer, while the resolution of the port district which owns the property shall be a resolution to acquire and own the property and to accept the transferred property. Upon the filing of both official resolutions with the legislative authority and the auditor of the county or counties within which such port districts lie, together with maps showing in reasonable detail the boundary changes made, such acquisition and ownership shall be lawful and such transfer shall be effective and the commissioners of the port district acquiring, owning and receiving such property shall have jurisdiction over the whole of said enlarged port district to the same extent, and with like power and authority, as though the additional territory had been owned by and originally embraced within the boundaries of the port district. [1979 c 72 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 91 § 1.]

**Validity—Ratification—1979 c 72:** "Any purchase or other acquisition of such property by any port district which occurred prior to the enactment of this 1979 amendatory act is hereby confirmed and ratified and shall not be deemed to have been ultra vires." [1979 c 72 § 2.] This applies to the 1979 amendments to RCW 53.04.120 and 53.32.050. The effective date of 1979 c 72 is March 21, 1979.

**Severability—1979 c 72:** "If any provision of this 1979 amendatory act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1979 c 72 § 4.]

## Chapter 53.06

### COORDINATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS

Sections	
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53.06.020	Actions required of commissions—Joint reports to governor and legislature.
53.06.030	Washington public ports association as coordinating agency—Purposes, powers, and duties.
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53.06.050	Further action by commissions authorized—Meetings.
53.06.060	Financial records of association subject to audit by state auditor.
53.06.070	Federation of Washington ports authorized—Purposes.

**53.06.010 Declaration of necessity.** The necessity and desirability of coordinating the administration programs and operations of all the port districts in this state is recognized and declared as a matter of legislative determination. [1961 c 31 § 1.]

**53.06.020 Actions required of commissions—Joint reports to governor and legislature.** It shall be the duty of the port district commissions in the state to take such action to effect the coordination of the administrative programs and operations of each port district in the state and to submit to the governor and the legislature biennially a joint report or joint reports containing the recommendations for procedural changes which would increase the efficiency of the respective port districts. [1994 c 75 § 1; 1989 c 425 § 3; 1961 c 31 § 2.]

**Findings—Severability—1989 c 425:** See notes following RCW 53.06.070.

**53.06.030 Washington public ports association as coordinating agency—Purposes, powers, and duties.** The port district commissions in this state are empowered to designate the Washington public ports association as a coordinating agency through which the duties imposed by RCW 53.06.020 may be performed, harmonized or correlated. The purposes of the Washington public ports association shall be:

(1) To initiate and carry on the necessary studies, investigations and surveys required for the proper development and improvement of the commerce and business generally common to all port districts, and to assemble and analyze the data thus obtained and to cooperate with the state of Washington, port districts both within and without the state of Washington, and other operators of terminal and transportation facilities for this purpose, and to make such expenditures as are necessary for these purposes, including

the proper promotion and advertising of all such properties, utilities and facilities;

(2) To establish coordinating and joint marketing bodies comprised of association members, including but not limited to establishment of a federation of Washington ports as described in RCW 53.06.070, as may be necessary to provide effective and efficient marketing of the state's trade, tourism, and travel resources;

(3) To exchange information relative to port construction, maintenance, operation, administration and management;

(4) To promote and encourage port development along sound economic lines;

(5) To promote and encourage the development of transportation, commerce and industry;

(6) To operate as a clearing house for information, public relations and liaison for the port districts of the state and to serve as a channel for cooperation among the various port districts and for the assembly and presentation of information relating to the needs and requirements of port districts to the public. [1989 c 425 § 4; 1961 c 31 § 3.]

**Findings—Severability—1989 c 425:** See notes following RCW 53.06.070.

**53.06.040 Dues and assessments may be paid association from district funds—Limitation on amount.** Each port district which designates the Washington public ports association as the agency through which the duties imposed by RCW 53.06.020 may be executed is authorized to pay dues and/or assessments to said association from port district funds in any calendar year in an amount not exceeding a sum equal to the amount which would be raised by a levy of one cent per thousand dollars of assessed value against the taxable property within the port district. [1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 55; 1970 ex.s. c 47 § 3; 1961 c 31 § 4.]

**Severability—Effective dates and termination dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

**53.06.050 Further action by commissions authorized—Meetings.** The port district commissions are authorized to take such further action as they deem necessary to comply with the intent of this chapter, including the attendance at state and district meetings which may be required to formulate the reports provided for in RCW 53.06.020. [1961 c 31 § 5.]

**53.06.060 Financial records of association subject to audit by state auditor.** The financial records of the Washington public ports association shall be subject to audit by the state auditor. [1995 c 301 § 74; 1961 c 31 § 6.]

**53.06.070 Federation of Washington ports authorized—Purposes.** The Washington public ports association is authorized to create a federation of Washington ports to enable member ports to strengthen their international trading capabilities and market the region's products worldwide. Such a federation shall maintain the authority of individual ports and have the following purposes:

(1) To operate as an export trading company under the provisions enumerated in chapter 53.31 RCW;

(2) To provide a network to market the services of the members of the Washington public ports association;

(3) To provide expertise and assistance to businesses interested in export markets;

(4) To promote cooperative efforts between ports and local associate development organizations to assist local economic development efforts and build local capacity; and

(5) To assist in the efficient marketing of the state's trade, tourism, and travel resources. [1994 c 75 § 2; 1989 c 425 § 2.]

**Findings—1989 c 425:** "The legislature finds: (1) That the continuous development of Washington's ports should be a long-term goal for the state of Washington; (2) that Washington's ports are a valuable economic development resource, whose strength as a combined, coordinated entity for the purpose of trade and tourism development would far exceed their individual strength's in those areas; and (3) that, therefore, the ports should work together as a federation, coordinating their efforts further still with other public entities as well as the private sector.

The legislature concurs with the 1989 report of the economic development board on a long-term economic development strategy for Washington state as follows: (a) Competition for tourism dollars, as well as dollars to purchase Washington's goods and services, is global in nature and to compete, the state must identify its unique market niches, and market its trade, travel, and tourism assets aggressively; (b) the ports of the state of Washington are an integral part of the technological and physical infrastructure needed to help the state compete in the international marketplace; and (c) links among public agencies, associate development organizations, including ports, universities, and industry-oriented organizations must be strengthened in an effort to improve coordination, prevent duplication, and build local capacity." [1989 c 425 § 1.]

**Severability—1989 c 425:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1989 c 425 § 12.]

## Chapter 53.08 POWERS

### Sections

- 53.08.010 Acquisition of property—Levy of assessments.
- 53.08.015 Exemption of farm and agricultural land from special benefit assessments.
- 53.08.020 Acquisition and operation of facilities.
- 53.08.030 Operation of foreign trade zones.
- 53.08.040 Improvement of lands for industrial and commercial purposes—Providing sewer and water utilities—Providing pollution control facilities.
- 53.08.041 Pollution control facilities or other industrial development actions—Validation—Implementation of Article 8, section 8 of the Constitution.
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- 53.08.047 Chapter not to be construed as restricting or limiting powers of district under other laws.
- 53.08.050 Local improvement districts—Assessments—Bonds.
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- 53.08.245 Economic development programs authorized.
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- 53.08.295 Passenger carrying watercraft.
- 53.08.300 Rewards for arrest and conviction of persons committing criminal offenses against port district authorized.
- 53.08.310 Moorage facilities—Definitions.
- 53.08.320 Moorage facilities—Regulations authorized—Port charges, delinquency—Abandoned vessels, public sale.
- 53.08.330 Streets, roads, and highways—Construction, upgrading, improvement, and repair authorized.
- 53.08.340 Streets, roads, and highways—Expenditure of funds.
- 53.08.350 Moratorium on runway construction or extension, or initiation of new service—Certain counties affected.
- 53.08.360 Annexation of port district property—Transfer of employees engaged in fire fighting.

*Acquisition of vacated waterways:* RCW 79.93.060.

*Actions by and against public corporations:* RCW 4.08.110 and 4.08.120.

*Airport districts:* Chapter 14.08 RCW.

*Deferral of special assessments:* Chapter 84.38 RCW.

*Emergency public works:* Chapter 39.28 RCW.

*Heating systems authorized:* RCW 35.97.020.

*Industrial development revenue bonds:* Chapter 39.84 RCW.

*Lien for labor and materials on public works:* Chapter 60.28 RCW.

*Permits to use waterways within a port district:* RCW 79.93.040.

*Public contracts:* Chapters 39.04 through 39.32 RCW.

*Special purpose districts, expenditures to recruit job candidates:* RCW 42.24.170.

for the payment of all damages and compensation in carrying out its purposes, and such right shall be exercised in the same manner and by the same procedure as provided for cities of the first class insofar as consistent with this title, and in connection therewith the county treasurer shall perform the duties of the treasurers of such cities. [1983 c 24 § 1; 1955 c 65 § 2. Prior: 1953 c 171 § 1; 1943 c 166 § 2, part; 1921 c 183 § 1, part; 1917 c 125 § 1, part; 1913 c 62 § 4, part; 1911 c 92 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 9692, part.]

*Eminent domain:* State Constitution Art. 1 § 16 (Amendment 9).

*Eminent domain by cities:* Chapter 8.12 RCW.

**53.08.015 Exemption of farm and agricultural land from special benefit assessments.** See RCW 84.34.300 through 84.34.380 and 84.34.922.

**53.08.020 Acquisition and operation of facilities.** A port district may construct, condemn, purchase, acquire, add to, maintain, conduct, and operate sea walls, jetties, piers, wharves, docks, boat landings, and other harbor improvements, warehouses, storehouses, elevators, grain-bins, cold storage plants, terminal icing plants, bunkers, oil tanks, ferries, canals, locks, tidal basins, bridges, subways, tramways, cableways, conveyors, administration buildings, fishing terminals, together with modern appliances and buildings for the economical handling, packaging, storing, and transporting of freight and handling of passenger traffic, rail and motor vehicle transfer and terminal facilities, water transfer and terminal facilities, air transfer and terminal facilities, and any combination of such transfer and terminal facilities, commercial transportation, transfer, handling, storage and terminal facilities, and improvements relating to industrial and manufacturing activities within the district, and in connection with the operation of the facilities and improvements of the district, it may perform all customary services including the handling, weighing, measuring and reconditioning of all commodities received. A port district may also construct, condemn, purchase, acquire, add to and maintain facilities for the freezing or processing of goods, agricultural products, meats or perishable commodities. A port district may also construct, purchase and operate belt line railways, but shall not acquire the same by condemnation. [1963 c 147 § 3; 1961 c 126 § 1; 1955 c 65 § 3. Prior: 1953 c 171 § 2; 1943 c 166 § 2, part; 1921 c 183 § 1, part; 1917 c 125 § 1, part; 1913 c 62 § 4, part; 1911 c 92 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 9692, part.]

**Severability—1961 c 126:** "If any provision of this act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1961 c 126 § 2.]

*Essential rail assistance account, distribution of moneys to port districts:* RCW 47.76.250.

**53.08.030 Operation of foreign trade zones.** A district may apply to the United States for permission to establish, operate, and maintain foreign trade zones within the district: PROVIDED, That nothing herein shall be construed to prevent such zones from being operated and financed by a private corporation(s) on behalf of such district acting as zone sponsor: PROVIDED FURTHER, That when the money so raised is to be used exclusively for the purpose

of acquiring land for sites and constructing warehouses, storage plants, and other facilities to be constructed within the zone for use in the operation and maintenance of the zones, the district may contract indebtedness and issue general bonds therefor in an amount, in addition to the three-fourths of one percent hereinafter fixed, of one percent of the value of the taxable property in the district, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in RCW 39.36.015, such additional indebtedness only to be incurred with the assent of three-fifths of the voters of the district voting thereon. [1977 ex.s. c 196 § 7; 1970 ex.s. c 42 § 31; 1955 c 65 § 4. Prior: 1943 c 166 § 2, part; 1921 c 183 § 1, part; 1917 c 125 § 1, part; 1913 c 62 § 4, part; 1911 c 92 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 9692, part.]

**Effective date—1977 ex.s. c 196:** See note following RCW 24.46.010.

**Severability—Effective date—1970 ex.s. c 42:** See notes following RCW 39.36.015.

*Foreign trade zones: Chapter 24.46 RCW.*

**53.08.040 Improvement of lands for industrial and commercial purposes—Providing sewer and water utilities—Providing pollution control facilities.** A district may improve its lands by dredging, filling, bulkheading, providing waterways or otherwise developing such lands for industrial and commercial purposes. A district may also acquire, construct, install, improve, and operate sewer and water utilities to serve its own property and other property owners under terms, conditions, and rates to be fixed and approved by the port commission. A district may also acquire, by purchase, construction, lease, or in any other manner, and may maintain and operate other facilities for the control or elimination of air, water, or other pollution, including, but not limited to, facilities for the treatment and/or disposal of industrial wastes, and may make such facilities available to others under terms, conditions and rates to be fixed and approved by the port commission. Such conditions and rates shall be sufficient to reimburse the port for all costs, including reasonable amortization of capital outlays caused by or incidental to providing such other pollution control facilities: PROVIDED, That no part of such costs of providing any pollution control facility to others shall be paid out of any tax revenues of the port: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That no port shall enter into an agreement or contract to provide sewer and/or water utilities or pollution control facilities if substantially similar utilities or facilities are available from another source (or sources) which is able and willing to provide such utilities or facilities on a reasonable and nondiscriminatory basis unless such other source (or sources) consents thereto.

In the event that a port elects to make such other pollution control facilities available to others, it shall do so by lease, lease purchase agreement, or other agreement binding such user to pay for the use of said facilities for the full term of the revenue bonds issued by the port for the acquisition of said facilities, and said payments shall at least fully reimburse the port for all principal and interest paid by it on said bonds and for all operating or other costs, if any, incurred by the port in connection with said facilities: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That where there is more than one user of any such facilities, each user shall be responsible for its pro rata share of such costs and payment of principal

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and interest. Any port intending to provide pollution control facilities to others shall first survey the port district to ascertain the potential users of such facilities and the extent of their needs. The port shall conduct a public hearing upon the proposal and shall give each potential user an opportunity to participate in the use of such facilities upon equal terms and conditions. [1989 c 298 § 1; 1972 ex.s. c 54 § 1; 1967 c 131 § 1; 1955 c 65 § 5. Prior: 1943 c 166 § 2, part; 1921 c 183 § 1, part; 1917 c 125 § 1, part; 1913 c 62 § 4, part; 1911 c 92 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 9692, part.]

**Severability—1972 ex.s. c 54:** "If any provision of this 1972 amendatory act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this 1972 amendatory act are declared to be severable." [1972 ex.s. c 54 § 5.]

*Assessments and charges against state lands: Chapter 79.44 RCW.*

**53.08.041 Pollution control facilities or other industrial development actions—Validation—Implementation of Article 8, section 8 of the Constitution.** All actions heretofore taken by port districts in conformity with the provisions of this chapter, and the provisions of \*this 1975 amendatory act hereby made applicable thereto, relating to pollution control facilities or other industrial development, including, but not limited to, all bonds issued for such purposes, shall be deemed to have been taken pursuant to Article 8, section 8 of the Washington state Constitution and are hereby declared to be valid, legal and binding in all respects. All provisions of Title 53 RCW directly or indirectly relating to pollution control facilities or other industrial development are hereby found and declared to be legislation implementing the provisions of Article 8, section 8 of the Washington state Constitution. [1975 c 6 § 5.]

**\*Reviser's note:** For codification of "this 1975 amendatory act" [1975 c 6], see Codification Tables, Volume 0.

**Severability—1975 c 6:** See RCW 70.95A.940.

**Construction—1975 c 6:** See RCW 70.95A.912.

**53.08.045 Facilities constructed under authority of chapter subject to taxation of leasehold interest.** Facilities constructed by a port district under authority of this chapter will be subject to taxation of leasehold interest pursuant to applicable laws as now or hereafter enacted. [1972 ex.s. c 54 § 3.]

**Severability—1972 ex.s. c 54:** See note following RCW 53.08.040.

**53.08.047 Chapter not to be construed as restricting or limiting powers of district under other laws.** Neither this chapter nor anything herein contained shall be construed as a restriction or limitation upon any powers which a district might otherwise have under any laws of this state, but shall be construed as cumulative. [1972 ex.s. c 54 § 4.]

**Severability—1972 ex.s. c 54:** See note following RCW 53.08.040.

**53.08.050 Local improvement districts—Assessments—Bonds.** (1) A district may establish local improvement districts within the district, and levy special assessments, in annual installments extending over a period not exceeding ten years on all property specially benefited by the local improvement, on the basis of special benefits, to

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pay in whole or in part the damages or costs of the local improvement, and issue local improvement bonds to be paid from local improvement assessments. The levy and collection of such assessments and issuance of such bonds shall be as provided for the levy and collection of local improvement assessments and the issuance of local improvement bonds by cities and towns, insofar as consistent with this title: PROVIDED, That the duties of the treasurers of such cities and towns in connection therewith shall be performed by the county treasurer. Such bonds may be in any form, including bearer bonds or registered bonds as provided in RCW 39.46.030.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 § 132; 1955 c 65 § 6. Prior: 1943 c 166 § 2, part; 1921 c 183 § 1, part; 1917 c 125 § 1, part; 1913 c 62 § 4, part; 1911 c 92 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 9692, part.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

*Assessments and charges against state lands:* Chapter 79.44 RCW.

*Cities*

*issuance of local improvement bonds:* Chapter 35.45 RCW.

*levy and collection of local improvement assessments:* Chapters 35.44, 35.49 RCW.

*Local improvements, supplemental authority:* Chapter 35.51 RCW.

*Public lands subject to local assessments:* RCW 79.44.010.

**53.08.055 Local improvement districts—Notice must contain statement that assessments may vary from estimates.** Any notice given to the public or to the owners of specific lots, tracts, or parcels of land relating to the formation of a local improvement district shall contain a statement that actual assessments may vary from assessment estimates so long as they do not exceed a figure equal to the increased true and fair value the improvement adds to the property. [1989 c 243 § 8.]

**53.08.060 Improvement of waters and waterways.** A district may improve navigable and nonnavigable waters of the United States and the state of Washington within the district; create and improve for harbor purposes new waterways within the district; and regulate and control all such waters and all natural or artificial waterways within the district and remove obstructions therefrom, and straighten, widen, deepen, and otherwise improve any water, watercourses, bays, lakes or streams, whether navigable or otherwise, flowing through or located within the district. [1979 ex.s. c 30 § 8; 1955 c 65 § 7. Prior: 1943 c 171 § 1; 1943 c 166 § 2, part; 1921 c 183 § 1, part; 1917 c 125 § 1, part; 1913 c 62 § 4, part; 1911 c 92 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 9692, part.]

**53.08.070 Rates and charges—Government contracts.** A district may fix, without right of appeal therefrom the rates of wharfage, dockage, warehousing, and port and terminal charges upon all improvements owned and operated by it, and the charges of ferries operated by it.

It may fix, subject to state regulation, rates of wharfage, dockage, warehousing, and all necessary port and terminal

charges upon all docks, wharves, warehouses, quays, and piers owned by it and operated under lease from it.

Notwithstanding any provision of this section, a port district may enter into any contract for wharfage, dockage, warehousing, or port or terminal charges, with the United States or any governmental agency thereof or with the state of Washington or any political subdivision thereof under such terms as the commission may, in its discretion, negotiate. [1995 c 146 § 1; 1955 c 65 § 8. Prior: 1943 c 166 § 2, part; 1921 c 183 § 1, part; 1917 c 125 § 1, part; 1913 c 62 § 4, part; 1911 c 92 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 9692, part.]

*Utilities and transportation commission:* Chapter 80.01 RCW.

**53.08.080 Lease of property—Authorized—Duration.** A district may lease all lands, wharves, docks and real and personal property owned and controlled by it, for such purposes and upon such terms as the port commission deems proper: PROVIDED, That no lease shall be for a period longer than fifty years with option for extensions for up to an additional thirty years, except where the property involved is or is to be devoted to airport purposes the port commission may lease said property for such period as may equal the estimated useful life of such work or facilities, but not to exceed seventy-five years: PROVIDED FURTHER, That where the property is held by the district under lease from the United States government or the state of Washington, or any agency or department thereof, the port commission may sublease said property, with option for extensions, up to the total term and extensions thereof permitted by such lease, but in any event not to exceed ninety years. [1989 c 298 § 2; 1983 c 64 § 1; 1973 c 87 § 1; 1961 ex.s. c 8 § 1; 1959 c 157 § 1; 1955 c 65 § 9. Prior: 1953 c 243 § 1; 1943 c 166 § 2, part; 1921 c 183 § 1, part; 1917 c 125 § 1, part; 1913 c 62 § 4, part; 1911 c 92 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 9692, part.]

*Lease of*

*county property for airport purposes:* RCW 36.34.180.

*municipal property for airport purposes:* RCW 14.08.120.

*Restrictions on leases of harbor areas:* State Constitution Art. 15 § 2.

**53.08.085 Lease of property—Security for rent.** Every lease of all lands, wharves, docks, and real and personal property of a port district for a term of more than one year shall have the rent secured by rental insurance, bond, or other security satisfactory to the port commission, in an amount equal to one-sixth the total rent, but in no case shall such security be less than an amount equal to one year's rent or more than an amount equal to three years' rent. Evidence of the existence of such insurance, bonds, or security shall be on file with the commission at all times during the term of the lease: PROVIDED, That nothing in this section shall prevent the port commission from requiring additional security on leases or provisions thereof, or on other agreements to use port facilities: PROVIDED FURTHER, That any security agreement may provide for termination on the anniversary date of such agreement on not less than one year's written notice to the port if said lease is not in default at the time of said notice: PROVIDED FURTHER, That if the security as required herein is not maintained throughout the full term of the lease, said lease

shall be considered in default: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That the port commission may in its discretion waive the rent security requirement or lower the amount of such requirement on the lease of real and/or personal port property. [1981 c 125 § 1; 1977 c 41 § 1; 1973 c 87 § 2.]

**53.08.090 Sale of property.** (1) A port commission may, by resolution, authorize the managing official of a port district to sell and convey port district property of ten thousand dollars or less in value. The authority shall be in force for not more than one calendar year from the date of resolution and may be renewed from year to year. Prior to any such sale or conveyance the managing official shall itemize and list the property to be sold and make written certification to the commission that the listed property is no longer needed for district purposes. Any large block of the property having a value in excess of ten thousand dollars shall not be broken down into components of ten thousand dollars or less value and sold in the smaller components unless the smaller components be sold by public competitive bid. A port district may sell and convey any of its real or personal property valued at more than ten thousand dollars when the port commission has, by resolution, declared the property to be no longer needed for district purposes, but no property which is a part of the comprehensive plan of improvement or modification thereof shall be disposed of until the comprehensive plan has been modified to find the property surplus to port needs. The comprehensive plan shall be modified only after public notice and hearing provided by RCW 53.20.010.

Nothing in this section shall be deemed to repeal or modify procedures for property sales within industrial development districts as set forth in chapter 53.25 RCW.

(2) The ten thousand dollar figures in subsection (1) of this section shall be adjusted annually based upon the governmental price index established by the department of revenue under RCW 82.14.200. [1994 c 26 § 1; 1981 c 262 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 30 § 1; 1965 c 23 § 1; 1955 c 65 § 10. Prior: 1943 c 166 § 2, part; 1921 c 183 § 1, part; 1917 c 125 § 1, part; 1913 c 62 § 4, part; 1911 c 92 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 9692, part.]

*Restriction on sale of harbor rights and property: State Constitution Art. 15 § 1 (Amendment 15).*

**53.08.091 Sale of property—Contract sales—Terms and conditions.** Except in cases where the full purchase price is paid at the time of the purchase, every sale of real property or personal property under authority of RCW 53.08.090 or 53.25.110 shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

(1) The purchaser shall enter into a contract with the district in which the purchaser shall covenant that he will make the payments of principal and interest when due, and that he will pay all taxes and assessments on such property. Upon failure to make payments of principal, interest, assessments or taxes when due all rights of the purchaser under said contract may, at the election of the district, after notice to said purchaser, be declared to be forfeited. When the rights of the purchaser are declared forfeited, the district shall be released from all obligation to convey land covered by the contract, and in the case of personal property, the

district shall have all rights granted to a secured party under chapter 62A.9 RCW;

(2) The district may, as it deems advisable, extend the time for payment of principal and interest due or to become due;

(3) The district shall notify the purchaser in each instance when payment is overdue, and that the purchaser is liable to forfeiture if payment is not made within thirty days from the time the same became due, unless the time be extended by the district;

(4) Not less than four percent of the total purchase price shall be paid on the date of execution of the contract for sale and not less than four percent shall be paid annually thereafter until the full purchase price has been paid, but any purchaser may make full payment at any time. All unpaid deferred payments shall draw interest at a rate not less than six percent per annum.

Nothing in this section shall be deemed to supersede other provisions of law more specifically governing sales of port district property. It is the purpose of this section to provide additional authority and procedures for sale of port district property no longer needed for port purposes. [1982 c 75 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 11 § 1; 1965 c 23 § 2.]

**53.08.092 Sale of property—Taxes and assessments against property sold by contract.** A copy of all contract sales of port district property shall be filed with the county assessor within thirty days after the first payment is received by the port. The assessor shall place such property on the tax rolls of the county and the purchaser of such property shall become liable for all levies and assessments against such property. The port shall not be liable for any taxes or assessments, but if any outstanding taxes are not paid the property may be sold by the county as with other property with delinquent taxes due. Any amounts accruing from such a sale by the county, not required to pay outstanding and delinquent taxes or assessments and foreclosure costs, shall be paid to the port district. [1965 c 23 § 3.]

**53.08.110 Gifts—Improvement.** Port commissioners of any port district are hereby authorized to accept for and on behalf of said port district gifts of real and personal property and to expend in improvements and betterment such amount as may be necessary. [1921 c 39 § 4; RRS § 9705.]

**53.08.120 Contracts for labor and material—Small works roster.** All material required by a port district may be procured in the open market or by contract and all work ordered may be done by contract or day labor. All such contracts for work, the estimated cost of which exceeds one hundred thousand dollars, shall be let at public bidding upon notice published in a newspaper of general circulation in the district at least thirteen days before the last date upon which bids will be received, calling for sealed bids upon the work, plans and specifications for which shall then be on file in the office of the commission for public inspection. The same notice may call for bids on such work or material based upon plans and specifications submitted by the bidder.

Each port district shall maintain a small works roster, as provided in RCW 39.04.155, and may use the small works roster process to award contracts in lieu of calling for sealed

bids whenever work is done by contract, the estimated cost of which is one hundred thousand dollars or less. Whenever possible, the managing official shall invite at least one proposal from a minority contractor who shall otherwise qualify under this section.

When awarding such a contract for work, when utilizing proposals from the small works roster, the managing official shall give weight to the contractor submitting the lowest and best proposal, and whenever it would not violate the public interest, such contracts shall be distributed equally among contractors, including minority contractors, on the small works roster. [1993 c 198 § 13; 1988 c 235 § 1; 1982 c 92 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 47 § 1; 1955 c 348 § 2. Prior: 1921 c 179 § 1, part; 1911 c 92 § 5, part; RRS § 9693, part.]

**Severability—1955 c 348:** "If any provision of this act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1955 c 348 § 7.]

**53.08.130 Notice—Award of contract—Low bidder claiming error.** The notice shall state generally the nature of the work to be done and require that bids be sealed and filed with the commission at a time specified therein. Each bid shall be accompanied by a bid proposal deposit in the form of a cashier's check, money order, or surety bid bond to the commission for a sum not less than five percent of the amount of the bid, and no bid shall be considered unless accompanied by such bid proposal deposit. At the time and place named the bids shall be publicly opened and read and the commission shall proceed to canvass the bids and, except as otherwise in this section provided, shall let the contract to the lowest responsible bidder upon plans and specifications on file, or to the best bidder submitting his or her own plans and specifications. If, in the opinion of the commission, all bids are unsatisfactory, they may reject all of them and readvertise, and in such case all such bid proposal deposits shall be returned to the bidders; but if the contract is let, then all bid proposal deposits shall be returned to the bidders, except that of the successful bidder which shall be retained until a contract is entered into for the purchase of such materials or doing such work, and a bond given to the port district for the performance of the contract and otherwise conditioned as required by law, with sureties satisfactory to the commission, in an amount to be fixed by the commission, but not in any event less than twenty-five percent of the contract price. If the bidder fails to enter into the contract in accordance with his or her bid and furnish such bond within ten days from the date at which he or she is notified that he or she is the successful bidder, the check or money order and the amount thereof shall be forfeited to the port district or the port district shall recover the amount of the surety bid bond. A low bidder who claims error and fails to enter into a contract is prohibited from bidding on the same project if a second or subsequent call for bids is made for the project. [1996 c 18 § 11; 1971 ex.s. c 258 § 2; 1955 c 348 § 3. Prior: 1921 c 179 § 1, part; 1911 c 92 § 5, part; RRS § 9693, part.]

**Severability—1971 ex.s. c 258:** See note following RCW 28B.10.350.

**Severability—1955 c 348:** See note following RCW 53.08.120.  
*Contractor's bond: Chapter 39.08 RCW.*

*Lien on public works, retained percentage of contractor's earnings: Chapter 60.28 RCW.*

**53.08.135 Construction projects over forty thousand dollars—Contracting out.** Port districts shall determine if any construction project over forty thousand dollars can be accomplished less expensively by contracting out. If contracting out is less expensive, the port district may contract out such project. [1982 c 92 § 2.]

**53.08.140 Leases or contracts without bond.** Port districts may enter into leases and contracts of every kind and nature with the United States of America or any of its departments, the state of Washington or any of its departments, or its political subdivisions or with any municipal corporation or quasi municipal corporation of the state of Washington, without requiring said port district or public bodies to provide bonds to secure the performance thereof. All such leases or contracts heretofore entered into are hereby ratified. [1943 c 136 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 9710.]

**53.08.150 Notices when no newspaper in county.** Notices required in port districts in which no newspaper is published may be given by publication in any newspaper of general circulation in the county. [1921 c 39 § 3; RRS § 9704.]

**53.08.160 Studies, investigations, surveys—Promotion of facilities.** All port districts organized under the provisions of this act shall be, and they are hereby, authorized and empowered to initiate and carry on the necessary studies, investigations and surveys required for the proper development, improvement and utilization of all port properties, utilities and facilities, and for industrial development within the district when such agricultural and industrial development is carried out by a public agency, institution, or body for a public purpose, and to assemble and analyze the data thus obtained and to cooperate with the state of Washington, other port districts and other operators of terminal and transportation facilities for these purposes, and to make such expenditures as are necessary for said purposes, and for the proper promotion, advertising, improvement and development of such port properties, utilities and facilities: PROVIDED HOWEVER, That nothing in this section shall authorize a port district to develop its properties as an agricultural or dairy farm. [1973 1st ex.s. c 55 § 1; 1947 c 24 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 9692A.]

**53.08.170 Employment—Wages—Benefits—Agents—Insurance for port district commissioners.** The port commission shall have authority to create and fill positions, to fix wages, salaries and bonds thereof, to pay costs and assessments involved in securing or arranging to secure employees, and to establish such benefits for employees, including holiday pay, vacations or vacation pay, retirement and pension benefits, medical, surgical or hospital care, life, accident, or health disability insurance, and similar benefits, already established by other employers of similar employees, as the port commissioner shall by resolution provide: PROVIDED, That any district providing insurance benefits for its employees in any manner whatsoever may



provide health and accident insurance, life insurance with coverage not to exceed that provided district employees, and business related travel, liability, and errors and omissions insurance, for its commissioners, which insurance shall not be considered to be compensation.

Subject to chapter 48.62 RCW, the port commission shall have authority to provide or pay such benefits directly, or to provide for such benefits by the purchase of insurance policies or entering into contracts with and compensating any person, firm, agency or organization furnishing such benefits, or by making contributions to vacation plans or funds, or health and welfare plans and funds, or pension plans or funds, or similar plans or funds, already established by other employers of similar employees and in which the port district is permitted to participate for particular classifications of its employees by the trustees or other persons responsible for the administration of such established plans or funds: PROVIDED FURTHER, That no port district employee shall be allowed to apply for admission to or be accepted as a member of the state employees' retirement system after January 1, 1965, if admission to such system would result in coverage under both a private pension system and the state employees' retirement system, it being the purpose of this proviso that port districts shall not at the same time contribute for any employee to both a private pension or retirement plan and to the state employees' retirement system. The port commission shall have authority by resolution to utilize and compensate agents for the purpose of paying, in the name and by the check of such agent or agents or otherwise, wages, salaries and other benefits to employees, or particular classifications thereof, and for the purpose of withholding payroll taxes and paying over tax moneys so withheld to appropriate government agencies, on a combined basis with the wages, salaries, benefits, or taxes of other employers or otherwise; to enter into such contracts and arrangements with and to transfer by warrant such funds from time to time to any such agent or agents so appointed as are necessary to accomplish such salary, wage, benefit, or tax payments as though the port district were a private employer, notwithstanding any other provision of the law to the contrary. The funds of a port district transferred to such an agent or agents for the payment of wages or salaries of its employees in the name or by the check of such agent or agents shall be subject to garnishment with respect to salaries or wages so paid, notwithstanding any provision of the law relating to municipal corporations to the contrary. [1991 sp.s. c 30 § 22; 1987 c 50 § 1; 1985 c 81 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 6 § 1; 1965 c 20 § 1; 1955 c 64 § 1.]

**Effective date, implementation, application—Severability—1991 sp.s. c 30:** See RCW 48.62.900 and 48.62.901.

**Garnishment:** Chapter 6.27 RCW.

**Hospitalization and medical insurance authorized:** RCW 41.04.180.

**Hospitalization and medical insurance not deemed additional compensation:** RCW 41.04.190.

**Payroll deductions:** RCW 41.04.020.

**Prevailing wages on public works:** Chapter 39.12 RCW.

**53.08.171 Employment relations—Collective bargaining and arbitration.** See chapter 53.18 RCW.

**53.08.175 Commissioners, officers, and employees—Reimbursement of expenses.** Employees, officers, and commissioners of port districts shall, when engaged in official business of the port district, be entitled to receive their necessary and reasonable travel and other business expenses incurred on behalf of the port district. Reimbursement of such expenses may be granted, whether incurred within or without the port district, when submitted on a voucher with appropriate evidence of payment by such employee or official. [1965 c 101 § 1.]

**Section headings—1965 c 101:** "Section headings as used in this act do not constitute any part of the law." [1965 c 101 § 3.]

**53.08.176 Commissioners, officers, and employees—Regulation of expenses.** Each port district shall adopt a resolution (which may be amended from time to time) which shall establish the basic rules and regulations governing methods and amount of reimbursement payable to such port officials and employees for travel and other business expenses incurred on behalf of the district. The resolution shall, among other things, establish procedures for approving such expenses; set forth the method of authorizing the direct purchase of transportation; the form of the voucher; and requirements governing the use of credit cards issued in the name of the port district. Such regulations may provide for payment of per diem in lieu of actual expenses when travel requires overnight lodging: PROVIDED, That in all cases any per diem payment shall not exceed twenty-five dollars per day. The state auditor shall, as provided by general law, cooperate with the port district in establishing adequate procedures for regulating and auditing the reimbursement of all such expenses. [1965 c 101 § 2.]

**Section headings—1965 c 101:** See note following RCW 53.08.175.

**53.08.180 Federal old age and survivors' insurance for employees.** As used in RCW 53.08.180 through 53.08.200, the term "employees" shall be as defined in RCW 41.48.020 and no distinction shall be made for the purposes of coverage under the social security act, between persons employed by a port district on a casual or temporary basis, or on a regular or steady basis, or between persons paid hourly wages and persons paid wages on a weekly, monthly, or other periodic basis. It being the intent of RCW 53.08.180 through 53.08.200 that all employees shall be entitled to the coverage of the federal social security act for work performed in the service of a port district, which is not covered by the state employees' retirement system. [1955 c 219 § 1.]

*Public employees' retirement system: Chapter 41.40 RCW.*

**53.08.190 Federal old age and survivors' insurance for employees—Plan for extension of benefits.** Each port district, which has not previously done so, shall within thirty days of June 8, 1955, submit for approval by the governor a plan for extending the benefits of Title II of the federal social security act, as amended, in conformity with applicable provisions of said act as set forth in chapter 41.48 RCW, to employees of such port district who are employed in positions not covered by the employees' retirement system of the state of Washington. The plan required to be submit-

ted by this section shall be as set forth in RCW 41.48.050 and shall be in conformance therewith. [1955 c 219 § 2.]

**53.08.200 Federal old age and survivors' insurance for employees—Contributions.** All port districts are authorized to make contributions on employees' wages, and to impose upon their employees contributions with respect to their wages in accordance with RCW 41.48.030 through 41.48.050. [1955 c 219 § 3.]

**53.08.205 Liability insurance for officials and employees.** The board of commissioners of each port district may purchase liability insurance with such limits as they may deem reasonable for the purpose of protecting their officials and employees against liability for personal or bodily injuries and property damage arising from their acts or omissions while performing or in good faith purporting to perform their official duties. [1973 c 125 § 4.]

**53.08.207 Liability insurance for officers and employees authorized.** See RCW 36.16.138.

**53.08.208 Actions against officer, employee, or agent—Defense and costs provided by port district—Exception.** Whenever any action, claim or proceeding is instituted against any person who is or was an officer, employee, or agent of a port district established under this title arising out of the performance or failure of performance of duties for, or employment with any such district, the commission of the district may grant a request by such person that the attorney of the district's choosing be authorized to defend said claim, suit or proceeding, and the costs of defense, attorney's fees, and any obligation for payment arising from such action may be paid from the district's funds: PROVIDED, That costs of defense and/or judgment or settlement against such person shall not be paid in any case where the court has found that such person was not acting in good faith or within the scope of his employment with or duties for the district. [1975 c 60 § 1.]

**53.08.210 Quorum.** See RCW 53.12.246.

**53.08.220 Regulations authorized—Adoption as part of ordinance or resolution of city or county, procedure—Enforcement—Penalty for violation.** A port district may formulate all needful regulations for the use by tenants, agents, servants, licensees, invitees, suppliers, passengers, customers, shippers, business visitors, and members of the general public of any properties or facilities owned or operated by it, and request the adoption, amendment, or repeal of such regulations as part of the ordinances of the city or town in which such properties or facilities are situated, or as part of the resolutions of the county, if such properties or facilities be situated outside any city or town. The port commission shall make such request by resolution after holding a public hearing on the proposed regulations, of which at least ten days' notice shall be published in a legal newspaper of general circulation in the port district. Such regulations must conform to and be consistent with federal and state law. As to properties or facilities situated

within a city or town, such regulations must conform to and be consistent with the ordinances of the city or town. As to properties or facilities situated outside any city or town, such regulations must conform to and be consistent with county resolutions. Upon receiving such request, the governing body of the city, town, or county, as the case may be, may adopt such regulations as part of its ordinances or resolutions, or amend or repeal such regulations in accordance with the terms of the request. Any violation of such regulations shall constitute a misdemeanor which shall be redressed in the same manner as other police regulations of the city, town, or county, and it shall be the duty of all law enforcement officers to enforce such regulations accordingly: PROVIDED, That violation of a regulation relating to traffic including parking, standing, stopping, and pedestrian offenses is a traffic infraction, except that violation of a regulation equivalent to those provisions of Title 46 RCW set forth in RCW 46.63.020 remains a misdemeanor. [1979 ex.s. c 136 § 103; 1961 c 38 § 1.]

**Effective date—Severability—1979 ex.s. c 136:** See notes following RCW 46.63.010.

**53.08.230 Making motor vehicle and other police regulations applicable to district property—Filing plat with county auditor—Duty of law enforcement officers.** A port district may at its option file with the county auditor a plat of any of its properties or facilities, showing thereon such private streets, alleys, access roads, parking areas, parks and other places as the port district may wish to have treated as public for purposes of motor vehicle or other police regulations. Such plat may be amended at any time by the filing of an amendatory plat, and may be vacated at any time by the filing of a resolution of vacation. So long as any such plat or amendatory plat is on file and not vacated, the motor vehicle or other police regulations of the state, and the motor vehicle regulations of the city, town or county, as the case may be, in which the areas described in the plat are situated, shall apply to such areas as though they were public streets, alleys, access roads, parking areas, parks or other places, and it shall be the duty of all state and local law enforcement officers to enforce such regulations accordingly. [1961 c 38 § 2.]

**53.08.240 Joint exercise of powers and joint acquisition of property—Contracts with other governmental entities.** Any two or more port districts shall have the power, by mutual agreement, to exercise jointly all powers granted to each individual district, and in the exercise of such powers shall have the right and power to acquire jointly all lands, property, property rights, leases, or easements necessary for their purposes, either entirely within or partly within or partly without or entirely without such districts: PROVIDED, That any two or more districts so acting jointly, by mutual agreement, shall not acquire any real property or real property rights in any other port district without the consent of such district.

A district may enter into any contract with the United States, or any state, county, or municipal corporation, or any department of those entities, for carrying out any of the powers that each of the contracting parties may by law exercise separately. [1961 c 24 § 1.]

**53.08.245 Economic development programs authorized.** It shall be in the public purpose for all port districts to engage in economic development programs. In addition, port districts may contract with nonprofit corporations in furtherance of this and other acts relating to economic development. [1985 c 125 § 1.]

**53.08.250 Participation in world fairs or expositions authorized.** See chapter 35.60 RCW.

**53.08.255 Tourism promotion authorized.** Any port district in this state, acting through its commission, has power to expend moneys and conduct promotion of resources and facilities in the district or general area by advertising, publicizing, or otherwise distributing information to attract visitors and encourage tourist expansion. [1984 c 122 § 10.]

**53.08.260 Park and recreation facilities.** A port district may construct, improve, maintain, and operate public park and recreation facilities when such facilities are necessary to more fully utilize boat landings, harbors, wharves and piers, air, land, and water passenger and transfer terminals, waterways, and other port facilities authorized by law pursuant to the port's comprehensive plan of harbor improvements and industrial development. [1965 c 81 § 1.]

*Harbor improvement plan: RCW 53.20.010.*

**53.08.270 Park and recreation facilities—Approval of other agencies.** Before undertaking any such plan for the acquisition and operation of any park or recreational facility the proposed plan therefor shall be first submitted in writing to the director of the parks and recreation commission and to the governing body of any county or municipal park agency having jurisdiction in the area. The state director and/or such county or municipal park agency shall examine the port's proposed plan, and may disapprove such proposed plan if it is found to be in conflict with state or local park and recreation plans for the same area. If such proposed port plan is disapproved the port district shall not proceed further with such plan. If the state director or the governing body of the county or municipal agency does not respond in writing to the port within sixty days, it shall be deemed that approval has been granted. [1965 c 81 § 2.]

**53.08.280 Police officers—Appointment authorized—Jurisdiction.** Any port district operating an airport with a police department as authorized by RCW 14.08.120 or designated as a port of entry by the federal government is authorized to appoint police officers with full police powers to enforce all applicable federal, state, or municipal statutes, rules, regulations, or ordinances upon any port-owned or operated properties or operations: PROVIDED, That such police officers must have successfully graduated from a recognized professional police academy or training institution. [1981 c 97 § 1; 1974 ex.s. c 62 § 1.]

**53.08.290 Intermodal movement of interstate and foreign cargo—Restrictions.** In addition to the other powers under this chapter, a port district, in connection with

the operation of facilities and improvements of the district, may perform all necessary activities related to the intermodal movement of interstate and foreign cargo: PROVIDED, That nothing contained herein shall authorize a port district to engage in the transportation of commodities by motor vehicle for compensation outside the boundaries of the port district. A port district may, by itself or in conjunction with public or private entities, acquire, construct, purchase, lease, contract for, provide, and operate rail services, equipment, and facilities inside or outside the port district: PROVIDED, That such authority may only be exercised outside the boundaries of the port district if such extraterritorial rail services, equipment, or facilities are found, by resolution of the commission of the port district exercising such authority, to be reasonably necessary to link the rail services, equipment, and facilities within the port district to an interstate railroad system; however, if such extraterritorial rail services, equipment, or facilities are in or are to be located in one or more other port districts, the commission of such other port district or districts must consent by resolution to the proposed plan of the originating port district which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld: PROVIDED FURTHER, That no port district shall engage in the manufacture of rail cars for use off port property. [1981 c 47 § 1; 1980 c 110 § 2.]

**Purpose—1980 c 110:** "The purpose of this act is to:

(1) Clarify existing law as to the authority of port districts to perform certain cargo movement activities and to contract for or otherwise provide facilities for rail service for the movement of such cargo; and

(2) Provide authority for port districts to assist in development of the recreation-tourism industry by acquiring and operating certain watercraft in limited areas." [1980 c 110 § 1.]

**53.08.295 Passenger carrying watercraft.** A port district may acquire, lease, construct, purchase, maintain, and operate passenger carrying vessels on interstate navigable rivers of the state and intrastate waters of adjoining states. Service provided shall be under terms, conditions, and rates to be fixed and approved by the port commission. Operation of such vessels shall be subject to applicable state and federal laws pertaining to such service. [1980 c 110 § 3.]

**Purpose—1980 c 110:** See note following RCW 53.08.290.

**53.08.300 Rewards for arrest and conviction of persons committing criminal offenses against port district authorized.** See RCW 10.85.030.

**53.08.310 Moorage facilities—Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this section and RCW 53.08.320.

(1) "Port charges" mean charges of a moorage facility operator for moorage and storage, and all other charges owing or to become owing under a contract between a vessel owner and the moorage facility operator, or under an officially adopted tariff including, but not limited to, costs of sale and related legal expenses.

(2) "Vessel" means every species of watercraft or other artificial contrivance capable of being used as a means of transportation on water and which does not exceed two hundred feet in length. "Vessel" includes any trailer used for the transportation of watercraft.

(3) "Moorage facility" means any properties or facilities owned or operated by a moorage facility operator which are capable of use for the moorage or storage of vessels.

(4) "Moorage facility operator" means any port district, city, town, metropolitan park district, or county which owns and/or operates a moorage facility.

(5) "Owner" means every natural person, firm, partnership, corporation, association, or organization, or agent thereof, with actual or apparent authority, who expressly or impliedly contracts for use of a moorage facility.

(6) "Transient vessel" means a vessel using a moorage facility and which belongs to an owner who does not have a moorage agreement with the moorage facility operator. Transient vessels include, but are not limited to: Vessels seeking a harbor of refuge, day use, or overnight use of a moorage facility on a space-as-available basis. [1986 c 260 § 1; 1983 c 188 § 1.]

**Construction—Savings—1983 c 188:** "Nothing contained in RCW 53.08.310 and 53.08.320 may be construed as a limitation of any rights, privileges, or remedies previously existing under any applicable laws of port districts, cities, towns, metropolitan park districts, or counties." [1983 c 188 § 3.]

**Severability—1983 c 188:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1983 c 188 § 5.]

**53.08.320 Moorage facilities—Regulations authorized—Port charges, delinquency—Abandoned vessels, public sale.** A moorage facility operator may adopt all regulations necessary for rental and use of moorage facilities and for the expeditious collection of port charges. The regulations may also establish procedures for the enforcement of these regulations by port district, city, county, metropolitan park district or town personnel. The regulations shall include the following:

(1) Procedures authorizing moorage facility personnel to take reasonable measures, including the use of chains, ropes, and locks, or removal from the water, to secure vessels within the moorage facility so that the vessels are in the possession and control of the moorage facility operator and cannot be removed from the moorage facility. These procedures may be used if an owner mooring or storing a vessel at the moorage facility fails, after being notified that charges are owing and of the owner's right to commence legal proceedings to contest that such charges are owing, to pay the port charges owed or to commence legal proceedings. Notification shall be by registered mail to the owner at his last known address. In the case of a transient vessel, or where no address was furnished by the owner, the moorage facility operator need not give such notice prior to securing the vessel. At the time of securing the vessel, an authorized moorage facility employee shall attach to the vessel a readily visible notice. The notice shall be of a reasonable size and shall contain the following information:

(a) The date and time the notice was attached;

(b) A statement that if the account is not paid in full within ninety days from the time the notice is attached, the vessel may be sold at public auction to satisfy the port charges; and

(c) The address and telephone number where additional information may be obtained concerning release of the vessel.

After a vessel is secured, the operator shall make a reasonable effort to notify the owner by registered mail in order to give the owner the information contained in the notice.

(2) Procedures authorizing moorage facility personnel at their discretion to move moored vessels ashore for storage within properties under the operator's control or for storage with private persons under their control as bailees of the moorage facility, if the vessel is, in the opinion of port personnel a nuisance, if the vessel is in danger of sinking or creating other damage, or is owing port charges. Costs of any such procedure shall be paid by the vessel's owner.

(3) If a vessel is secured under subsection (1) of this section or moved ashore under subsection (2) of this section, the owner who is obligated to the moorage facility operator for port charges may regain possession of the vessel by:

(a) Making arrangements satisfactory with the moorage facility operator for the immediate removal of the vessel from the moorage facility or for authorized moorage; and

(b) Making payment to the moorage facility operator of all port charges, or by posting with the moorage facility operator a sufficient cash bond or other acceptable security, to be held in trust by the moorage facility operator pending written agreement of the parties with respect to payment by the vessel owner of the amount owing, or pending resolution of the matter of the charges in a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction. After entry of judgment, including any appeals, in a court of competent jurisdiction, or after the parties reach agreement with respect to payment, the trust shall terminate and the moorage facility operator shall receive so much of the bond or other security as is agreed, or as is necessary to satisfy any judgment, costs, and interest as may be awarded to the moorage facility operator. The balance shall be refunded immediately to the owner at his last known address.

(4) If a vessel has been secured by the moorage facility operator under subsection (1) of this section and is not released to the owner under the bonding provisions of this section within ninety days after notifying or attempting to notify the owner under subsection (1) of this section, the vessel shall be conclusively presumed to have been abandoned by the owner.

(5) If a vessel moored or stored at a moorage facility is abandoned, the moorage facility operator may, by resolution of its legislative authority, authorize the public sale of the vessel by authorized personnel to the highest and best bidder for cash as follows:

(a) Before the vessel is sold, the owner of the vessel shall be given at least twenty days' notice of the sale in the manner set forth in subsection (1) of this section if the name and address of the owner is known. The notice shall contain the time and place of the sale, a reasonable description of the vessel to be sold, and the amount of port charges owed with respect to the vessel. The notice of sale shall be published at least once, more than ten but not more than twenty days before the sale, in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the moorage facility is located. Such notice shall include the name of the vessel, if any, the last known owner and address, and a reasonable description of the vessel to be sold. The moorage facility operator may bid all or part of its port charges at the sale and may become a purchaser at the sale;

(b) Before the vessel is sold, any person seeking to redeem an impounded vessel under this section may commence a lawsuit in the superior court for the county in which the vessel was impounded to contest the validity of the impoundment or the amount of the port charges owing. Such lawsuit must be commenced within ten days of the date the notification was provided pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, or the right to a hearing shall be deemed waived and the owner shall be liable for any port charges owing the moorage facility operator. In the event of litigation, the prevailing party shall be entitled to reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

(c) The proceeds of a sale under this section shall first be applied to the payment of port charges. The balance, if any, shall be paid to the owner. If the owner cannot in the exercise of due diligence be located by the moorage facility operator within one year of the date of the sale, the excess funds from the sale shall revert to the department of revenue pursuant to chapter 63.29 RCW. If the sale is for a sum less than the applicable port charges, the moorage facility operator is entitled to assert a claim for a deficiency.

(d) In the event no one purchases the vessel at a sale, or a vessel is not removed from the premises or other arrangements are not made within ten days of sale, title to the vessel will revert to the moorage facility operator.

(6) The regulations authorized under this section shall be enforceable only if the moorage facility has had its tariff containing such regulations conspicuously posted at its moorage facility at all times. [1986 c 260 § 2; 1985 c 7 § 124; 1983 c 188 § 2.]

**Severability—Construction—Savings—1983 c 188:** See notes following RCW 53.08.310.

**53.08.330 Streets, roads, and highways—Construction, upgrading, improvement, and repair authorized.** Any port district in this state, acting through its commission, may expend port funds toward construction, upgrading, improvement, or repair of any street, road, or highway that serves port facilities. [1990 c 5 § 1.]

**53.08.340 Streets, roads, and highways—Expenditure of funds.** The funds authorized by RCW 53.08.330 may be expended by the port commission in conjunction with any plan of improvements undertaken by the state of Washington, an adjoining state, or a county or municipal government of either, in combination with any of said public entities, and without regard to whether expenditures are made for a road located within the state of Washington or an adjoining state. [1990 c 5 § 2.]

**53.08.350 Moratorium on runway construction or extension, or initiation of new service—Certain counties affected.** No city, county, or county-wide port district in a county in the western part of Washington state as divided by the summit of the Cascade mountain range, with a population of one hundred fifty thousand or more on January 1, 1992, and contiguous to a county with a population of four hundred thousand or more may construct a runway of one thousand feet or more, or cause a runway to be extended, or permit an air carrier to initiate new service at any airport not presently receiving commercial service that is affected by

this section, before the air transportation commission has submitted its final report to the legislative transportation committee, which shall occur no later than December 1, 1994. [1992 c 190 § 2.]

**53.08.360 Annexation of port district property—Transfer of employees engaged in fire fighting.** (1) When a port district provides its own fire protection services with port district employees, and port district property is included as part of an annexation, incorporation, consolidation, or merger by a city, town, or fire protection district, and fire protection services for this port district property will be furnished by the city, town, or fire protection district, an eligible employee may transfer employment to the city, town, or fire protection district in the same manner and under the same conditions that a fire fighter may transfer employment into a fire protection district pursuant to RCW 52.04.111, 52.04.121, and 52.04.131.

(2) "Eligible employee" means an employee of the port district who (a) was at the time of the annexation, merger, consolidation, or incorporation employed exclusively or principally in performing the powers, duties, and functions which are to be performed by the fire department of the city, town, or fire protection district, (b) will, as a direct consequence of the annexation, merger, consolidation, or incorporation, be separated from the employ of the port district, and (c) can perform the duties and meet the minimum requirements of the position to be filled. [1994 c 74 § 2.]

**Intent—1994 c 74:** "The legislature recognizes that it passed comprehensive legislation in 1986 to provide protection to fire fighters who risk losing their jobs as a result of an annexation, incorporation, merger, or consolidation by a city, town, or fire protection district. The legislation did not, however, grant these same protections to fire fighters who are employed by port districts. It is the intent of the legislature that fire fighters who are employed by port districts should have the same transfer rights as other local government fire fighters in the event of an annexation, consolidation, merger, or incorporation by a city, town, or fire protection district." [1994 c 74 § 1.]

## Chapter 53.12

### COMMISSIONERS—ELECTIONS

#### Sections

- 53.12.005 Definition—"Gross operating revenue."
- 53.12.010 Port commission—Number of commissioners, districts.
- 53.12.021 Elimination of commissioner districts.
- 53.12.061 Elections to conform with general election law.
- 53.12.115 Increasing number of commissioners—Resolution, petition—Ballot proposition.
- 53.12.120 Increasing number of commissioners—Population requirements—Ballot proposition—Election of added commissioners.
- 53.12.130 Increasing number of commissioners—Election of additional commissioners—Commencement and terms of office.
- 53.12.140 Vacancies.
- 53.12.172 Port commissioner terms of office.
- 53.12.175 Reducing port commissioner terms—Ballot proposition.
- 53.12.221 Terms—Districts covering entire county with populations of one hundred thousand or more.
- 53.12.245 Organization of commission—Powers and duties—Record of proceedings.
- 53.12.246 Quorum.
- 53.12.260 Compensation.
- 53.12.265 Waiver of compensation.
- 53.12.270 Delegation of powers to managing official of port district.

**Elections:** Title 29 RCW.

*Redistricting by local governments and municipal corporations—Census information for—Plan, prepared when, criteria for, hearing on, request for review of, certification, remand—Sanctions when review request frivolous: RCW 29.70.100.*

**53.12.005 Definition—"Gross operating revenue."**

For purposes of this chapter, "gross operating revenue" means the total of all revenues received by a port district. [1992 c 147 § 5.]

**Severability—1992 c 147:** See note following RCW 53.04.020.

**53.12.010 Port commission—Number of commissioners, districts.** (1) The powers of the port district shall be exercised through a port commission consisting of three or, when permitted by this title, five members. Every port district that is not coextensive with a county having a population of five hundred thousand or more shall be divided into the same number of commissioner districts as there are commissioner positions, each having approximately equal population, unless provided otherwise under subsection (2) of this section. Where a port district with three commissioner positions is coextensive with the boundaries of a county that has a population of less than five hundred thousand and the county has three county legislative authority districts, the port commissioner districts shall be the county legislative authority districts. In other instances where a port district is divided into commissioner districts, the port commission shall divide the port district into commissioner districts unless the commissioner districts have been described pursuant to \*RCW 53.04.031. The commissioner districts shall be altered as provided in chapter 53.16 RCW.

Commissioner districts shall be used as follows: (a) Only a registered voter who resides in a commissioner district may be a candidate for, or hold office as, a commissioner of the commissioner district; and (b) only the voters of a commissioner district may vote at a primary to nominate candidates for a commissioner of the commissioner district. Voters of the entire port district may vote at a general election to elect a person as a commissioner of the commissioner district.

(2) In port districts with five commissioners, two of the commissioner districts may include the entire port district if approved by the voters of the district either at the time of formation or at a subsequent port district election at which the issue is proposed pursuant to a resolution adopted by the board of commissioners and delivered to the county auditor. [1994 c 223 § 81; 1992 c 146 § 1; 1991 c 363 § 128; 1965 c 51 § 1; 1959 c 17 § 3. Prior: 1913 c 62 § 2; 1911 c 92 § 3; RRS § 9690.]

**\*Reviser's note:** 1994 c 223 § 81 referred to "section 81 of this act," which appears to be incorrect. The reference has been codified as if it were to section 83, which deals with commissioner districts described in the initiating petition.

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**53.12.021 Elimination of commissioner districts.**

Any less than county-wide port district that uses commissioner districts may cease using commissioner districts as provided in this section.

A ballot proposition authorizing the elimination of commissioner districts shall be submitted to the voters of a less than county-wide port district that is divided into commissioner districts if (1) a petition is submitted to the port commission proposing that the port district cease using commissioner districts, that is signed by registered voters of the port district equal in number to at least ten percent of the number of voters who voted at the last district general election; or (2) the port commissioners adopt a resolution proposing that the port district cease using commissioner districts. The port commission shall transfer the petition or resolution immediately to the county auditor who shall, when a petition is submitted, review the signatures and certify its sufficiency. A ballot proposition authorizing the elimination of commissioner districts shall be submitted at the next district general election occurring sixty or more days after a petition with sufficient signatures was submitted. If the ballot proposition authorizing the port district to cease using commissioner districts is approved by a simple majority vote, the port district shall cease using commissioner districts at all subsequent elections. [1994 c 223 § 82.]

**53.12.061 Elections to conform with general election law.** All elections relating to a port district shall conform with general election law, except as expressly provided in Title 53 RCW. [1992 c 146 § 5.]

**53.12.115 Increasing number of commissioners—Resolution, petition—Ballot proposition.** A ballot proposition shall be submitted to the voters of any port district authorizing an increase in the number of port commissioners to five whenever the port commission adopts a resolution proposing the increase in number of port commissioners or a petition proposing such an increase has been submitted to the county auditor of the county in which the port district is located that has been signed by voters of the port district at least equal in number to ten percent of the number of voters in the port district who voted at the last general election. The ballot proposition shall be submitted at the next general or special election occurring sixty or more days after the petition was submitted or resolution was adopted.

At the next general or special election following the election in which an increase in the number of port commissioners was authorized, candidates for the two additional port commissioner positions shall be elected as provided in RCW 53.12.130, and the voters may be asked to approve the nomination of commissioners from district-wide commissioner districts as permitted in RCW 53.12.010(2). [1994 c 223 § 86; 1992 c 146 § 7.]

**53.12.120 Increasing number of commissioners—Population requirements—Ballot proposition—Election of added commissioners.** When the population of a port district that has three commissioners reaches five hundred thousand, in accordance with the latest United States regular or special census or with the official state population estimate, there shall be submitted to the voters of the district, at the next district general election or at a special port election called for that purpose, the proposition of increasing the number of commissioners to five.

At the next district general election following the election in which an increase in the number of port commissioners was authorized, candidates for the two additional port commissioner positions shall be elected as provided in RCW 53.12.130. [1994 c 223 § 87; 1992 c 146 § 8; 1982 c 219 § 1; 1965 c 51 § 7; 1959 c 175 § 3; 1959 c 17 § 10. Prior: 1953 c 198 § 1; 1913 c 62 § 2, part; 1911 c 92 § 3, part; RRS § 9690, part.]

**53.12.130 Increasing number of commissioners—Election of additional commissioners—Commencement and terms of office.** Two additional port commissioners shall be elected at the next district general election following the election at which voters authorized the increase in port commissioners to five members.

The port commissioners shall divide the port district into five commissioner districts prior to the first day of June in the year in which the two additional commissioners shall be elected, unless the voters approved the nomination of the two additional commissioners from district-wide commissioner districts as permitted in RCW 53.12.010(2). The new commissioner districts shall be numbered one through five and the three incumbent commissioners shall represent commissioner districts one through three. If, as a result of redrawing the district boundaries two or three of the incumbent commissioners reside in one of the new commissioner districts, the commissioners who reside in the same commissioner district shall determine by lot which of the first three numbered commissioner districts they shall represent for the remainder of their respective terms. A primary shall be held to nominate candidates from districts four and five where necessary and commissioners shall be elected from commissioner districts four and five at the general election. The persons elected as commissioners from commissioner districts four and five shall take office immediately after qualification as defined under RCW 29.01.135.

In a port district where commissioners are elected to four-year terms of office, the additional commissioner thus elected receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected to a four-year term of office and the other additional commissioner thus elected shall be elected to a term of office of two years, if the election is held in an odd-numbered year, or the additional commissioner thus elected receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected to a term of office of three years and the other shall be elected to a term of office of one year, if the election is held in an even-numbered year. In a port district where the commissioners are elected to six-year terms of office, the additional commissioner thus elected receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected to a six-year term of office and the other additional commissioner shall be elected to a four-year term of office, if the election is held in an odd-numbered year, or the additional commissioner receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected to a term of office of five-years and the other shall be elected to a three-year term of office, if the election is held in an even-numbered year. The length of terms of office shall be computed from the first day of January in the year following this election.

Successor commissioners from districts four and five shall be elected to terms of either six or four years, depending on the length of terms of office to which commissioners

of that port district are elected. [1994 c 223 § 88; 1992 c 146 § 9; 1965 c 51 § 8; 1959 c 17 § 11. Prior: 1953 c 198 § 2; 1913 c 62 § 2, part; 1911 c 92 § 3, part; RRS § 9690, part.]

**53.12.140 Vacancies.** A vacancy in the office of port commissioner shall occur as provided in chapter 42.12 RCW or by nonattendance at meetings of the port commission for a period of sixty days unless excused by the port commission. A vacancy on a port commission shall be filled as provided in chapter 42.12 RCW. [1994 c 223 § 54; 1959 c 17 § 9. Prior: 1913 c 62 § 2, part; 1911 c 92 § 3, part; RRS § 9690, part.]

**53.12.172 Port commissioner terms of office.** (1) In every port district the term of office of each port commissioner shall be four years in each port district that is county-wide with a population of one hundred thousand or more, or either six or four years in all other port districts as provided in RCW 53.12.175, and until a successor is elected and qualified and assumes office in accordance with RCW 29.04.170.

(2) The initial port commissioners shall be elected at the same election as when the ballot proposition is submitted to voters authorizing the creation of the port district. If the port district is created the persons elected at this election shall serve as the initial port commission. No primary shall be held. The person receiving the greatest number of votes for commissioner from each commissioner district shall be elected as the commissioner of that district.

(3) The terms of office of the initial port commissioners shall be staggered as follows in a port district that is county-wide with a population of one hundred thousand or more: (a) The two persons who are elected receiving the two greatest numbers of votes shall be elected to four-year terms of office if the election is held in an odd-numbered year, or three-year terms of office if the election is held in an even-numbered year, and shall hold office until successors are elected and qualified and assume office in accordance with RCW 29.04.170; and (b) the other person who is elected shall be elected to a two-year term of office if the election is held in an odd-numbered year, or a one-year term of office if the election is held in an even-numbered year, and shall hold office until a successor is elected and qualified and assumes office in accordance with RCW 29.04.170.

(4) The terms of office of the initial port commissioners in all other port districts shall be staggered as follows: (a) The person who is elected receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected to a six-year term of office if the election is held in an odd-numbered year or to a five-year term of office if the election is held in an even-numbered year, and shall hold office until a successor is elected and qualified and assumes office in accordance with RCW 29.04.170; (b) the person who is elected receiving the next greatest number of votes shall be elected to a four-year term of office if the election is held in an odd-numbered year or to a three-year term of office if the election is held in an even-numbered year, and shall hold office until a successor is elected and qualified and assumes office in accordance with RCW 29.04.170; and (c) the other person who is elected shall be elected to a two-year term of office if the

election is held in an odd-numbered year or a one-year term of office if the election is held in an even-numbered year, and shall hold office until a successor is elected and qualified and assumes office in accordance with RCW 29.04.170.

(5) The initial port commissioners shall take office immediately after being elected and qualified, but the length of their terms shall be calculated from the first day in January in the year following their elections. [1994 c 223 § 85. Prior: 1992 c 146 § 2; (1992 c 146 § 14 repeal deleted by 1994 c 223 § 93); 1979 ex.s. c 126 § 34; 1951 c 68 § 2; prior: (i) 1935 c 133 § 2; RRS § 9691A-2. (ii) 1935 c 133 § 3; RRS § 9691A-3. (iii) 1935 c 133 § 4; RRS § 9691A-4. (iv) 1935 c 133 § 5; RRS § 9691A-5. (v) 1935 c 133 § 6; RRS § 9691A-6. (vi) 1935 c 133 § 7; RRS § 9691A-7.]

Purpose—1979 ex.s. c 126: See RCW 29.04.170(1).

**53.12.175 Reducing port commissioner terms—Ballot proposition.** A ballot proposition to reduce the terms of office of port commissioners from six years to four years shall be submitted to the voters of any port district that otherwise would have commissioners with six-year terms of office upon either resolution of the port commissioners or petition of voters of the port district proposing the reduction in terms of office, which petition has been signed by voters of the port district equal in number to at least ten percent of the number of voters in the port district voting at the last general election. The petition shall be submitted to the county auditor. If the petition was signed by sufficient valid signatures, the ballot proposition shall be submitted at the next general or special election that occurs sixty or more days after the adoption of the resolution or submission of the petition.

If the ballot proposition reducing the terms of office of port commissioners is approved by a simple majority vote of the voters voting on the proposition, the commissioner or commissioners who are elected at that election shall be elected to four-year terms of office. The terms of office of the other commissioners shall not be reduced, but each successor shall be elected to a four-year term of office. [1994 c 223 § 89; 1992 c 146 § 3.]

**53.12.221 Terms—Districts covering entire county with populations of one hundred thousand or more.** Port commissioners of county-wide port districts with populations of one hundred thousand or more who are holding office as of June 11, 1992, shall retain their positions for the remainder of their terms until their successors are elected and qualified, and assume office in accordance with RCW 29.04.170. Their successors shall be elected to four-year terms of office except as otherwise provided in RCW 53.12.130. [1992 c 146 § 4.]

**53.12.245 Organization of commission—Powers and duties—Record of proceedings.** The port commission shall organize by the election of its own members of a president and secretary, shall by resolution adopt rules governing the transaction of its business and shall adopt an official seal. All proceedings of the port commission shall be by motion or resolution recorded in a book or books kept for such purpose, which shall be public records. [1955 c 348 § 6.]

Severability—1955 c 348: See note following RCW 53.08.120.

Public records: Title 40 RCW, chapter 42.17 RCW.

**53.12.246 Quorum.** A majority of the persons holding the office of port commissioner at any time shall constitute a quorum of the port commission for the transaction of business, and the concurrence of a majority of the persons holding such office at the time shall be necessary and shall be sufficient for the passage of any resolution, but no business shall be transacted unless there are in office at least a majority of the full number of commissioners fixed by law. [1959 c 17 § 12. Prior: 1913 c 62 § 2, part; 1911 c 92 § 3, part; RRS § 9690.]

**53.12.260 Compensation.** (1) Each commissioner of a port district shall receive fifty dollars per day or portion thereof spent (a) in actual attendance at official meetings of the port district commission, or (b) in performance of other service in behalf of the district. The total per diem compensation of a port commissioner shall not exceed four thousand eight hundred dollars in a year, or six thousand dollars in any year for a port district with gross operating income of twenty-five million or more in the preceding calendar year.

(2) Port commissioners shall receive additional compensation as follows: (a) Each commissioner of a port district with gross operating revenues of twenty-five million dollars or more in the preceding calendar year shall receive a salary of five hundred dollars per month; and (b) each commissioner of a port district with gross operating revenues of from one million dollars to less than twenty-five million dollars in the preceding calendar year shall receive a salary of two hundred dollars per month.

(3) In lieu of the compensation specified in this section, a port commission may set compensation to be paid to commissioners.

(4) For any commissioner who has not elected to become a member of public employees retirement system before May 1, 1975, the compensation provided pursuant to this section shall not be considered salary for purposes of the provisions of any retirement system created pursuant to the general laws of this state nor shall attendance at such meetings or other service on behalf of the district constitute service as defined in RCW 41.40.010(9): PROVIDED, That in the case of a port district when commissioners are receiving compensation and contributing to the public employees retirement system, these benefits shall continue in full force and effect notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 53.12.260 and 53.12.265. [1992 c 146 § 12; 1985 c 330 § 3; 1975 1st ex.s. c 187 § 1.]

**53.12.265 Waiver of compensation.** A commissioner of any port district may waive all or any portion of his compensation payable under RCW 53.12.260 as to any month or months during his term of office, by a written waiver filed with the secretary of the commission. The waiver, to be effective, must be filed any time after the commissioner's election and prior to the date on which said compensation would otherwise be paid. The waiver shall specify the month or period of months for which it is made. [1975 1st ex.s. c 187 § 2.]



**53.12.270 Delegation of powers to managing official of port district.** The commission may delegate to the managing official of a port district such administrative powers and duties of the commission as it may deem proper for the efficient and proper management of port district operations. Any such delegation shall be authorized by appropriate resolution of the commission, which resolution must also establish guidelines and procedures for the managing official to follow. [1975 1st ex.s. c 12 § 1.]

### Chapter 53.16

#### REVISION OF COMMISSIONER DISTRICTS

##### Sections

- 53.16.015 Redrawing commissioner district boundaries—Conditions.  
 53.16.020 Notice of hearing on revision.  
 53.16.030 Change not to affect term of office.

**53.16.015 Redrawing commissioner district boundaries—Conditions.** The port commission of a port district that uses commissioner districts may redraw the commissioner district boundaries as provided in chapter 29.70 RCW at any time and submit the redrawn boundaries to the county auditor if the port district is not coterminous with a county that has the same number of county legislative authority districts as the port has port commissioners. The new commissioner districts shall be used at the next election at which a port commissioner is regularly elected that occurs at least one hundred eighty days after the redrawn boundaries have been submitted. Each commissioner district shall encompass as nearly as possible the same population. [1994 c 223 § 90; 1992 c 146 § 10.]

**53.16.020 Notice of hearing on revision.** The revision of boundary lines provided for in this chapter shall be made only at a meeting of the board of port commissioners with attendance of all of the members of the commission, which meeting shall be public, following notice of said meeting, and the purpose thereof published in a newspaper of general circulation within the port district, or, if there be no such newspaper published within the district, in a newspaper published at the county seat of the county in which such port district is located. Such notice shall be published not less than twice, the date of the first publication to be not less than fifteen nor more than twenty days prior to the date fixed for said hearing, and shall state the time, place and purpose of the hearing. [1933 c 145 § 3; RRS § 9708-3.]

**53.16.030 Change not to affect term of office.** Any change of boundary lines provided for in this chapter shall not affect the term for which a commissioner shall hold office at the time the change is made. [1992 c 146 § 11; 1933 c 145 § 4; RRS § 9704-8.]

### Chapter 53.18

#### EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS—COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND ARBITRATION

##### Sections

- 53.18.010 Definitions.  
 53.18.015 Application of public employees' collective bargaining act.  
 53.18.020 Agreements authorized.  
 53.18.030 Criteria for choice of employee organization—Procedures for resolution of controversy.  
 53.18.040 Incidental powers of district.  
 53.18.050 Agreements—Authorized provisions.  
 53.18.060 Restraints on agreement.

**53.18.010 Definitions.** "Port district" shall mean a municipal corporation of the state of Washington created pursuant to Title 53 RCW. Said port districts may also be hereinafter referred to as the "employer."

"Employee" shall include all port employees except managerial, professional, and administrative personnel, and their confidential assistants.

"Employee organization" means any lawful association, labor organization, union, federation, council, or brotherhood, having as its primary purpose the representation of employees on matters of employment relations.

"Employment relations" includes, but is not limited to, matters concerning wages, salaries, hours, vacation, sick leave, holiday pay and grievance procedures. [1967 c 101 § 1.]

**53.18.015 Application of public employees' collective bargaining act.** Port districts and their employees shall be covered by the provisions of chapter 41.56 RCW except as provided otherwise in this chapter. [1983 c 287 § 1.]

**Severability—1983 c 287:** See note following RCW 41.56.450.

**53.18.020 Agreements authorized.** Port districts may enter into labor agreements or contracts with employee organizations on matters of employment relations: PROVIDED, That nothing in this chapter shall be construed to authorize any employee, or employee organization to cause or engage in a strike or stoppage of work or slowdown or similar activity against any port district. [1967 c 101 § 2.]

**53.18.030 Criteria for choice of employee organization—Procedures for resolution of controversy.** In determining which employee organization will represent them, employees shall have maximum freedom in exercising their right of self-organization.

Controversies as to the choice of employee organization within a port shall be submitted to the public employment relations commission. Employee organizations may agree with the port district to independently resolve jurisdictional disputes: PROVIDED, That when no other procedure is available the procedures of RCW 49.08.010 shall be followed in resolving such disputes. In such case the chairman of the public employment relations commission shall, at the request of any employee organization, arbitrate any dispute between employee organizations and enter a binding award in such dispute. [1975 1st ex.s. c 296 § 38; 1967 c 101 § 3.]

**Effective date—1975 1st ex.s. c 296:** See RCW 41.58.901.

*Powers and duties of public employment relations commission: Chapter 41.58 RCW.*

**53.18.040 Incidental powers of district.** Port districts exercising the authority granted by RCW 53.18.020 may take any of the following actions as incidental thereto: Make necessary expenditures; act jointly with other ports or employers; engage technical assistance; make appearances before and utilize the services of state or federal agencies, boards, courts, or commissions; make retroactive payments of wages where provided by agreements; and exercise all other necessary powers to carry this chapter into effect, including the promulgation of rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this chapter. [1967 c 101 § 4.]

**53.18.050 Agreements—Authorized provisions.** A labor agreement signed by a port district may contain:

- (1) Provisions that the employee organization chosen by a majority of the employees in a grouping or unit will be recognized as the representative of all employees in the classification included in such grouping or unit;
- (2) Maintenance of membership provisions including dues check-off arrangements; and
- (3) Provisions providing for binding arbitration, the expenses being equally borne by the parties, in matters of contract interpretation and the settlement of jurisdictional disputes. [1967 c 101 § 5.]

**53.18.060 Restraints on agreement.** No labor agreement or contract entered into by a port district shall:

- (1) Restrict the right of the port district in its discretion to hire;
- (2) Limit the right of the port to secure its regular or steady employees from the local community; and
- (3) Include within the same agreements: (a) Port security personnel, or (b) port supervisory personnel. [1967 c 101 § 6.]

## Chapter 53.20

### HARBOR IMPROVEMENTS

#### Sections

- 53.20.010 Adoption of harbor improvement plan.  
 53.20.020 Improvement to follow plans adopted.  
 53.20.030 Improvements—Ownership of.  
 53.20.040 Fifty percent of cost of local improvement may be paid from general fund.  
 53.20.050 Local improvements upon majority petition.

*Joint improvement of navigable rivers: RCW 88.32.240 and 88.32.250.*

**53.20.010 Adoption of harbor improvement plan.** It shall be the duty of the port commission of any port district, before creating any improvements hereunder, to adopt a comprehensive scheme of harbor improvement in the port district, after a public hearing thereon, of which notice shall be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the port district, and no expenditure for the carrying on of any harbor improvements shall be made by the port commission other than the necessary salaries, including engineers, clerical and office expenses of the port district, and the cost of engineering,

surveying, preparation and collection of data necessary for the making and adoption of a general scheme of harbor improvements in the port district, unless and until the comprehensive scheme of harbor improvement has been so officially adopted by the port commission. [1985 c 469 § 51; 1943 c 166 § 3; 1913 c 62 § 6; 1911 c 92 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 9694.]

**53.20.020 Improvement to follow plans adopted.** When such general plans shall have been adopted or approved, as aforesaid, every improvement to be made by said commission shall be made substantially in accordance therewith unless and until such general plans shall have been officially changed by the port commission after a public hearing thereon, of which at least ten days' notice shall be published in a newspaper in general circulation in such port district. [1947 c 24 § 1; 1913 c 62 § 7; 1911 c 92 § 7; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 9695.]

**53.20.030 Improvements—Ownership of.** No improvements shall be acquired or constructed, by the port district, unless such improvements shall, when completed, be the property of such port district, the county in which such port district is located, any city within such port district, the state of Washington or the United States of America, and the funds of such port district may be expended in the acquirement or construction of any harbor improvement embraced in such general plan adopted as in this chapter provided in conjunction with the county in which such port district is located, any city in such port district, the state of Washington or the United States of America, or all or any of them. [1979 ex.s. c 30 § 9; 1913 c 62 § 8; 1911 c 92 § 8; RRS § 9696.]

**53.20.040 Fifty percent of cost of local improvement may be paid from general fund.** Whenever any improvement shall be ordered, payment for which shall be made in part from assessments against property specially benefited, not more than fifty percent of the cost thereof shall ever be borne by the entire port district, nor shall any sum be contributed by it to any improvement acquired or constructed with or by any other body, exceed [exceeding] such amount, unless a majority vote of the electors of the port district shall consent to or ratify the making of such expenditure. [1911 c 92 § 11; RRS § 9698.]

**53.20.050 Local improvements upon majority petition.** Whenever a petition signed by one hundred freeholders in the district to be therein described, shall be filed with the port commission, asking that any portion of the general plan adopted be ordered, and defining the boundaries of a local improvement district to be assessed in whole or in part to pay the cost thereof, it shall be the duty of the port commission to fix a date for hearing on the petition, after which it may alter the boundaries of the proposed district and prepare and adopt detail plans of any such local improvement, declare the estimated cost thereof, what proportion of the cost shall be borne by the proposed local improvement district, and what proportion of the cost, if any, but in any event not to exceed fifty percent, shall be borne by the entire port district. At any time within two

years thereafter, upon petition of the owners of a majority of the lands in the proposed local improvement district, fixed by the port commission, as shown in the office of the auditor of the county, asking that the improvement be ordered, the port commission shall forthwith by resolution order the improvement, provide the general funds of the port district to be applied thereto, acquire all lands necessary therefor, pay all damages caused thereby, and commence in the name of the port district such eminent domain proceedings and supplemental assessment or reassessment proceedings to pay all eminent domain awards as may be necessary to entitle the port district to proceed with such work, and shall thereafter proceed with the work, and shall make and file with the county treasurer its roll levying special assessments in the amount to be paid by special assessment against the property situated within the local improvement district in proportion to the special benefits to be derived by the property in the local improvement district from the improvement. Before the approval of the roll a notice shall be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the local improvement district, stating that the roll is on file and open to inspection in the office of the clerk of the port commission, and fixing a time not less than fifteen nor more than thirty days from the date of the first publication of the notice within which protests must be filed with the clerk of the port commission against any assessments shown thereon, and fixing a time when a hearing shall be held by the commission on the protests. After the hearing the port commission may alter any and all assessments shown on the roll and may then by resolution approve the same, but in the event of any assessment being raised a new notice similar to the first notice shall be given, after which final approval of the roll may be made by the port commission. Any person feeling aggrieved by any such assessments shall perfect an appeal to the superior court of the county within ten days after the approval in the manner now provided by law for appeals from assessments levied by cities of the first class in this state. Engineering and office expenses in all cases shall be borne by the general district. [1985 c 469 § 52; 1911 c 92 § 10; RRS § 9697. Formerly RCW 53.20.050 through 53.20.080.]

*Appeal from assessments: RCW 35.44.200 through 35.44.270.*

*Special assessments for local improvement: State Constitution Art. 7 § 9.*

### Chapter 53.25

#### INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS— MARGINAL LANDS

##### Sections

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**53.25.010 Marginal lands—Declaration of policies and purposes.** It is hereby declared to be the public policy of the legislature of the state of Washington, that it is in the public interest to employ the power of eminent domain and advance and expend public moneys for the purposes herein contained, and to provide for means by which marginal area properties may be developed or redeveloped in accordance with the legislative policies hereinafter stated:

(1) A sound development of the economic security of the peoples of the state of Washington is dependent upon proper development and redevelopment of marginal properties, and the general welfare of the inhabitants of the port districts in which they exist require the remedying of such injurious conditions marginal properties are now subjected to; and

(2) The development and redevelopment of such marginal area properties cannot be accomplished by private enterprise alone without public participation and assistance in the acquisition of land and planning and in the financing of land assembly in the work of clearance, development and redevelopment, and in the making of improvements necessary therefor.

(3) To protect and promote sound development and redevelopment of marginal lands as hereinafter defined, and the general welfare of the inhabitants of the port districts in which they exist, to remedying such injurious conditions through the employment of all appropriate means.

(4) That whenever the development or redevelopment of such marginal lands cannot be accomplished by private enterprise alone, without public participation and assistance in the acquisition of land and planning and in financing of land assembly in the work of clearance, development and redevelopment, and in the making of improvements necessary therefor, it is in the public interest to employ the power of eminent domain, to advance and expend public moneys for those purposes, and to provide for means by which such marginal lands may be developed or redeveloped.

(5) That the development or redevelopment of such marginal lands and the provision of appropriate continuing land use constitute public uses and purposes for which public moneys may be advanced or expended and private property acquired, and are governmental functions and are of state concern in the interest of health, safety and welfare of the state of Washington, and of the communities in which such areas exist.

(6) That the necessity in the public interest for the provision of this chapter is declared to be a matter of legislative determination. [1955 c 73 § 1.]

**53.25.020 Marginal lands—Further declaration.** It is further found and declared that:

(1) The existence of such marginal lands characterized by any or all of such conditions constitutes a serious and growing menace which is condemned as injurious and inimical to the public health, safety, and welfare of the people of the communities in which they exist and of the people of the state.

(2) Such marginal lands present difficulties and handicaps which are beyond remedy and control solely by regulatory processes in the exercise of the police power.

(3) They contribute substantially and increasingly to the problems of, and necessitate excessive and disproportionate expenditures for, crime prevention, correction, prosecution and punishment, the treatment of juvenile delinquency, the preservation of the public health and safety, and the maintaining of adequate police, fire and accident protection and other public services and facilities.

(4) This menace is becoming increasingly direct and substantial in its significance and effect.

(5) The benefits which will result from the remedying of such conditions and the redevelopment of such marginal lands will accrue to all the inhabitants and property owners of the communities in which they exist.

(6) Such conditions of marginal lands tend to further obsolescence, deterioration, and disuse because of the lack of incentive to the individual landowner and his inability to improve, modernize, or rehabilitate his property while the condition of the neighboring properties remains unchanged.

(7) As a consequence the process of deterioration of such marginal lands frequently cannot be halted or corrected except by redeveloping the entire area, or substantial portions of it.

(8) Such conditions of marginal lands are chiefly found in areas subdivided into small parcels, held in divided and widely scattered ownerships, frequently under defective titles, and in many such instances the private assembly of the land areas for redevelopment is so difficult and costly that it is uneconomic and as a practical matter impossible for owners to undertake because of lack of the legal power and excessive costs.

(9) The remedying of such conditions may require the public acquisition at fair prices of adequate areas, the redevelopment of the areas suffering from such conditions under proper supervision, with appropriate planning, and continuing land use.

(10) The development or redevelopment of land, or both, acquired under the authority of this chapter constitute a public use and are governmental functions, and that the sale or leasing of such land after the same has been developed or redeveloped is merely incidental to the accomplishment of the real or fundamental purpose, that is, to remove the condition which caused said property to be marginal property as in this chapter defined. [1955 c 73 § 2.]

**53.25.030 "Marginal lands" defined.** "Marginal lands" is defined and characterized by any one or more of the following described conditions:

(1) An economic dislocation, deterioration, or disuse resulting from faulty planning.

(2) The subdividing and sale of lots of irregular form and shape and inadequate size for proper usefulness and development.

(3) The laying out of lots in disregard of the contours and other physical characteristics of the ground and surrounding conditions.

(4) The existence of inadequate streets, open spaces, and utilities.

(5) The existence of lots or other areas which are subject to being submerged by water.

(6) By a prevalence of depreciated values, impaired investments, and social and economic maladjustment to such an extent that the capacity to pay taxes is reduced and tax receipts are inadequate for the cost of public services rendered.

(7) In some parts of marginal lands, a growing or total lack of proper utilization of areas, resulting in a stagnant and unproductive condition of land potentially useful and valuable for contributing to the public health, safety and welfare.

(8) In other parts of marginal lands, a loss of population and reduction of proper utilization of the area, resulting in its further deterioration and added costs to the taxpayer for the creation of new public facilities and services elsewhere.

(9) Property of an assessed valuation of insufficient amount to permit the establishment of a local improvement district for the construction and installation of streets, walks, sewers, water and other utilities.

(10) Lands within an industrial area which are not devoted to industrial use but which are necessary to industrial development within the industrial area. [1955 c 73 § 3.]

**53.25.040 Industrial development districts authorized—Boundaries—Deletion of land area.** (1) A port commission may, after a public hearing thereon, of which at least ten days' notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the port district, create industrial development districts within the district and define the boundaries thereof, if it finds that the creation of the industrial development district is proper and desirable in establishing and developing a system of harbor improvements and industrial development in the port district.

(2) The boundaries of an industrial development district created by subsection (1) of this section may be revised from time to time by resolution of the port commission, to delete land area therefrom, if the land area to be deleted was acquired by the port district with its own funds or by gift or transfer other than pursuant to RCW 53.25.050 or 53.25.060.

As to any land area to be deleted under this subsection that was acquired or improved by the port district with funds obtained through RCW 53.36.100, the port district shall deposit funds equal to the fair market value of the lands and improvements into the fund for future use described in RCW 53.36.100 and such funds shall be thereafter subject to RCW 53.36.100. The fair market value of the land and improvements shall be determined as of the effective date of the port commission action deleting the land from the industrial development district and shall be determined by an average of at least two independent appraisals by professionally designated real estate appraisers as defined in RCW 74.46.020 or licensed real estate brokers. The funds shall be

deposited into the fund for future use described in RCW 53.36.100 within ninety days of the effective date of the port commission action deleting the land area from the industrial district. Land areas deleted from an industrial development district under this subsection shall not be further subject to the provisions of this chapter. This subsection shall apply to presently existing and future industrial development districts. Land areas deleted from an industrial development district under this subsection that were included within such district for less than two years, if the port district acquired the land through condemnation or as a consequence of threatened condemnation, shall be offered for sale, for cash, at the appraised price, to the former owner of the property from whom the district obtained title. Such offer shall be made by certified or registered letter to the last known address of the former owner. The letter shall include the appraised price of the property and notice that the former owner must respond in writing within thirty days or lose the right to purchase. If this right to purchase is exercised, the sale shall be closed by midnight of the sixtieth day, including nonbusiness days, following close of the thirty-day period. [1989 c 167 § 1; 1985 c 469 § 53; 1955 c 73 § 4. Prior: 1943 c 166 § 1; 1939 c 45 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 9709-1; RCW 53.24.010.]

**53.25.050 Tax title lands may be conveyed to district.** Any lands in an industrial development district acquired by the county by tax foreclosure, may, if the county commissioners deem the lands chiefly valuable for industrial development purposes, be conveyed to the port district. The lands shall be held in trust by the port district and may be managed, developed, leased, or sold by it as provided in this chapter.

From the proceeds of the sale or lease of the lands, the district shall first reimburse itself for any expense incurred by it in managing and developing the lands and any balance shall be paid to the county, which shall distribute it the same as general taxes collected in that year. [1955 c 73 § 5. Prior: 1939 c 45 § 2; RRS § 9709-2; RCW 53.24.020.]

**53.25.060 Private lands may be conveyed to district—Cancellation of taxes.** With the approval of the county commissioners, any lands in an industrial development district, owned privately, which the port commission deems valuable for industrial development purposes, may be deeded to and accepted by the port district, subject to delinquent general taxes thereon. When the commission has recorded the deed and notified the county commissioners thereof, the county commissioners shall order all taxes assessed against the lands canceled and the county treasurer shall record the cancellation, and remove the lands from the tax rolls. Thereafter the lands shall be held in trust, managed, developed, leased, and sold by the district, and the proceeds therefrom disposed of in the same manner as hereinabove provided. [1955 c 73 § 6. Prior: 1939 c 45 § 3; RRS § 9709-3; RCW 53.24.030.]

**53.25.070 Discharge of trust.** With the approval of the county commissioners, a port district may free any lands acquired by it pursuant to this chapter from the trust imposed upon it herein, by paying to the county the amount of the

delinquent taxes against the land at the time the county acquired it by tax foreclosure, or the amount of the delinquent taxes against it when it was conveyed to the district by the private owner. [1955 c 73 § 7. Prior: 1939 c 45 § 4; RRS § 9709-4; RCW 53.24.040.]

**53.25.080 When lands revert to county.** Ten years from the date of its acquisition, property acquired by a port district pursuant to this chapter shall revert to the county to be used the same as property acquired by tax foreclosure, and upon demand by the county commissioners the port commission shall convey the property to the county, unless before the expiration of the ten year period, the port district has adopted a comprehensive plan of harbor improvement which provides for the improvement of an industrial development district which includes such lands or the district has freed the land from the trust imposed upon it as provided in this chapter. [1955 c 73 § 8. Prior: 1939 c 45 § 8; RRS § 9709-8; RCW 53.24.050.]

**53.25.090 Conditions precedent to making improvements.** No expenditure for improvement of property in an industrial development district, other than the expense of preparing and submitting a plan of improvement shall be made by a port district, and no property shall be acquired by it therefor except as provided for hereinbefore until it has been made a part of the comprehensive scheme of harbor improvements and industrial developments or amendments thereto.

That said comprehensive scheme or amendments thereto shall provide for the development or redevelopment of those marginal lands acquired and a provision for the continuing of the land uses which are hereby declared to constitute public uses and the purposes for which public moneys may be advanced and provide property acquired. [1955 c 73 § 9. Prior: 1939 c 45 § 5; RRS § 9709-5; RCW 53.24.060.]

**53.25.100 Powers as to industrial development districts.** All port districts wherein industrial development districts have been established are authorized and empowered to acquire by purchase or condemnation or both, all lands, property and property rights necessary for the purpose of the development and improvement of such industrial development district and to exercise the right of eminent domain in the acquirement or damaging of all lands, property and property rights and the levying and collecting of assessments upon property for the payment of all damages and compensation in carrying out the provisions for which said industrial development district has been created; to develop and improve the lands within such industrial development district to make the same suitable and available for industrial uses and purposes; to dredge, bulkhead, fill, grade, and protect such property; to provide, maintain, and operate water, light, power and fire protection facilities and services, streets, roads, bridges, highways, waterways, tracks, and rail and water transfer and terminal facilities and other harbor and industrial improvements; to execute leases of such lands or property or any part thereof; to establish local improvement districts within such industrial development districts which may, but need not, be coextensive with the boundaries thereof, and to levy special assessments, under the mode of

annual installments, over a period not exceeding ten years, on all property specially benefited by any local improvement, on the basis of special benefits, to pay in whole or in part the damages or costs of any improvement ordered in such local improvement district; to issue local improvement bonds in any such local improvement district; to be repaid by the collection of local improvement assessments; and generally to exercise with respect to and within such industrial development districts all the powers now or hereafter conferred by law upon port districts in counties with a population of one hundred twenty-five thousand or more: PROVIDED, That the exercise of powers hereby authorized and granted shall be in the manner now and hereafter provided by the laws of the state for the exercise of such powers by port districts under the general laws relating thereto insofar as the same shall not be inconsistent with this chapter. [1991 c 363 § 132; 1955 c 73 § 10. Prior: 1939 c 45 § 6; RRS § 9709-6; RCW 53.24.070.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

*Eminent domain: State Constitution Art. 1 § 16 (Amendment 9); Title 8 RCW.*

**53.25.110 Sale authorized in industrial development district.** When a port commission deems it for the best interests of the district and the people thereof and in furtherance of its general plan of harbor improvement, or industrial development, or both, it may sell and convey any property or part thereof owned by it within an industrial district. This section shall not be limited by chapter 53.08 RCW, pertaining to powers of port districts. [1955 c 73 § 11. Prior: 1939 c 45 § 9; RRS § 9709-9; RCW 53.28.010.]

*Harbor improvement plan: RCW 53.20.010.*

**53.25.120 Notice of hearing on sale—Hearing—Plans and specifications—Conditions—Devotion of property to public use.** The port commission shall give notice of the proposed sale by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the county, and by posting in three public places in the port district at least ten days before the date fixed for the hearing thereon.

The notice shall describe the property to be sold and state that at the time and place specified therein, the commission will meet at its usual meeting place, designating it, to hear and determine the advisability of the sale.

The hearing shall be held not more than twenty days from the publication of notice. At the hearing the commission shall hear the reasons of any taxpayer in the port district, for or against the sale.

No sales shall be made, however, of the property of any industrial development district until the purchaser thereof shall have submitted to the port commission plans and specifications for the development of the property, and the plans and specifications shall be approved in writing before the property shall be conveyed, and the conditions upon which the properties are conveyed shall be set forth in the instrument conveying title thereof with the further condition that all of the conditions set forth shall be covenants running with the land. All properties acquired in the manner herein set forth shall be devoted to the public use herein provided

for. [1985 c 469 § 54; 1963 c 138 § 1; 1955 c 73 § 12. Prior: 1939 c 45 § 10; RRS § 9709-10; RCW 53.28.020.]

**Validating—1963 c 138:** "All sales made prior to the effective date of this amendatory act which are otherwise valid except for compliance with the limitation in section 12, chapter 73, Laws of 1955, which provided that the hearing shall be held not more than ten days from the publication of notice, are hereby ratified and validated.

All sales made prior to the effective date of this amendatory act under the provisions of section 18, chapter 73, Laws of 1955 and RCW 53.25.180 are hereby ratified and validated." [1963 c 138 § 3.]

**53.25.130 Findings and determination—Record—Appeal.** Within three days after the hearing the commission shall make its findings and determination on the advisability of making the sale and enter its determination in its records. Any aggrieved party may appeal the determination of the commission by filing appeal with the superior court of the county in which the district is located within twenty days of the entry of the determination but no appeal shall be allowed except on the grounds that the action of the commission was arbitrary, capricious, or unlawful. [1955 c 73 § 13. Prior: 1939 c 45 § 11; RRS § 9709-11; RCW 53.28.030.]

**53.25.140 Action on determination—Sale by competitive bid or negotiation.** If the determination is against the sale, all proceedings thereon shall terminate. If the commission determines in favor of the sale by at least a two-thirds vote of the full commission, it shall in its discretion, either enter an order fixing a period, not less than twenty nor more than thirty days from the date of the order, during which bids will be received for the property or any part thereof, and give notice thereof in the same manner as for the hearing on the proposal to sell or negotiate the sale with an appropriate purchaser, provided that in any such negotiated sale the purchase price must not be less than the fair market value of the property which shall be determined by an average of at least two independent appraisals performed by licensed real estate brokers or professionally designated real estate appraisers as defined in RCW 74.46.020. Whether the property is sold by competitive bidding or negotiation, other real property conveyed by the purchaser to the commission may constitute all or a portion of the consideration for the sale. [1984 c 195 § 1; 1955 c 73 § 14. Prior: 1939 c 45 § 12; RRS § 9709-12; RCW 53.28.040.]

**53.25.150 Competitive bids—Conditions—Acceptance.** If the commission chooses to sell the property through competitive bidding under RCW 53.25.140:

(1) Bids may be submitted for the property or any part of it, shall state the use which the bidder intends to make of it, and the commission may require the successful bidder to file additional information as to the intended use, and may require of him security as assurance that the property will be used for that purpose;

(2) All sales shall be made to the best bidder, and in determining the best bid, the commission may also consider the nature of the proposed use and the relation thereof to the improvement of the harbor and the business and facilities thereof;

(3) Within thirty days after the last day for submitting bids, the commission shall decide which if any bids it

accepts. All sales shall be made upon such terms and conditions as the commission may prescribe. [1984 c 195 § 2; 1955 c 73 § 15. Prior: 1939 c 45 § 13, part; RRS § 9709-13, part; RCW 53.28.050.]

**53.25.160 Devotion of property to intended use—Remedy—Restraint on alienation.** The purchaser shall, within one year from the date of purchase, devote the property to its intended use, or shall commence work on the improvements thereon to devote it to such use, and if he fails to do so, the port commission may cancel the sale and return the money paid on the purchase price, and title to the property shall revert to the district. This remedy shall be in addition to any other remedy under the terms of the sale. No purchaser shall transfer title to such property within one year from the date of purchase. [1955 c 73 § 16. Prior: 1939 c 45 § 13, part; RRS § 9709-13, part; RCW 53.28.060.]

**53.25.170 Covenant running with the land—Forfeiture.** All sales made in accordance with the provisions of this chapter shall have incorporated in the instrument of conveyance of title the conditions of this chapter relating to the use of the land as a covenant running with the land. Any violation of such covenant shall result in a right by the commission, as grantee, to forfeit the land. [1955 c 73 § 17.]

**53.25.190 Eminent domain.** All port districts of the state of Washington which have created or may hereafter create industrial development districts in the manner provided by law, in addition to all powers possessed by such port districts, be and are hereby granted power of eminent domain to acquire real property within the limits of such industrial development district which property is marginal lands as the term is herein defined. The exercise of the power granted in this section shall be exercised in the same manner and by the same procedure as in or may be provided by law for cities of the first class except insofar as such duties may be inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter and the duties devolving upon the city treasurer under said law be and the same are hereby imposed upon the county treasurer for the purposes of this chapter. [1955 c 73 § 19.]

*Eminent domain: State Constitution Art. 1 § 16 (Amendment 9).*

*Eminent domain by cities: Chapter 8.12 RCW.*

**53.25.200 Advances of general fund moneys or credit.** Port districts are hereby granted the power to advance their general fund moneys or credit, or both, without interest to accomplish the objects and purposes of this chapter, which fund shall be repaid from the sale or lease, or both, of such developed or redeveloped lands, provided, if the money advanced for such development or redevelopment was obtained from the sale of general obligation bonds of the port, then such advances shall bear the same rate of interest that said bonds bore. [1955 c 73 § 20.]

**53.25.210 Determination that land sought by eminent domain is marginal.** The determination that property sought by eminent domain proceedings is marginal

lands as herein defined is a judicial question, provided that a duly adopted resolution of the commissioners of the port district that the property sought is marginal lands as the term is herein defined, setting forth the characteristics of the lands sought to be acquired which constitutes the marginal lands as herein defined, shall be prima facie evidence that such land is marginal lands as defined in this chapter. [1955 c 73 § 21.]

**53.25.900 Repeal and saving.** Chapter 53.24 RCW and chapter 53.28 RCW and chapter 45, Laws of 1939, as last amended by section 1, chapter 166, Laws of 1943 are repealed: PROVIDED, That nothing herein contained shall be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under the provisions of said act. [1955 c 73 § 22.]

**53.25.910 Severability—1955 c 73.** Should any section or provision of this chapter be held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the same shall not affect the validity of the chapter as a whole or any part thereof other than the portion held to be invalid. [1955 c 73 § 23.]

## Chapter 53.29

### TRADE CENTER ACT

#### Sections

- 53.29.010 Declaration of purpose.
- 53.29.020 Power to establish trade centers—Facilities authorized.
- 53.29.030 Cooperation with other entities—Annual service fee for support of local government.
- 53.29.900 Short title—Liberal construction—Powers cumulative.
- 53.29.910 Severability—1967 c 56.

**53.29.010 Declaration of purpose.** It is declared to be the finding of the legislature of the state of Washington that:

(1) The servicing functions and activities connected with the oceanborne and overseas airborne trade and commerce of port districts, including customs clearance, shipping negotiations, cargo routing, freight forwarding, financing, insurance arrangements and other similar transactions which are presently performed in various, scattered locations in the districts should be centralized to provide for more efficient and economical transportation of persons and more efficient and economical facilities for the exchange and buying, selling and transportation of commodities and other property in world trade and commerce;

(2) Unification, at a single, centrally located site of a facility of commerce, i.e., a trade center, accommodating the functions and activities described in subsection (1) of this section and the appropriate governmental, administrative and other services connected with or incidental to transportation of persons and property and the promotion and protection of port commerce, and providing a central locale for exhibiting, and otherwise promoting the exchange and buying and selling of commodities and property in world trade and commerce, will materially assist in preserving the material and other benefits of a prosperous port community;

(3) The undertaking of the aforesaid unified trade center project by a port district or the Washington public ports association has the single object of preserving, and will aid

in the promotion and preservation of, the economic well-being of port districts and the state of Washington and is found and determined to be a public purpose. [1989 c 425 § 5; 1967 c 56 § 1.]

**Findings—Severability—1989 c 425:** See notes following RCW 53.06.070.

**53.29.020 Power to establish trade centers—Facilities authorized.** In addition to all other powers granted to port districts, any such district, the Washington public ports association, or the federation of Washington ports as described in RCW 53.06.070 may acquire, as provided for other port properties in RCW 53.08.010, construct, develop, operate and maintain all land or other property interests, buildings, structures or other improvements necessary to provide a trade center including but not limited to:

(1) A facility consisting of one or more structures, improvements and areas for the centralized accommodation of public and private agencies, persons and facilities in order to afford improved service to waterborne and airborne import and export trade and commerce;

(2) Facilities for the promotion of such import and export trade and commerce, inspection, testing, display and appraisal facilities, foreign trade zones, terminal and transportation facilities, office meeting rooms, auditoriums, libraries, language translation services, storage, warehouse, marketing and exhibition facilities, facilities for federal, state, county and other municipal and governmental agencies providing services relating to the foregoing and including, but not being limited to, customs houses and customs stores, and other incidental facilities and accommodations. [1989 c 425 § 6; 1967 c 56 § 2.]

**Findings—Severability—1989 c 425:** See notes following RCW 53.06.070.

**53.29.030 Cooperation with other entities—Annual service fee for support of local government.** (1) In carrying out the powers authorized by this chapter and chapter 53.06 RCW, port districts and the Washington public ports association are authorized to cooperate and act jointly with other public and private agencies, including, but not limited to the federal government, the state, other ports and municipal corporations, other states and their political subdivisions, and private nonprofit trade promotion groups and associate development organizations.

(2) Port districts operating trade center buildings or operating association or federation trade centers, shall pay an annual service fee to the county treasurer wherein the center is located for municipal services rendered to the trade center building. The measure of such service fee shall be equal to three percent of the gross rentals received from the nongovernmental tenants of such trade center building. Such proceeds shall be distributed by the county treasurer as follows: Forty percent to the school district, forty percent to the city, and twenty percent to the county wherein the center is located: PROVIDED, That if the center is located in an unincorporated area, twenty percent shall be allocated to the fire district, forty percent to the school district, and forty percent to the county. [1989 c 425 § 7; 1967 c 56 § 3.]

**Findings—Severability—1989 c 425:** See notes following RCW 53.06.070.

**53.29.900 Short title—Liberal construction—Powers cumulative.** This chapter, which may be known and cited as the "Trade Center Act", shall be liberally construed, its purpose being to provide port districts, and their related association and federation, with additional powers to provide trade centers and to promote and encourage trade, tourism, travel, and economic development in a coordinated and efficient manner through the ports of the state of Washington. The powers herein granted shall be in addition to all others granted to port districts. [1989 c 425 § 8; 1967 c 56 § 4.]

**Findings—Severability—1989 c 425:** See notes following RCW 53.06.070.

**53.29.910 Severability—1967 c 56.** If any provision of this chapter, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons and circumstances is not affected. [1967 c 56 § 5.]

## Chapter 53.31

### EXPORT TRADING COMPANIES

#### Sections

53.31.010	Legislative findings—Intent.
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**53.31.010 Legislative findings—Intent.** It is declared to be the public policy of the state to promote and preserve the economic well-being of the citizens of this state by creating opportunities for expanded participation in international trade by state businesses and expanding international trade through state ports. Increased international trade of state products creates and retains jobs, increases the state's tax base, and diversifies the state's economy. Port districts, through economies of scale, are uniquely situated to promote and expand international trade and provide greater opportunities for state businesses to participate in international trade.

The legislature finds that significant public benefit, in the form of increased employment and tax revenues, can be realized through export trading companies without lending the credit of port districts, and without capital investment of public funds by port districts. The legislature finds that the use of port district funds to promote and establish export trading companies under this chapter constitutes trade promotion and industrial development within the meaning of Article VIII, section 8 of the state Constitution.

It is the purpose of this chapter: (1) To stimulate greater participation by private businesses in international trade; (2) to authorize port districts to promote and facilitate international trade more actively; (3) to make export services more widely available; (4) to generate revenue for port districts; and (5) to develop markets for Washington state goods and services. Port sponsored export trading companies can



also assist small to medium-sized companies in achieving economies of scale in order to expand into the export market.

It is the intent of this chapter to enhance export trade and not to create outside competition for existing Washington state businesses. The primary intent of a port sponsored export trading company is to increase exports of Washington state products.

This chapter shall not be construed as modifying or restricting any other powers granted to port districts by law. The legislature does not intend by the enactment of this chapter for port districts to use export trading companies to create unfair competition with private business. [1986 c 276 § 1.]

**53.31.020 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Port district" means any port district other than a county-wide port district in a county with a population of two hundred ten thousand or more, established under Title 53 RCW.

(2) "Export services" means the following services when provided in order to facilitate the export of goods or services through Washington ports: International market research, promotion, consulting, marketing, legal assistance, trade documentation, communication and processing of foreign orders to and for exporters and foreign purchasers, financing, and contracting or arranging for transportation, insurance, warehousing, foreign exchange, and freight forwarding.

(3) "Export trading company" means an entity created by a port district under RCW 53.31.040.

(4) "Obligations" means bonds, notes, securities, or other obligations or evidences of indebtedness.

(5) "Person" means any natural person, firm, partnership, association, private or public corporation, or governmental entity. [1991 c 363 § 133; 1986 c 276 § 2.]

~~Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363: See notes following RCW 2.32.180.~~

**53.31.030 Export trading companies—Authorized—Adoption of business plan.** (1) Public port districts, formed under chapter 53.04 RCW are authorized to establish export trading companies and a company so formed may contract with other public ports, financial institutions, freight forwarders, and public or private concerns within or outside the state to carry out the purposes of this chapter. A port district may participate financially in only one export trading company.

(2) A port district proposing to establish an export trading company shall adopt a business plan with safeguards and limitations to ensure that any private benefit to be realized from the use of funds of the export trading company are incidental to the purposes of this chapter. The business plan shall be adopted only after public hearing and shall be reviewed at least once every two years. Amendments to the plan shall be adopted only after public hearing. The business plan shall include:

(a) A description of export promotion activities to be conducted during the period of the plan;

(b) A proposed budget of operations which shall include an itemized list of estimated revenues and expenditures;

(c) A description of the safeguards and limitations which ensure that the export trading company will best be used to enhance international trade and produce public benefit in the form of employment, capital investment, and tax revenues;

(d) A description of private competitors which may be capable of providing the functions in the business plan; and

(e) Such other matters as may be determined by the port district.

(3) A port district, for the purpose of establishing or promoting an export trading company under this chapter, may provide financial assistance to the export trading company. A port district may not provide such assistance or services for more than five years or in an amount greater than five hundred thousand dollars. [1986 c 276 § 3.]

**53.31.040 Export trading companies—Powers—Formation—Dissolution.** (1) For the purpose of promoting international trade, export trading companies formed under this chapter may provide export services through:

(a) Holding and disposing of goods in international trade;

(b) Taking title to goods.

All such activities engaged in or pursued by an export trading company shall be charged for in accordance with the customs of the trade at competitive market rates.

(2) Nothing contained in this chapter may be construed to authorize an export trading company to own or operate directly or indirectly any business which provides freight-forwarding, insurance, foreign exchange, or warehousing services. Nothing contained in this chapter may be construed to permit an export trading company to engage in the business of transporting commodities by motor vehicle, barge, ship, or rail for compensation.

(3)(a) Proceedings to form a public corporation designated as an export trading company shall be initiated by a resolution of the board of commissioners of a port district adopting a charter for the corporation. The charter shall contain such provisions as are authorized by law and include provisions for a board of directors which shall conduct the affairs of the export trading company. The board of directors shall include no fewer than three nor more than five members, all appointed by the port district board of commissioners. Commissioners of the port shall be eligible to serve as members of the board and shall constitute a majority of the board of directors at all times. Unless a later date is specified, the resolution shall take effect on the thirtieth day after adoption. The corporation shall be deemed formed for all purposes upon filing in the office of the secretary of state a certified copy of the effective resolution and the charter adopted by the resolution.

(b) In any suit, action, or proceeding involving the validity or enforcement of or relating to any contract of the corporation, the corporation is conclusively presumed to be established and authorized to transact business and exercise its powers under this chapter upon proof of the adoption of the resolution creating the corporation by the governing body. A copy of the resolution duly certified by the secretary of the port district commission shall be admissible in evidence in any suit, action, or proceeding.

(c) A corporation created by a port district pursuant to this chapter may be dissolved by the district if the corporation (i) has no property to administer, other than funds or property, if any, to be paid or transferred to the district by which it was established; and (ii) all its outstanding obligations have been satisfied. Such a dissolution shall be accomplished by the governing body of the port district adopting a resolution providing for the dissolution.

(d) The creating port district may, at its discretion and at any time, alter or change the structure, organizational programs, or activities of the corporation, including termination of the corporation if contracts entered into by the corporation are not impaired. Subject to any contractual obligations, any net earnings of the corporation shall inure only to the benefit of the creating port district. Upon dissolution of the corporation, all assets and title to all property owned by the corporation shall vest in the creating port district.

(4) A port district may contract with an export trading company to provide services on a reimbursement basis at current business rates to the export trading company, including but not limited to accounting, legal, clerical, technical, and other administrative services. Separate accounting records prepared according to generally accepted accounting principles shall be maintained by the export trading company.

(5) Any obligation of an export trading company shall not in any manner be an obligation of the port district nor a charge upon any revenues or property of the port district.

(6) An export trading company may borrow money or contract indebtedness and pledge, in whole or in part, any of its revenues or assets not subject to prior liens or pledges. An export trading company may not pledge any revenue or property of a port district or other municipal corporation and no port district or other municipal corporation may pledge its revenues or property to the payment thereof. An export trading company has no power to issue general obligation bonds, levy taxes, or exercise power of eminent domain. [1989 c 11 § 23; 1986 c 276 § 4.]

**Severability—1989 c 11:** See note following RCW 9A.56.220.

**53.31.050 Confidentiality of records supplied by private persons.** All financial and commercial information and records supplied by private persons to an export trading company with respect to export projects shall be kept confidential unless such confidentiality shall be waived by the party supplying the information or by all parties engaged in the discussion. [1986 c 276 § 5.]

**53.31.060 Certificate of review under federal export trading company act—Authorized.** An export trading company may apply for and hold a certificate of review provided for under 15 U.S.C. Secs. 4001 through 4021, the federal export trading company act of 1982. [1986 c 276 § 6.]

**53.31.901 Severability—1986 c 276.** If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1986 c 276 § 11.]

## Chapter 53.34 TOLL FACILITIES

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53.34.220	Chapter supplemental to other laws—Liberal construction.
53.34.900	Severability—1959 c 236.
53.34.910	Chapter controls inconsistent acts.

**53.34.010 Toll bridges, tunnels authorized—Highway approaches.** In addition to all other powers granted to port districts, any such district may, with the consent of the department of transportation, acquire by condemnation, purchase, lease, or gift, and may construct, reconstruct, maintain, operate, furnish, equip, improve, better, add to, extend, and lease to others in whole or in part and sell in whole or in part any one or more of the following port projects, within or without or partially within and partially without the corporate limits of the district whenever the commission of the district determines that any one or more of such projects are necessary for or convenient to the movement of commercial freight and passenger traffic a part of which traffic moves to, from, or through the territory of the district:

- (1) Toll bridges;
- (2) Tunnels under or upon the beds of any river, stream, or other body of water, or through mountain ranges.

In connection with the acquisition or construction of any one or more of such projects the port districts may, with the consent of the state department of transportation, further acquire or construct, maintain, operate, or improve limited or unlimited access highway approaches of such length as the commission of such district deems advisable to provide means of interconnection of the facilities with public highways and of ingress and egress to any such project, including plazas and toll booths, and to construct and maintain under, along, over, or across any such project

telephone, telegraph, or electric transmission wires and cables, fuel lines, gas transmission lines or mains, water transmission lines or mains, and other mechanical equipment not inconsistent with the appropriate use of the project, all for the purpose of obtaining revenues for the payment of the cost of the project. [1984 c 7 § 365; 1959 c 236 § 1.]

**Severability—1984 c 7:** See note following RCW 47.01.141.

**53.34.020 Contracts for use of projects—Regulations—Controversies.** The district shall have the power to enter into a contract or contracts for the use of said projects, their approaches and equipment and from time to time to amend such contracts, with persons and with private and public corporations, and by said contracts to give such persons or corporations the right to use said projects, their approaches and equipment for the transmission of power for telephone and telegraph lines, for the transportation of water, gas, petroleum, and other products, for railroad and railway purposes, and for any other purpose to which the same may be adapted: **PROVIDED**, That no such contract shall be for a period longer than ninety-nine years, and that the projects shall be put to the largest possible number of uses consistent with the purposes for which such projects are constructed.

In making such contract or contracts and providing for payments and rentals thereunder the port district shall determine the value of the separate and different uses to which the projects are to be put and shall apportion the annual rentals and charges as nearly as possible according to the respective values of such uses. No such contract shall be made with any person or corporation unless and until such person or corporation shall bind himself or itself to pay as rental therefor an amount determined by the port district and specified in the contract which shall be a fair and just proportion of the total amount required to pay interest on the bonds provided for in this chapter, plus a just proportion of the amount necessary for their retirement, and plus the cost of maintenance of the projects, their approaches and equipment.

The port district may require any of such contracts to be entered into before beginning the construction of said projects or before the expenditure of funds under the provisions of this chapter if in its judgment it is deemed expedient.

There shall be no monopoly of the use of said projects, and their approaches by any one use, or by any person or corporation, private or public, in respect to the several uses, and the port district may continue to make separate, additional, and supplemental contracts for one or more uses until in the judgment of said port district the capacity of the projects and approaches for any such use has been reached. When such capacity has been reached contracts for the use of said projects shall be given preference in regard to such uses according to the public interest as determined by the port district, and subsequent contracts shall be subject to all existing and prior contracts. The port district shall have the power to prescribe regulations for the use of such facilities by the parties to contracts for such use, or any of them, and to hear and determine all controversies which may arise between such parties, under such rules as the port district may from time to time promulgate; and all contracts shall

expressly reserve such power to the port district. [1959 c 236 § 2.]

**53.34.030 Revenue bonds and notes—Authorized—Purposes—Sale, maturity, cost.** Whenever any port district shall determine to acquire or construct any one or more projects authorized under the provisions of this chapter, the commission of such district shall have the power and is authorized to issue negotiable revenue bonds and notes from time to time in one or more series or installments in such principal amount as, in the opinion of the commission, shall be necessary to provide sufficient money for the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, extension or improvement thereof as set forth in RCW 53.34.010, including engineering, inspection, legal and financial fees and costs, working capital, interest on such bonds and notes during construction and for a reasonable period thereafter, establishment of reserves to secure such bonds and notes and all other expenditures of such district incidental, necessary or convenient to the establishment of such projects on a sound financial basis, and to issue negotiable revenue bonds and notes for the purpose of renewing or refunding such outstanding bonds and notes in whole or in part at or prior to maturity. All such revenue bonds or notes shall be negotiable instruments within the meaning and purposes of the negotiable instruments law and shall be sold by the commission in such manner and for such price as the commission deems for the best interests of the district: **PROVIDED**, That the bonds and warrants may be in any form, including bearer bonds or bearer notes, or registered bonds or registered notes as provided in RCW 39.46.030. The commission may provide in any contract for the construction or acquisition of all or any part of a project or projects or for the additions or betterments thereto or extensions or improvements thereof that payment therefor shall be made only in such revenue bonds or notes. Any revenue bonds issued under the authority of chapter 236, Laws of 1959 shall have a final maturity not to exceed forty years from date of issue. [1983 c 167 § 133; 1970 ex.s. c 56 § 69; 1969 ex.s. c 232 § 79; 1959 c 236 § 3.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

**Validation—Saving—Severability—1969 ex.s. c 232:** See notes following RCW 39.52.020.

**53.34.040 Revenue bonds and notes—Resolution—Security—Form, interest, payment, etc.** (1) Revenue bonds and notes may be issued by one or more resolutions and may be secured by trust agreement by and between the district and one or more corporate trustees, depositories, or fiscal agents, which may be any trust company or state or national bank having powers of a trust company within or without the state of Washington. Such bonds or notes shall bear such date or dates, mature at such time or times, bear interest at such rate or rates, be in such denominations, be in such form either coupon or registered as provided in RCW 39.46.030, carry such registration privileges, be executed in such manner, be payable in such medium of payment at such place or places within or without the state of Washington, and be subject to such terms of redemption and at such

redemption premiums as such resolution, resolutions, or trust agreements may provide. No proceedings for the issuance of such bonds or notes shall be required other than those required by the provisions of this chapter, and none of the provisions of any other laws relative to the terms and conditions for the issuance, payment, redemption, registration, sale or delivery of bonds of public bodies, corporation, or political subdivisions of this state shall be applicable to bonds or notes issued by port districts pursuant to this chapter.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds and notes may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 § 134; 1970 ex.s. c 56 § 70; 1969 ex.s. c 232 § 80; 1959 c 236 § 4.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

**Validation—Saving—Severability—1969 ex.s. c 232:** See notes following RCW 39.52.020.

**53.34.050 Covenants to safeguard and secure bonds and notes.** Any resolution, resolutions, or trust agreements authorizing the issuance of any bonds or notes of a port district may contain covenants and agreements on the part of the district to protect and safeguard the security and payment of such bonds or notes, which shall be a part of the contract with the owners of such obligations thereby authorized as to:

(1) Pledging all or any part of the revenues, income, receipts, profits and other moneys derived by the district issuing such obligations from the ownership, operation, management, lease, or sale of any one or more of the projects constructed from the proceeds thereof to secure the payment of bonds or notes;

(2) The establishment and collection of rates, rentals, tolls, charges, license, and other fees to be charged by the district and the amounts to be raised in each year for the services and commodities sold, leased, furnished, or supplied by any one or more of the projects established from the proceeds of such obligations, and the deposit, use, and disposition of the revenues of the district received therefrom;

(3) The setting aside of reserves or sinking funds for such obligations, and the deposit, investment, and disposition thereof;

(4) Limitations on the purpose or purposes to which the proceeds of sale of any issue of bonds or notes then or thereafter issued payable from the revenues of any such project or projects may be applied, and pledging such proceeds to secure the payment of such bonds or notes;

(5) Limitations on the issuance of additional revenue bonds or notes of the district, the terms and conditions upon which such additional revenue bonds or notes may be issued and secured, and the refunding of outstanding or other bonds or notes;

(6) The procedure, if any, by which the terms of any contract with bond owners may be amended or abrogated, the amount of bonds or notes the owners of which must consent thereto, and the manner in which such consent may be given;

(7) Limitations on the amount of moneys derived from any project or projects to be expended for operating, administrative or other expenses of the district in connection with any such project or projects;

(8) The employment of independent auditors and engineers or other technical consultants to advise and assist the district in the operation, management, and improvement of any project or projects;

(9) Limitations or prohibitions on rendering free service in connection with any project or projects;

(10) Specifying conditions constituting events of default and vesting in one or more trustees including trustees which may be appointed by the bond owners and note owners, such special rights, property rights, powers, and duties with respect to the property and revenues of any project or projects as the commission of the district may deem advisable the better to secure the payment of such bonds and notes;

(11) Prescribing conditions controlling the acquisition, sale, lease, or other disposition of real and personal property used or useful in connection with any project or projects, the amount and kinds of policies of insurance to be carried by the district in connection therewith, and the use and disposition of the proceeds of policies of insurance; and

(12) Any other matters of like or different character which in any way affect the security or protection of bonds or notes of the district. [1983 c 167 § 135; 1959 c 236 § 5.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**53.34.060 Notes.** A district shall have power from time to time to issue bond anticipation revenue notes (herein referred to as notes), and from time to time to issue renewal notes, such notes in any case to mature not later than six years from the date of incurring the indebtedness represented thereby in an amount not exceeding in the aggregate at any time outstanding the amount of revenue bonds then or theretofore authorized but not issued. Payment of such notes shall be made from any moneys or revenue which the district may have available for such purpose or the proceeds of the sale of revenue bonds of the district, or such notes may be exchanged for a like amount of such revenue bonds bearing the same or a lower or higher rate of interest than that borne by such notes.

All notes may be issued and sold in the same manner as revenue bonds. Any district shall have power to make contracts for the future sale from time to time of notes on terms and conditions stated in such contracts, and the district shall have power to pay such consideration as it shall deem proper for any commitments to purchase notes in the future. Such notes may also be collaterally secured by pledges and deposits with a bank or trust company, in trust for the payment of said notes, of revenue bonds in an aggregate amount at least equal to the amount of such notes and, in any event, in amount deemed by the district sufficient to provide for the payment of the notes in full at the maturity thereof. The district may provide in such collateral agreement that the notes may be exchanged for revenue bonds held as collateral security for the notes, or that the trustee may sell the revenue bonds if the notes are not otherwise paid at maturity and apply the proceeds of such sale to the payment of the notes. Such notes shall bear interest at a rate or rates as authorized by the port commission. [1970 ex.s. c 56 § 71; 1969 ex.s. c 232 § 81; 1959 c 236 § 6.]

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

**Validation—Saving—Severability—1969 ex.s. c 232:** See notes following RCW 39.52.020.

**53.34.070 Bonds and notes payable solely from revenues, etc.—Adequate rates and charges to be established.** Revenue bonds and notes issued under the provisions of this chapter shall be payable solely from the revenues, income, receipts, profits, charges, fees, rentals, and moneys received or derived by or through the ownership, operation, sale, lease, or other disposition in whole or in part of any project or projects authorized under the provisions of this chapter, or through the issuance of refunding bonds or notes, and the commission of any district issuing revenue bonds or notes under the authority of this chapter shall establish, maintain, and collect rates, tolls, rents, and charges from time to time so long as any of such revenue bonds are outstanding and unpaid for all services sold, furnished, or supplied by or through any such project or projects sufficient to produce an amount, together with any other moneys of the district available and dedicated to such purpose, to pay the principal of and interest and premium, if any, on all revenue bonds and notes payable from the revenues of any project or projects as the same may respectively fall due in accordance with the terms of the resolution or resolutions or trust agreement authorizing the issuance and securing the payment of such obligations. [1959 c 236 § 7.]

**53.34.080 Special funds and accounts—Disposition.** The resolution, resolutions, or trust agreement providing for the issuance of revenue bonds or notes pursuant to the provisions of this chapter shall create and establish a special fund of the district into which the district shall be obligated to deposit as collected all income, revenues, receipts, and profits derived by the district through the ownership and operation of any project or projects acquired or constructed from the proceeds of the sale of such revenue bonds or notes: PROVIDED, That additional separate special funds or accounts may be created by such resolution or trust agreement into which the district may obligate itself to deposit the proceeds of the sale of such revenue bonds and notes, the proceeds of the sale or other disposition in whole or in part of any project or projects, the proceeds of any policies of insurance on such projects, and any other additional moneys received by the district and applicable to such projects. All such moneys shall be held by the district, the depositories and trustees of such funds and accounts, in trust for the equal and ratable benefit and security of the holders from time to time of the revenue bonds and notes issued pursuant to the resolution, resolutions, or trust agreement establishing such special funds or accounts, and shall be collected, held, deposited, and disbursed solely for the acquisition, construction, operation, maintenance, renewal, replacement, improvement, extension, and betterment of such project or projects and the payment of the principal of and interest and premium, if any, on the revenue bonds and notes issued pursuant to such resolution, resolutions, or trust agreements, and the creation and maintenance of reasonable reserves for all such purposes: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That the district may in its discretion and subject to any agreements with the holders of such revenue bonds and notes expend amounts of such moneys as are not required for the

purposes aforesaid for other corporate purposes of the district.

The district may pledge such moneys or revenues of the district subject to prior pledges thereof, if any, for the payment of such notes and may in addition secure the notes in the same manner as herein provided for revenue bonds. [1959 c 236 § 8.]

**53.34.090 Pledge of moneys, when binding—When lien attaches.** It is the intention hereof that any pledge of revenues, income, receipts, profits, charges, fees, or other moneys made by a district for the payment of bonds shall be valid and binding from the time of the adoption of any resolution or the execution of any trust agreement making such pledge notwithstanding the fact that there may not then be any simultaneous delivery thereof, that the revenues, income, receipts, profits, charges, fees, and other moneys so pledged shall as soon as received by the district immediately be subject to the lien of such pledge without the physical delivery thereof and without further act, and that the lien of any such pledge shall be valid and binding as against all parties having claims of any kind in tort, contract, or otherwise against the district irrespective of whether such parties have notice thereof. Neither the resolution, resolutions, or trust agreement authorizing revenue bonds or notes nor any other instrument by which such a pledge is created need be recorded to be effective. [1959 c 236 § 9.]

**53.34.100 No personal liability on bonds or notes.** Neither the members of a commission nor any person executing revenue bonds or notes shall be liable personally on such bonds or notes, or be subject to any personal liability or accountability by reason of the issuance thereof. [1959 c 236 § 10.]

**53.34.110 District may purchase bonds or notes.** A district shall have power out of any funds available therefor to purchase revenue bonds or notes of such district. Any bonds or notes so purchased may be held, canceled, or resold by the district subject to and in accordance with any resolution or resolutions or trust agreements with bondholders. [1959 c 236 § 11.]

**53.34.120 State not to limit or alter rights of district or impair rights or remedies of bond or note holders.** The state of Washington does hereby covenant and agree with the holders of revenue bonds or notes issued by a district under the authority of this chapter that the state will not limit or alter the rights hereby vested in a district to acquire, maintain, construct, reconstruct, improve, extend, add to, better and operate the projects authorized to be constructed or acquired under the provisions hereof and to establish, collect, and pledge such rates, rentals, tolls, charges, license, and other fees as may be convenient or necessary to produce sufficient revenue to meet the expense of maintenance and operation of such projects and to fulfill the terms of any agreements made with holders of such revenue bonds and notes or in any way impair the rights and remedies of bondholders and noteholders until the bonds or notes together with interest thereon, with interest on any unpaid installments of interest, and all costs and expenses in

connection with any action or proceedings by or on behalf of the bondholders or noteholders, are fully met and discharged. The provisions of this chapter and of the resolutions, trust agreements and proceedings authorizing revenue bonds and notes hereunder shall constitute a contract with the holders of said bonds and notes. [1959 c 236 § 12.]

**53.34.130 Bonds, notes, obligations not state or district debt—No ad valorem taxes.** The revenue bonds, revenue notes, and any other obligations of a district issued under the authority of this chapter shall not be a debt of the state of Washington or of any political subdivision of this state, nor shall such obligations be considered indebtedness of the port district issuing same within any constitutional, statutory, or other limitation of indebtedness, and neither the state nor any political subdivision thereof, including the port district issuing such revenue bonds or notes, shall ever become obligated to levy ad valorem taxes on any taxable property within the state for the payment of such revenue bonds and notes, but such revenue bonds and notes shall be payable solely from and shall be a charge only upon the revenues and other funds of the project or projects pledged to the payment thereof by the proceedings authorizing the issuance of such bonds and notes. [1959 c 236 § 13.]

**53.34.140 Registration of bonds and notes—Prima facie validity.** Prior to the issuance and delivery of revenue bonds or notes under the authority of this chapter, such revenue bonds or notes and a certified copy of the resolution, resolutions, or trust agreements authorizing such revenue bonds or notes shall be forwarded by the port commission to the state auditor together with any additional information requested by him, and when such revenue bonds or notes have been examined they shall be registered by the auditor in books to be kept by him for that purpose, and a certificate of registration shall be endorsed upon each such revenue bond or note and signed by the auditor or a deputy appointed by him for that purpose.

Revenue bonds or notes so registered shall then be prima facie valid and binding obligations of the port district in accordance with the terms thereof, notwithstanding any defect or irregularity in the proceedings for the authorization and issuance of such revenue bonds or notes or in the sale, execution or delivery thereof or in the application of the proceeds thereof. [1959 c 236 § 14.]

**53.34.150 Bonds and notes as legal investment and security.** Revenue bonds and notes issued under the authority of this chapter are made securities in which all public officers and bodies of this state, all municipalities and municipal subdivisions and all other political subdivisions of this state, all insurance companies and associations and other persons carrying on an insurance business, all banks, bankers, trust companies, savings banks, and savings associations, including savings and loan associations, building and loan associations, investment companies and other persons carrying on a banking business, all administrators, guardians, executors, trustees and other fiduciaries, and all other persons whatsoever who are now or may hereafter be authorized to invest in bonds or other obligations of the state, may properly and legally invest funds,

including capital, in their control or belonging to them. Such bonds and notes are also made securities which may be deposited with and shall be received by all public officers and bodies of this state, all municipalities, municipal subdivisions, and other political subdivisions of this state for any purpose for which the deposit of bonds or other obligations of this state is now or may hereafter be authorized. [1959 c 236 § 15.]

**53.34.160 Projects declared public benefit and governmental function—Covenant by state with bond and note holders—Tax exemption.** It is found, determined, and declared that the creation and establishment of projects authorized by this chapter are in all respects for the benefit of the people of the state of Washington, for the improvement of their welfare and prosperity, and for the promotion of intrastate, interstate, and foreign commerce, the transportation of freight, commercial, and passenger traffic, is a public purpose, that such projects operated by port districts are essential parts of the public transportation system, and that such districts will be performing essential governmental functions in the exercise of the powers conferred upon them by this chapter; and the state of Washington covenants with the holders of revenue bonds and notes that port districts shall not be required to pay any taxes or assessments, or other governmental charges in lieu thereof, upon any of the property acquired by them or under their respective jurisdictions, control, possession, or supervision, upon the activities of port districts in the operation and maintenance of such projects, or upon any charges, fees, rentals, revenues, or other income received by such districts from such projects and that the revenue bonds and notes of port districts and the income therefrom shall at all times be exempt from all taxation in the state of Washington, except transfer, inheritance, and estate taxes. This section shall constitute a covenant and agreement with the holders of all revenue bonds and notes issued by port districts pursuant to the provisions of this chapter. [1959 c 236 § 16.]

**53.34.170 District's power to acquire property, rights, etc.—Gifts—Condemnation—Contracts by public agencies authorized.** In the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, improvement, extension, or betterment of any project or projects authorized under the provisions of this chapter any port district creating and establishing any such project or projects may have and exercise all of the powers heretofore or hereafter granted to port districts for corporate purposes and, in addition thereto, may acquire by gift or grant, lease, purchase, or condemnation any public and private property, franchises and property rights, including state, county, and school lands and property, and littoral and water rights whether or not any such property is then devoted to public or quasi public proprietary or governmental use: PROVIDED, That the court shall find that the proposed condemnation of any property already devoted to a public use is for a higher public use, and may by appropriate contracts with any city, county, or other political subdivision of the state, with the state and any department of the government of the state (hereinafter referred to collectively as public agencies), or with any department, instrumentality or agency of the United States, acquire title to or the use of

existing roads, streets, parkways, avenues, or highways or the closing of any roads, streets, parkways, avenues, or highways as may be necessary or convenient to the acquisition, construction, or operation of any such project or projects under such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed upon. All public agencies are authorized to enter into contracts with port districts for the aforesaid purposes. [1959 c 236 § 17.]

**53.34.180 Public agencies authorized to contract with district for contribution of money, property, services, etc.** Any public agency, including without limitation the department of transportation, may contract with a port district that is constructing a project or projects under this chapter for the contribution of moneys or real or personal property in aid of the construction of the projects, or for the furnishing of engineering, legal, police, and fire protection, and all other services necessary or convenient to the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, operation, maintenance, renewal, replacement, improvement, additions to, or extension of the project or projects. The contracts shall run for such period of years and contain such terms and conditions as the parties thereto mutually agree upon. Any public agency, by resolution, may authorize the execution of the contracts with a port district and no other authorization on the part of the public agency is necessary, regardless of any provision of laws or of a city charter to the contrary. Obligations assumed by a public agency under the contracts entered into under this chapter shall be included and provided for in each annual budget of the public agency made thereafter until all the obligations have been fully discharged. [1984 c 7 § 366; 1959 c 236 § 18.]

**Severability—1984 c 7:** See note following RCW 47.01.141.

**53.34.190 Bylaws, rules for management, uses, charges—Penalty for violation.** Any port district establishing a project under the authority of this chapter may make such bylaws, rules, and regulations for the management and use of such project and for the collection of rentals, tolls, fees, and other charges for services or commodities sold, furnished or supplied through such project, and the violation of any such bylaw, rule, or regulation shall be an offense punishable by fine not to exceed one hundred dollars or by imprisonment for not longer than thirty days, or both. [1959 c 236 § 19.]

**53.34.200 Actions for damages, injuries, death—Allegation in complaint of presentment of claim.** In every action against a district for damages, for injuries to real or personal property, or for the destruction thereof, or for personal injuries or death arising in connection with the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, operation, or maintenance of a project authorized by the provisions of this chapter, the complaint shall contain an allegation that at least thirty days have elapsed since a demand, claim, or claims upon which such action is founded were presented to the secretary of the district, or to its chief executive officer, and that the district has neglected or refused to make an adjustment or payment thereof for thirty days after such presentment. [1959 c 236 § 20.]

**53.34.220 Chapter supplemental to other laws—Liberal construction.** The powers and rights granted to port districts and public agencies by the provisions of this chapter are in addition and supplemental to and not in substitution of the powers and rights heretofore or hereafter granted to such districts and public agencies by any other law or city charter, and no limitations or restrictions or proceedings for the exercise of powers and rights by port districts and public agencies contained in any other laws or city charters shall apply to the exercise of powers and rights granted by the provisions of this chapter, and the provisions of this chapter shall be liberally construed to permit the accomplishment of the purposes hereof. [1959 c 236 § 22.]

**53.34.900 Severability—1959 c 236.** If any section, clause or provision of this chapter shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid in whole or in part, to the extent that this chapter is not unconstitutional or invalid this chapter shall be valid and effective, and no other section, clause, or provision hereof shall on account of such declaration be deemed invalid or ineffective. [1959 c 236 § 23.]

**53.34.910 Chapter controls inconsistent acts.** Insofar as the provisions of this chapter are inconsistent with the provisions of any other act or of any city charter, the provisions of this chapter shall be controlling. [1959 c 236 § 24.]

## Chapter 53.35 BUDGETS

### Sections

- 53.35.010 Preliminary budget.
- 53.35.020 Publication of notice of preliminary budget and hearing.
- 53.35.030 Hearing—Final budget.
- 53.35.040 Final budget to be filed with county commissioners.
- 53.35.045 Alternate date for filing final budget.
- 53.35.050 Supplemental budgets.
- 53.35.060 Fiscal year.
- 53.35.070 Chapter exclusive method for budgets.
- 53.35.071 Expenditures for industrial development, trade promotion, or promotional hosting—Budgeting required.
- 53.35.900 Severability—1959 c 159.

**53.35.010 Preliminary budget.** On or before the 15th day of September of each year each port commission shall prepare a preliminary budget of the port district for the ensuing fiscal year showing the estimated expenditures and the anticipated available funds from which all expenditures are to be paid. [1959 c 159 § 1.]

**53.35.020 Publication of notice of preliminary budget and hearing.** Following the preparation of the preliminary budget, the port commission shall publish a notice stating that the preliminary budget of the port district has been prepared and placed on file at the office of the port district; that a copy thereof may be obtained by any taxpayer at an address set forth in the notice; that the commission will meet at a date, hour and place set forth in the notice, such date to be not earlier than September 15th and not later than the first Tuesday following the first Monday in October, for the purpose of fixing and adopting the final budget of the

port district for the ensuing year. The notice shall be published once each week for two consecutive weeks in a legal newspaper of the district, or if there is none, in any newspaper of general circulation in the county, the first publication to be not less than nine days nor more than twenty days prior to the date of the hearing. [1959 c 159 § 2.]

**53.35.030 Hearing—Final budget.** On the day set by the notice provided for in RCW 53.35.020 the commission shall meet at the place and hour designated for the purpose of a hearing on the budget and adoption of a final budget. Any person may present objections to the preliminary budget following which the commission shall, by resolution adopt a final budget. [1959 c 159 § 3.]

**53.35.040 Final budget to be filed with county commissioners.** It shall be the duty of the commissioners of port districts, for the purpose of levying port district taxes, to file with the clerk of the board of county commissioners on or before the Wednesday next following the first Monday in October in each year a certified copy of such final budget which shall specify the amounts to be raised by taxation on the assessed valuation of the property in the port district. [1959 c 159 § 4.]

**53.35.045 Alternate date for filing final budget.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the board of commissioners of a port district may file with the clerk of the county legislative authority a certified copy of the port district final budget, provided for in RCW 53.35.040, on the first Monday in December. The board of port commissioners may also set other dates relating to the budget process, including but not limited to the dates set in RCW 53.35.010 and 53.35.020 to conform to the alternate date for final budget filing. [1974 ex.s. c 19 § 1.]

**53.35.050 Supplemental budgets.** A port commission may adopt by resolution one or more supplemental budgets at any time during the fiscal year. Such supplemental budget shall be adopted only after public hearing. Notice of such hearing shall be given by a single publication of notice of the date, place and hour of the hearing in a legal newspaper of the district, or if there is none, in any newspaper of general circulation in the county, the publication of such notice to be at least five days and not more than fifteen days prior to the hearing date. [1959 c 159 § 5.]

**53.35.060 Fiscal year.** The fiscal year for a port district shall be the calendar year. [1959 c 159 § 6.]

**53.35.070 Chapter exclusive method for budgets.** The provisions of this chapter shall constitute the exclusive requirement and authority for the preparation, adoption, certification and filing of port district budgets. [1959 c 159 § 7.]

**53.35.071 Expenditures for industrial development, trade promotion, or promotional hosting—Budgeting required.** See RCW 53.36.120.

**53.35.900 Severability—1959 c 159.** Should any section or parts of sections of this chapter be declared unconstitutional it shall in no case affect the validity of other provisions of this chapter. [1959 c 159 § 8.]

## Chapter 53.36

### FINANCES

#### Sections

- 53.36.010 District treasurer.
- 53.36.020 Tax levy—Limitation.
- 53.36.030 Indebtedness—Limitation.
- 53.36.040 Funds in anticipation of revenues—Warrants.
- 53.36.050 County treasurer—General and special funds—  
Depositories—Investment of excess funds.
- 53.36.060 Incidental expense fund.
- 53.36.070 Levy for dredging, canal construction, or land leveling or filling purposes.
- 53.36.080 Collection of levies for dredging, canal construction, or land leveling or filling purposes.
- 53.36.100 Levy for industrial development district purposes—Notice—  
Petition—Election.
- 53.36.110 Levy for industrial development district purposes—Excess funds to be used solely for retirement of general obligations.
- 53.36.120 Expenditures for industrial development, trade promotion, or promotional hosting—Budgeting required.
- 53.36.130 Expenditures for industrial development, trade promotion, or promotional hosting—Source and amount of funds.
- 53.36.140 Expenditures for industrial development, trade promotion, or promotional hosting—Rules and regulations—  
Authorizations—Vouchers.
- 53.36.150 Expenditures for industrial development, trade promotion, or promotional hosting—Duties of state auditor.

*Accounting system and state examination: RCW 43.09.200 through 43.09.280.*

*Disposition of rentals from aquatic lands managed by a port district: RCW 79.90.475.*

*Tax district relief: Chapter 39.64 RCW.*

*Vouchers on public funds: Chapter 42.24 RCW.*

**53.36.010 District treasurer.** The treasurer of the county in which a port district is located shall be treasurer of the district unless the commission of a port district which has for the last three consecutive years received annual gross operating revenues of one hundred thousand dollars or more, excluding tax revenues and grants for capital purposes, designates by resolution some other person having experience in financial or fiscal matters as treasurer of the port district to act with the same powers and under the same restrictions as provided by law for a county treasurer acting on behalf of a port district: PROVIDED, That any port district which was authorized by the county treasurer to appoint its own treasurer prior to July 24, 1983, may continue to appoint its own treasurer. The commission may, and if the treasurer is not the county treasurer it shall, require a bond, with a surety company authorized to do business in the state of Washington, in an amount and under the terms and conditions which the commission by resolution from time to time finds will protect the district against loss. The premium on such bonds shall be paid by the district. All district funds shall be paid to the treasurer and shall be disbursed by him upon warrants signed by a port auditor appointed by the port commission, upon vouchers approved by the commission. [1983 c 250 § 1; 1974 ex.s. c 13 § 1;



1955 c 348 § 5. Prior: 1921 c 179 § 1, part; 1911 c 92 § 5, part; RRS § 9693, part.]

**Severability—1955 c 348:** See note following RCW 53.08.120.

*County treasurer, calling warrants:* RCW 36.29.060.

**53.36.020 Tax levy—Limitation.** A district may raise revenue by levy of an annual tax not to exceed forty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value against the assessed valuation of the taxable property in such port district for general port purposes, including the establishment of a capital improvement fund for future capital improvements, except that any levy for the payment of the principal and interest of the general bonded indebtedness of the port district shall be in excess of any levy made by the port district under the forty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value limitation. The levy shall be made and taxes collected in the manner provided for the levy and collection of taxes in school districts of the first class. [1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 56; 1955 c 65 § 11. Prior: 1951 c 133 § 1; 1943 c 166 § 2, part; 1921 c 183 § 1, part; 1917 c 125 § 1, part; 1913 c 62 § 4, part; 1911 c 92 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 9692, part.]

**Severability—Effective dates and termination dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

*Budgets:* Chapter 53.35 RCW.

*Levy of taxes:* Chapter 84.52 RCW.

*Limitation on levies:* State Constitution Art. 7 § 2 (Amendments 55 and 59); RCW 84.52.050 through 84.52.056.

*School district levy:* Chapter 28A.545 RCW.

**53.36.030 Indebtedness—Limitation.** (1)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, a port district may at any time contract indebtedness or borrow money for district purposes and may issue general obligation bonds therefor not exceeding an amount, together with any existing indebtedness of the district not authorized by the voters, of one-fourth of one percent of the value of the taxable property in the district.

(b) Port districts having less than eight hundred million dollars in value of taxable property during 1991 may at any time contract indebtedness or borrow money for port district purposes and may issue general obligation bonds therefor not exceeding an amount, combined with existing indebtedness of the district not authorized by the voters, of three-eighths of one percent of the value of the taxable property in the district. Prior to contracting for any indebtedness authorized by this subsection (1)(b), the port district must have a comprehensive plan for harbor improvements or industrial development and a long-term financial plan approved by the department of community, trade, and economic development. The department of community, trade, and economic development is immune from any liability for its part in reviewing or approving port district's improvement or development plans, or financial plans. Any indebtedness authorized by this subsection (1)(b) may be used only to acquire or construct a facility, and, prior to contracting for such indebtedness, the port district must have a lease contract for a minimum of five years for the facility to be acquired or constructed by the debt.

(2) With the assent of three-fifths of the voters voting thereon at a general or special port election called for that

purpose, a port district may contract indebtedness or borrow money for district purposes and may issue general obligation bonds therefor provided the total indebtedness of the district at any such time shall not exceed three-fourths of one percent of the value of the taxable property in the district.

(3) In addition to the indebtedness authorized under subsections (1) and (2) of this section, port districts having less than two hundred million dollars in value of taxable property and operating a municipal airport may at any time contract indebtedness or borrow money for airport capital improvement purposes and may issue general obligation bonds therefor not exceeding an additional one-eighth of one percent of the value of the taxable property in the district without authorization by the voters; and, with the assent of three-fifths of the voters voting thereon at a general or special port election called for that purpose, may contract indebtedness or borrow money for airport capital improvement purposes and may issue general obligation bonds therefor for an additional three-eighths of one percent provided the total indebtedness of the district for all port purposes at any such time shall not exceed one and one-fourth percent of the value of the taxable property in the district.

(4) Any port district may issue general district bonds evidencing any indebtedness, payable at any time not exceeding fifty years from the date of the bonds. Any contract for indebtedness or borrowed money authorized by RCW 53.36.030(1)(b) shall not exceed twenty-five years. The bonds shall be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW.

(5) Elections required under this section shall be held as provided in RCW 39.36.050.

(6) For the purpose of this section, "indebtedness of the district" shall not include any debt of a county-wide district with a population less than twenty-five hundred people when the debt is secured by a mortgage on property leased to the federal government; and the term "value of the taxable property" shall have the meaning set forth in RCW 39.36.015.

(7) This section does not apply to a loan made under a loan agreement under chapter 39.69 RCW, and a computation of indebtedness under this chapter must exclude the amount of a loan under such a loan agreement. [1996 c 66 § 1; 1995 c 102 § 1; 1991 c 314 § 29; 1990 c 254 § 1; 1984 c 186 § 41; 1970 ex.s. c 42 § 32; 1965 ex.s. c 54 § 1; 1959 c 52 § 1; 1955 c 65 § 12. Prior: 1943 c 166 § 2, part; 1921 c 183 § 1, part; 1917 c 125 § 1, part; 1911 c 92 § 4, part; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 9692, part.]

**Findings—1991 c 314:** See note following RCW 43.31.601.

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

**Severability—Effective date—1970 ex.s. c 42:** See notes following RCW 39.36.015.

*General provisions applicable to district bonds:* Chapter 39.44 RCW.

*Limitation upon indebtedness:* State Constitution Art. 8 § 6 (Amendment 27); chapter 39.36 RCW.

*Port district indebtedness authorized, emergency public works:* RCW 39.28.030.

*Validation requirement:* RCW 39.40.010.

**53.36.040 Funds in anticipation of revenues—Warrants.** (1) Any port commission is hereby authorized, prior to the receipt of taxes raised by levy, to borrow money

or issue the warrants of the district in anticipation of the revenues to be derived by such district and such warrants shall be redeemed from the first money available from such taxes when collected. Such warrants may be in any form, including bearer warrants or registered warrants as provided in RCW 39.46.030.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such warrants may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 § 136; 1921 c 179 § 2; 1911 c 92 § 12; RRS § 9699.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**53.36.050 County treasurer—General and special funds—Depositories—Investment of excess funds.** The county treasurer acting as port treasurer shall create a fund to be known as the "Port of . . . . . Fund," into which shall be paid all money received by him from the collection of taxes in behalf of such port district, and shall also maintain such other special funds as may be created by the port commission into which shall be placed such moneys as the port commission may by its resolution direct. All such port funds shall be deposited with the county depositories under the same restrictions, contracts and security as is provided by statute for county depositories and all interest collected on such port funds shall belong to such port district and shall be deposited to its credit in the proper port funds: PROVIDED, That any portion of such port moneys determined by the port commission to be in excess of the current needs of the port district may be invested in certificates, notes, bonds, or other obligations of the United States of America, or any agency or instrumentality thereof, and all interest collected thereon shall likewise belong to such port district and shall be deposited to its credit in the proper port funds. [1959 c 52 § 2; 1921 c 179 § 3; 1911 c 92 § 13; RRS § 9700.]

*County depositories: Chapter 36.48 RCW.*

**53.36.060 Incidental expense fund.** The port commission of any port district may, by resolution, create an incidental expense fund in such amount as the port commission may direct. Such incidental expense fund may be kept and maintained in a bank or banks designated in the resolution creating the fund, and such depository shall be required to give bonds or securities to the port district for the protection of such incidental expense fund, in the full amount of the fund authorized by the said resolution. Vouchers shall be drawn to reimburse said incidental expense fund and such vouchers shall be approved by the port commission. Transient labor, freight, express, cartage, postage, petty supplies, and minor expenses of the port district may be paid from said incidental expense fund and all such disbursements therefrom shall be by check of the port auditor or such other officer as the port commission shall by resolution direct. All expenditures from said incidental expense fund shall be covered by vouchers drawn by the port auditor and approved by the manager or such other officer of the port district as the port commission may by resolution direct. The officer disbursing said fund shall be required to give bond to the port district in the full authorized amount of the said incidental expense fund for the faithful performance of his duties

in connection with the disbursement of moneys from such fund. [1933 c 189 § 16; RRS § 9699-1.]

**53.36.070 Levy for dredging, canal construction, or land leveling or filling purposes.** Any port district organized under the laws of this state shall, in addition to the powers otherwise provided by law, have the power to raise revenue by the levy and collection of an annual tax on all taxable property within such port district of not to exceed forty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value against the assessed valuation of the taxable property in such port district, for dredging, canal construction, or land leveling or filling purposes, the proceeds of any such levy to be used exclusively for such dredging, canal construction, or land leveling or filling purposes: PROVIDED, That no such levy for dredging, canal construction, or land leveling or filling purposes under the provisions of RCW 53.36.070 and 53.36.080 shall be made unless and until the question of authorizing the making of such additional levy shall have been submitted to a vote of the electors of the district in the manner provided by law for the submission of the question of making additional levies in school districts of the first class at an election held under the provisions of RCW 29.13.020 and shall have been authorized by a majority of the electors voting thereon. [1983 c 3 § 162; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 57; 1965 ex.s. c 22 § 1; 1925 c 29 § 1; RRS § 9692-1.]

**Severability—Effective dates and termination dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

**53.36.080 Collection of levies for dredging, canal construction, or land leveling or filling purposes.** Whenever such additional levy for dredging, canal construction, or land leveling or filling purposes shall have been authorized by the electors of the district at an election, held subsequent to the time of making the levy for the district for general purposes, in any year, such levy shall be certified by the port commission in the manner provided by law for certifying levies for general purposes of the district, and shall be forthwith spread and extended upon the tax rolls for the current year, and the taxes so levied and extended shall be collected in the manner provided by law for the collection of general taxes. [1965 ex.s. c 22 § 2; 1925 c 29 § 2; RRS § 9692-2.]

*Collection of taxes, generally: Chapter 84.56 RCW.*

**53.36.100 Levy for industrial development district purposes—Notice—Petition—Election.** (1) A port district having adopted a comprehensive scheme of harbor improvements and industrial developments may thereafter raise revenue, for six years only, and a second six years if the procedures are followed under subsection (2) of this section, in addition to all other revenues now authorized by law, by an annual levy not to exceed forty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value against the assessed valuation of the taxable property in such port district. In addition, if voters approve a ballot proposition authorizing additional levies by a simple majority vote, a port district located in a county bordering on the Pacific Ocean having adopted a comprehensive scheme of harbor improvements and industrial developments may impose these levies for a third six-year

period. Said levies shall be used exclusively for the exercise of the powers granted to port districts under chapter 53.25 RCW except as provided in RCW 53.36.110. The levy of such taxes is herein authorized notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 84.52.050 and 84.52.043. The revenues derived from levies made under RCW 53.36.100 and 53.36.110 not expended in the year in which the levies are made may be paid into a fund for future use in carrying out the powers granted under chapter 53.25 RCW, which fund may be accumulated and carried over from year to year, with the right to continue to levy the taxes provided for in RCW 53.36.100 and 53.36.110 for the purposes herein authorized.

(2) If a port district intends to levy a tax under this section for one or more years after the first six years these levies were imposed, the port commission shall publish notice of this intention, in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the district, by June 1 of the year in which the first levy of the seventh through twelfth year period is to be made. If within ninety days of the date of publication a petition is filed with the county auditor containing the signatures of eight percent of the number of voters registered and voting in the port district for the office of the governor at the last preceding gubernatorial election, the county auditor shall canvass the signatures in the same manner as prescribed in RCW 29.79.200 and certify their sufficiency to the port commission within two weeks. The proposition to make these levies in the seventh through twelfth year period shall be submitted to the voters of the port district at a special election, called for this purpose, no later than the date on which a primary election would be held under RCW 29.13.070. The levies may be made in the seventh through twelfth year period only if approved by a majority of the voters of the port district voting on the proposition. [1994 c 278 § 1; 1982 1st ex.s. c 3 § 1; 1979 c 76 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 58; 1957 c 265 § 1.]

**Effective date—1982 1st ex.s. c 3:** "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 April 1, 1982." [1982 1st ex.s. c 3 § 3.]

**Severability—Effective dates and termination dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043. *Levy by port district under RCW 53.36.100—Application of chapter 84.55 RCW: RCW 84.55.045.*

**53.36.110 Levy for industrial development district purposes—Excess funds to be used solely for retirement of general obligations.** In the event the levy herein authorized shall produce revenue in excess of the requirements to complete the projects of a port district then provided for in its comprehensive scheme of harbor improvements and industrial developments or amendments thereto, said excess shall be used solely for the retirement of general obligation bonded indebtedness. [1957 c 265 § 2.]

**53.36.120 Expenditures for industrial development, trade promotion, or promotional hosting—Budgeting required.** Under the authority of Article VIII, section 8, of the state Constitution, port district expenditures for industrial development, trade promotion or promotional hosting shall be pursuant to specific budget items as approved by the port commission at the annual public hearings on the port district budget. [1967 c 136 § 1.]

**53.36.130 Expenditures for industrial development, trade promotion, or promotional hosting—Source and amount of funds.** Funds for promotional hosting expenditures shall be expended only from gross operating revenues and shall not exceed one percent thereof upon the first two million five hundred thousand dollars of such gross operating revenues, one-half of one percent upon the next two million five hundred thousand dollars of such gross operating revenues, and one-fourth of one percent on the excess over five million dollars of such operating revenues: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That in no case shall these limitations restrict a port district to less than twenty-five hundred dollars per year from any funds available to the port. [1967 c 136 § 2.]

**53.36.140 Expenditures for industrial development, trade promotion, or promotional hosting—Rules and regulations—Authorizations—Vouchers.** Port commissions shall adopt, in writing, rules and regulations governing promotional hosting expenditures by port employees or agents. Such rules shall identify officials and agents authorized to make such expenditures and the approved objectives of such spending. Port commissioners shall not personally make such expenditures, or seek reimbursement therefor, except where specific authorization of such expenditures has been approved by the port commission. All payments and reimbursements shall be identified and supported on vouchers approved by the port auditor. [1967 c 136 § 3.]

**53.36.150 Expenditures for industrial development, trade promotion, or promotional hosting—Duties of state auditor.** The state auditor shall, as provided in chapter 43.09 RCW:

- (1) Audit expenditures made pursuant to RCW 53.36.120 through 53.36.150; and
- (2) Promulgate appropriate rules and definitions as a part of the uniform system of accounts for port districts to carry out the intent of RCW 53.36.120 through 53.36.150: PROVIDED, That such accounts shall continue to include "gross operating revenues" which shall be exclusive of revenues derived from any property tax levy except as provided in RCW 53.36.130. [1967 c 136 § 4.]

**Chapter 53.40**

**REVENUE BONDS AND WARRANTS**

Sections

- 53.40.010 Revenue bonds authorized.
- 53.40.020 Purposes for which bonds may be issued and sold.
- 53.40.030 Bonds—Term, form, etc.
- 53.40.040 Bonds payable solely out of revenues—Special funds.
- 53.40.050 Sale of bonds to federal government.
- 53.40.110 Interest, signatures, sale of bonds—Covenants—Safeguards—Enforcement.
- 53.40.120 Irregularity in bonds or use of funds no defense.
- 53.40.125 District may mortgage industrial development facility.
- 53.40.130 Funding, refunding bonds.
- 53.40.135 Revenue warrants.
- 53.40.140 Construction of chapter.
- 53.40.150 Validation—1959 c 183.

**53.40.010 Revenue bonds authorized.** The port commission of any port district is authorized for the purpose

of carrying out the lawful powers granted port districts by the laws of the state to contract indebtedness and to issue revenue bonds evidencing such indebtedness in conformity with this chapter. [1959 c 183 § 1; 1957 c 59 § 1; 1949 c 122 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9711-1.]

*Alternative authority to issue revenue bonds:* RCW 39.46.150, 39.46.160.

*Declaratory judgments of local bond issues:* Chapter 7.25 RCW.

*Funds for reserve purposes may be included in issue amount:* RCW 39.44.140.

**53.40.020 Purposes for which bonds may be issued and sold.** All such revenue bonds authorized under the terms of this chapter may be issued and sold by the port district from time to time and in such amounts as is deemed necessary by the port commission to provide sufficient funds for the carrying out of all port district powers, and without limiting the generality thereof, shall include the following: Acquisition, construction, reconstruction, maintenance, repair, additions and operation of port properties and facilities, including in the cost thereof engineering, inspection, accounting, fiscal and legal expenses; the cost of issuance of bonds, including printing, engraving and advertising and other similar expenses; payment of interest on the outstanding bonds issued for any project during the period of actual construction and for six months after the completion thereof, and the proceeds of such bond issue are hereby made available for all such purposes. "Port property and facilities," as used in this section, includes facilities for the freezing or processing of agricultural products. [1987 c 289 § 2; 1959 c 183 § 2; 1957 c 59 § 3. Prior: 1949 c 122 § 2, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9711-2, part.]

**53.40.030 Bonds—Term, form, etc.** (1) The port commission shall determine the form, conditions, and denominations of all such bonds, the maturity date or dates which the bonds so sold shall bear, and the interest rate or rates thereon. It shall not be necessary that all bonds of the same authorized issue bear the same interest rate or rates. Principal and interest of the bonds shall be payable at such place or places as may be fixed and determined by the port commission. The bonds may contain provisions for registration thereof as to principal only or as to both principal and interest as provided in RCW 39.46.030. The bonds shall have interest payable at such time or times as may be determined by the port commission and in such amounts as it may prescribe. The port commission may provide for retirement of bonds issued under this chapter at any time or times prior to their maturity, and in such manner and upon the payment of such premiums as may be fixed and determined by resolution of the port commission.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 § 137; 1970 ex.s. c 56 § 73; 1969 ex.s. c 232 § 37; 1959 c 183 § 3; 1957 c 59 § 4. Prior: 1949 c 122 § 2, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9711-2, part.]

*Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:* See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

*Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:* See note following RCW 39.52.020.

*Validation—Saving—Severability—1969 ex.s. c 232:* See notes following RCW 39.52.020.

*Bonds—Form, terms of sale, payment, etc.:* Chapter 39.44 RCW.

**53.40.040 Bonds payable solely out of revenues—Special funds.** Bonds issued under the provisions of this chapter shall be payable solely out of operating revenues of the port district. Such bonds shall be authorized by resolution adopted by the port commission, which resolution shall create a special fund or funds into which the port commission may obligate and bind the port district to set aside and pay any part or parts of, or all of, or a fixed proportion of, or a fixed amount of the gross revenue of the port district for the purpose of paying the principal of and interest on such bonds as the same shall become due, and if deemed necessary to maintain adequate reserves therefor. Such fund or funds shall be drawn upon solely for the purpose of paying the principal and interest upon the bonds issued pursuant to this chapter.

The bonds shall be negotiable instruments within the provisions and intent of the negotiable instruments law of this state, even though they shall be payable solely from such special fund or funds, and the tax revenue of the port district may not be used to pay, secure, or guarantee the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds. The bonds and any coupons attached thereto shall state upon their face that they are payable solely from such special fund or funds. If the port commission fails to set aside and pay into such fund or funds the payments provided for in such resolution, the owner of any such bonds may bring suit to compel compliance with the provisions of the resolution. [1983 c 167 § 138; 1959 c 183 § 4; 1957 c 59 § 5; 1949 c 122 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9711-4.]

*Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:* See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

*Negotiable instruments—Uniform Commercial Code:* Title 62A RCW.

**53.40.050 Sale of bonds to federal government.** Port districts may, but are not required by the terms of this chapter to do so, sell any or all such bonds issued pursuant to this chapter to the federal government, or any agency of the federal government, at private sale and without the necessity of public advertisement or calling for bids. [1959 c 183 § 5; 1957 c 59 § 6; 1949 c 122 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9711-3.]

*Bonds sold to government at private sale:* Chapter 39.48 RCW.

**53.40.110 Interest, signatures, sale of bonds—Covenants—Safeguards—Enforcement.** (1) The bonds issued pursuant to the provisions of this chapter shall bear interest at such rate or rates as authorized by the port commission; shall be signed on behalf of the port district by the president of the port commission and shall be attested by the secretary of the port commission, one of which signatures may be a facsimile signature, and shall have the seal of the port district impressed thereon; any interest coupons attached thereto shall be signed by the facsimile signatures of said officials. Such bonds shall be sold in the manner and at such price as the port commission shall deem best, either at public or private sale.

The port commission may provide such covenants as it may deem necessary to secure the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds and may but shall not be required to include covenants to create a reserve fund or account and to authorize the payment or deposit of certain

moneys therein for the purpose of securing the payment of such principal and interest; to establish, maintain, and collect tariffs, rates, charges, fees, rentals, and sales prices on facilities and services the income of which is pledged for the payment of such bonds, sufficient to pay or secure the payment of such principal and interest and to maintain an adequate coverage over annual debt service; and to make any and all other covenants not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter which will increase the marketability of such bonds. The port commission may also provide that revenue bonds payable out of the same source or sources may later be issued on a parity with any revenue bonds being issued and sold. The provisions of this chapter and any resolution or resolutions providing for the authorization, issuance, and sale of such bonds shall constitute a contract with the owners of such bonds, and the provisions thereof shall be enforceable by any owner of such bonds by mandamus or any appropriate suit, action or proceeding at law or in equity in any court of competent jurisdiction.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 § 139; 1970 ex.s. c 56 § 74; 1969 ex.s. c 232 § 38; 1959 c 183 § 6; 1949 c 122 § 9; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9711-8.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

**Validation—Saving—Severability—1969 ex.s. c 232:** See notes following RCW 39.52.020.

*Mandamus: Chapter 7.16 RCW.*

**53.40.120 Irregularity in bonds or use of funds no defense.** The Reconstruction Finance Corporation, or any other agency of the United States government making any such loan, or any other holder or owner of any bonds issued pursuant to this chapter, shall not be required to see to the application of the moneys derived from such bonds to the purposes for which the bonds are issued as specified in any resolution authorizing the issuance thereof. No defense of invalidity, or irregularity in any such bonds funded or refunded by the issuance of bonds hereunder, shall be a valid defense in any action at law or equity for a judgment upon or for the enforcement or collection of any bonds issued pursuant to this chapter, and no court shall have jurisdiction to entertain any such defense in any such action or proceeding. [1957 c 59 § 10. Prior: 1949 c 122 § 7, part; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9711-6, part.]

**53.40.125 District may mortgage industrial development facility.** The port commission of any port district, as security for the payment of the principal of and interest on any revenue bonds issued and any agreements made in connection therewith, may mortgage, pledge, or otherwise encumber the particular industrial development facility or facilities or any part or parts thereof that are being financed by the revenue bonds, whether then owned or thereafter acquired, and may assign any mortgage and repledge any security conveyed to the port district for that particular facility or facilities. [1987 c 289 § 1.]

**53.40.130 Funding, refunding bonds.** (1) The port commission of any port district may by resolution, from time to time, provide for the issuance of funding or refunding revenue bonds to fund or refund any outstanding revenue warrants, bonds, and any premiums and interest due thereon at or before the maturity of such warrants or bonds, and may combine various outstanding revenue warrants and parts or all of various series and issues of outstanding revenue bonds and any matured coupons in the amount thereof to be funded or refunded.

The port commission shall create a special fund for the sole purpose of paying the principal of and interest on such funding or refunding revenue bonds, into which fund the commission shall obligate and bind the port district to set aside and pay any part or parts of, or all of, or a fixed proportion of, or a fixed amount of the gross revenue of the port district sufficient to pay such principal and interest as the same shall become due, and if deemed necessary to maintain adequate reserves therefor.

Such funding or refunding bonds shall be negotiable instruments within the provisions and intent of the negotiable instruments law of this state, and the tax revenue of the port district may not be used to pay, secure, or guarantee the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds. Such bonds may be in any form, including bearer bonds or registered bonds as provided in RCW 39.46.030.

The port district may exchange such funding or refunding bonds for the warrants, bonds, and any coupons being funded or refunded, or it may sell such funding or refunding bonds in the manner, at such rate or rates of interest and at such price as the port commission shall deem to be for the best interest of the district and its inhabitants, either at public or private sale.

The provisions of this chapter relating to the terms, conditions, covenants, issuance, and sale of revenue bonds shall be applicable to such funding or refunding bonds except as may be otherwise specifically provided in this section.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 § 140; 1970 ex.s. c 56 § 75; 1969 ex.s. c 232 § 39; 1959 c 183 § 7; 1949 c 122 § 8; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9711-7.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

**Validation—Saving—Severability—1969 ex.s. c 232:** See notes following RCW 39.52.020.

**53.40.135 Revenue warrants:** Port districts may also issue revenue warrants for the same purposes for which they may issue revenue bonds, and the provisions of this chapter relating to the terms, conditions, covenants, issuance, and sale of revenue bonds shall be applicable to such revenue warrants. [1959 c 183 § 8.]

**53.40.140 Construction of chapter.** This chapter shall be complete authority for the issuance of the bonds and warrants hereby authorized, and shall be liberally construed to accomplish its purposes. Any restrictions, limitations or regulations relative to the issuance of such bonds or warrants

contained in any other act shall not apply to the bonds or warrants issued under this chapter. Any act inconsistent herewith shall be deemed modified to conform with the provisions of this chapter for the purpose of this chapter only. [1949 c 122 § 10; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 9711-9.]

**53.40.150 Validation—1959 c 183.** Any sale of revenue bonds or warrants of port districts heretofore made, whether at public or private sale and whether at par or less than par as authorized herein, and any terms, conditions, and covenants of any revenue bonds or warrants of port districts heretofore issued, are hereby declared to be valid, legal, and binding in all respects: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That this section shall not be construed to exonerate any officer or agent of any such district from any liability for any acts which were committed fraudulently or in bad faith. [1959 c 183 § 9.]

### Chapter 53.44

#### FUNDING AND REFUNDING INDEBTEDNESS— 1947 ACT

##### Sections

- 53.44.010 Funding and refunding authorized.  
53.44.030 Maturities—Payment.

*Funding and refunding revenue bonds: RCW 53.40.130.*

*Public bonds, form, terms of sale, payment, etc.: Chapter 39.44 RCW.*

**53.44.010 Funding and refunding authorized.** The board of commissioners of any port district of the state may fund or refund any of the general bonded indebtedness and/or warrants of the district now or hereafter existing and accrued interest thereon, and may combine various series and/or issues of warrants and/or bonds into a single issue of funding or refunding bonds, by the issuance of general obligation funding or refunding bonds, when the board, by resolution, finds, determines, and declares that such proposed funding or refunding will inure to the benefit and credit of the district and will not result in an increase of the district's indebtedness or in an increase in the rate of interest borne by the indebtedness so funded or refunded. Such funding or refunding may be accomplished by the sale of said funding or refunding bonds or by their exchange for the bonds and/or warrants to be refunded. General obligation bonds of a port district which do not provide for prior redemption, may also be refunded with the consent of the holders thereof. Such bonds shall be issued in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1984 c 186 § 42; 1947 c 239 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5623-1.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

**53.44.030 Maturities—Payment.** Such funding or refunding bonds shall run for a period of not exceeding twenty years from date thereof. The board may apply to the payment of the funding or refunding bonds and to the prior redemption thereof any other moneys or funds belonging to the district which are legally available for such purpose. [1984 c 186 § 43; 1947 c 239 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 5623-3.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

### Chapter 53.46 CONSOLIDATION

##### Sections

- 53.46.005 Definitions.  
53.46.010 Consolidation authorized—Petition or resolution, contents.  
53.46.020 Special election—Conduct.  
53.46.030 Certification of election—Establishment as municipal corporation—Commissioners, terms.  
53.46.040 Prior obligations—Powers of consolidated district—Separation of funds.  
53.46.050 County commissioners may act if no active port commission.  
53.46.060 Dissolution of district which has no active commission—Authority of county commissioners.  
53.46.070 Title to property vests in consolidated district.  
53.46.080 District including area from two or more counties—Procedure to determine proportion of taxes.  
53.46.090 District including area from two or more counties—Levy and collection of taxes—Principal county treasurer, duties.  
53.46.100 General powers of consolidated district—Debt limitation.

**53.46.005 Definitions.** As used in this chapter the term "principal county auditor" and "principal county treasurer" shall be the county auditor or county treasurer in the county having the largest assessed valuation of the total of the proposed consolidated port district. [1965 c 102 § 1.]

**53.46.010 Consolidation authorized—Petition or resolution, contents.** Two or more port districts may be joined into one consolidated port district in the following manner: The port commissioners of each of the port districts proposed to be consolidated may, or on petition of ten percent of the qualified electors residing within each of the districts proposed to be consolidated based on the total vote cast in the last general election, shall, by joint resolution submit to the qualified electors of the port districts to be consolidated the proposition of consolidating such districts into one port district. Such resolution or petition in request thereof shall identify each port district to be consolidated, listing its assets and liabilities; state the name by which the port district resulting from the consolidation shall be known; legally describe each port commissioner district to be created within the port district resulting from the consolidation; state the terms and conditions, if any, under which the consolidation is proposed; and call a special election in the territory of the port districts to be consolidated, to determine whether such consolidation shall take place, and to fill the offices of the port commission of the port district resulting from the consolidation. The resolution or petition shall provide that the commission in the proposed district shall consist of three, five, or seven commissioners and that the number shall be approved by the voters at the time the proposition for consolidation is voted upon. The proposition in this respect shall provide that the commissioners shall be elected one each from commissioner districts which shall be described as set forth in this section, or if such districts are not so described then the commissioners shall be elected at large. [1965 c 102 § 2; 1961 c 26 § 1.]

**53.46.020 Special election—Conduct.** The special election to consider such consolidation and to fill such offices shall be conducted in accordance with the general

election laws of the state. [1990 c 259 § 20; 1965 c 102 § 3; 1961 c 26 § 2.]

**53.46.030 Certification of election—Establishment as municipal corporation—Commissioners, terms.** The county canvassing board of election returns shall certify the results of the election to the board of county commissioners; and if at such election a majority of voters voting on the question of consolidation in each port district to be consolidated shall vote in favor of consolidation, the board of county commissioners shall so declare, and the port district resulting from the consolidation shall then be and become a municipal corporation of the state of Washington. The county auditor shall in such event issue a certificate of election to the successful candidate from each port commissioner district. If the proposed district includes area in two or more counties, certificates of election shall be issued by the principal county auditor, and the canvassing board of elections shall be made up of the chairmen of the board of county commissioners, prosecutors, and the auditors of each county with area within the consolidated port district. Of the successful port commissioner candidates, if three are elected, the one receiving the highest number of votes shall serve until his successor is elected and qualified at the third subsequent regular election for port commissioner, and the ones receiving the second and third highest numbers of votes shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified at the second and first subsequent regular elections for port commissioner, respectively. If five or seven commissioners are elected, the two with the greatest number of votes shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified at the third subsequent regular election of port commissioners, the two commissioners receiving the next highest number of votes shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified at the second subsequent regular election of port commissioners; and the remaining commissioner or commissioners shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified at the next regular election of port commissioners. [1965 c 102 § 4; 1961 c 26 § 3.]

**53.46.040 Prior obligations—Powers of consolidated district—Separation of funds.** None of the obligations of each port district which has been consolidated shall be affected by the consolidation, and taxes and assessments for payment of such obligations shall continue to be levied and collected in respect to property in such former port district notwithstanding the consolidation. The port commission of the port district resulting from the consolidation shall have all the powers possessed at the time of the consolidation by the port commission of each port district which has been consolidated, to levy or collect taxes or assessments in respect to property in such former port district, for payment of such obligations. While any such obligations remain outstanding, funds subject to such obligations shall be kept separate. [1961 c 26 § 4.]

**53.46.050 County commissioners may act if no active port commission.** In the event a port district does not have an active port commission to which the petition for consolidation may be directed, the board of county commissioners of the county wherein such inactive port district is

located may act in the place and stead of the port commission for the purposes of consolidation. [1961 c 26 § 5.]

**53.46.060 Dissolution of district which has no active commission—Authority of county commissioners.** For the purpose of dissolution of any port district not having an active port commission the board of county commissioners of the county wherein such inactive port district is located may exercise the powers and duties vested by chapter 53.48 RCW in the governing body of such port district. [1961 c 26 § 6.]

**53.46.070 Title to property vests in consolidated district.** Upon consolidation of two or more port districts the title to all property owned by or held in trust for the former districts shall vest in the consolidated port district. [1965 c 102 § 5.]

**53.46.080 District including area from two or more counties—Procedure to determine proportion of taxes.** If the district includes area from two or more counties, it shall be the duty of the county assessor in each county to certify annually to the auditor of his county, who shall forward the same to the principal county auditor, the total assessed valuation of that part of the port district which lies within his county. The port commission of such consolidated port district shall certify to the principal county auditor the budget and the levies to be assessed for port purposes: PROVIDED, That the amount of tax to be levied upon taxable property of that part of a port district lying in one county shall be in such ratio to the whole amount levied upon the property lying in the entire consolidated port district as the assessed valuation lying in such county bears to the assessed valuation of the property in the entire consolidated port district.

Thereafter the principal county auditor shall forward a certificate to each county auditor, for the county commissioners thereof, which shall specify the proportion of taxes to be levied for port district purposes. [1965 c 102 § 6.]

**53.46.090 District including area from two or more counties—Levy and collection of taxes—Principal county treasurer, duties.** Upon receipt of the certificate from the principal county auditor as provided in RCW 53.46.080 it shall be the duty of the board of county commissioners of each county to levy on all taxable property of the consolidated port district which lies within the county a tax sufficient to raise the amount necessary to meet the county's proportionate share of the total tax levy. Such taxes shall be levied and collected in the same manner as other taxes are levied and collected. The proceeds shall be forwarded quarterly by the treasurer of each county to the principal county treasurer. The principal county treasurer shall place to the credit of said consolidated port district all funds received from the other county treasurers as well as those amounts he shall have collected for the account of the port district. The principal county treasurer shall be the treasurer of the consolidated port district and shall perform all functions required of a treasurer of a port district. [1965 c 102 § 7.]

**53.46.100 General powers of consolidated district—Debt limitation.** Any port district created by consolidation prior to June 10, 1965, or formed hereafter under \*this amendatory act, shall have all the powers of a newly formed port district, without any other restriction except the requirements of RCW 53.46.040: PROVIDED, That general obligation indebtedness outstanding for all port purposes within the area of the consolidated port shall not exceed the limits of RCW 53.36.030, and for purpose of computing such bonded debt, the bonds outstanding of all port agencies shall be considered. [1965 c 102 § 8.]

**\*Reviser's note:** This amendatory act [1965 c 102] consisted of amendments to RCW 53.46.010, 53.46.020, and 53.46.030 and the enactment of RCW 53.46.005, 53.46.070, 53.46.080, 53.46.090, and 53.46.100.

## Chapter 53.47

### DISSOLUTION OF INACTIVE PORT DISTRICTS

#### Sections

- 53.47.010 Purpose.
- 53.47.020 Port district deemed inactive, when.
- 53.47.030 Petition for dissolution—Filing—Contents.
- 53.47.040 Hearing on petition—Notice, publication—Creditor claims, determination—Terms and conditions of court order if district to be dissolved.
- 53.47.050 Effect of final order of dissolution.
- 53.47.900 Chapter cumulative and nonexclusive.

*Dissolution of inactive special purpose districts: Chapter 36.96 RCW.*

**53.47.010 Purpose.** This chapter shall provide an additional method by which inactive port districts may be dissolved. [1971 ex.s. c 162 § 1.]

**53.47.020 Port district deemed inactive, when.** A port district shall be deemed inactive if, at the time of the filing of the petition for dissolution with the clerk of the superior court of the county in which such port district is situated, such port has failed to comply with subdivision (1), (2), or (3) of this section.

(1) The port district has failed to file its budget with the board of county commissioners or, in the case of home rule charters, the appropriate governing body for the two fiscal years immediately preceding the date of filing such petition, and the port district, having been in existence for two years or more, has failed to adopt its comprehensive plan of harbor improvement and/or industrial development as provided by statute, and does not presently own or has not leased within two years prior to the filing of such petition, real property for use for port purposes.

(2) The port district does not presently own or has not leased or owned real property for use for port purposes within the four calendar years prior to the filing of such petition.

(3) The port district has not filed its budget with the board of county commissioners or, in the case of home rule charters, the appropriate governing body for the two fiscal years immediately preceding the filing of said petition has not adopted its comprehensive plan of harbor improvement and/or industrial development as provided by statute, and has not met with a legal quorum at least twice in the last two

calendar years prior to the filing of such petition. [1971 ex.s. c 162 § 2.]

*Harbor improvement plan: RCW 53.20.010.*

**53.47.030 Petition for dissolution—Filing—Contents.** The county prosecutor of the county in which such port district is located acting upon his own motion shall file such petition for dissolution with the clerk of the superior court of the county in which such inactive port district is located. Such petition shall:

(1) Describe with certainty the port district which is declared to be inactive and which is sought to be dissolved;

(2) Allege with particularity that the port district sought to be dissolved is inactive within the purview of any of the several particulars set forth in RCW 53.47.020; and

(3) Request that the court find the port district inactive and declare it dissolved upon such terms and conditions as the court may impose and declare. [1971 ex.s. c 162 § 3.]

**53.47.040 Hearing on petition—Notice, publication—Creditor claims, determination—Terms and conditions of court order if district to be dissolved.** The superior court, upon the filing of such petition, shall set such petition for hearing not less than one hundred twenty days and not more than one hundred eighty days after the date of filing said petition. Further, the court shall order the clerk of said court to give notice of the time and place fixed for the hearing by publication of notice in a newspaper of general circulation within such district, such publication to be once each week for three consecutive weeks, the date of first publication to be not less than thirty nor more than seventy days prior to the date fixed for the hearing upon such petition. Said notice shall further provide that all creditors of said district, including holders of revenue or general obligation bonds issued by said district, if any, shall present their claims to the clerk of said court within ninety days from the date of first publication of said notice, and that upon failure to do so all such claims will be forever barred. The clerk shall also mail a copy by ordinary mail of such notice to all creditors of said district, including holders of revenue or general obligation bonds issued by said district, if any, such mailing to be mailed not later than thirty days after the hearing date has been set. No other or further notices shall be required at any stage of the proceedings for dissolution of an inactive port district pursuant to this chapter.

The clerk, ten days prior to the date set for the hearing, shall deliver to the court the following:

(1) A list of the liabilities of the port district in detail with the names and addresses of creditors as then known; and

(2) A list of the assets of the port district in detail as then known.

The court upon hearing the petition shall fix and determine all such claims subject to proof being properly filed as provided in this section; shall fix and determine the financial condition of the district as to its assets and liabilities, and if it finds the port district to be inactive in respect of any standard of inactivity set forth by this chapter, shall order the port district to be dissolved upon the following terms and conditions:



(1) If there be no outstanding debts, or if the debts be less than the existing assets, the court shall appoint the auditor of the county in which the port district is located to be trustee of the port's assets and shall empower such person to wind up and liquidate the affairs of such district in such manner as the court shall provide and to file his accounting with the court within ninety days from the date of his appointment. Upon the filing of such account, the court shall fix a date for hearing upon the same and upon approval thereof, if such accounting be the final accounting, shall enter its order approving the same and declaring the port district dissolved.

At the request of the trustee the county sheriff may sell, at public auction, all real and personal property of the port district. The county sheriff shall cause a notice of such sale fixing the time and place thereof which shall be at a suitable place, which will be noted in the advertisement for sale. Such notice shall contain a description of the property to be sold and shall be signed by the sheriff or his deputy. Such notice shall be published at least once in an official newspaper in said county at least ten days prior to the date fixed for said sale. The sheriff or his deputy shall conduct said sale and sell the property described in the notice at public auction to the highest and best bidder for cash, and upon payment of the amount of such bid shall deliver the said property to such bidder. The moneys arising from such sale shall be turned over to the county auditor acting as trustee: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That the sheriff shall first deduct the costs and expenses of the sale from the moneys and shall apply such moneys to pay said costs and expenses.

The court order shall provide that the assets remaining in the hands of the trustee shall be transferred to any school district, districts, or portions of districts, lying within the dissolved port district boundaries. The transfer of assets shall be prorated to the districts based on the assessed valuation of said districts.

(2) If the debts exceed the assets of the port district, then the court shall appoint the auditor of the county in which a port district is located to be trustee of the port's assets for the purpose of conserving the same and of paying liability of the port district as funds become available therefor. The trustee shall be empowered to generally manage, wind up, and liquidate the affairs of such district in such manner as the court shall provide and to file his accounting with the court within ninety days from the date of his appointment and as often thereafter as the court shall provide. The board of county commissioners, acting as pro tempore port district commissioners under the authority of RCW 53.36.020 shall levy an annual tax not exceeding forty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value or such lesser amount as may previously have been voted by the taxpayers within said district, together with an amount deemed necessary for payment of the costs and expenses attendant upon the dissolution of said district, upon all the taxable property within said district, the amount of such levy to be determined from time to time by the court. When, as shown by the final accounting of the trustee, all of the indebtedness of the district shall have been satisfied, the cost and expense of the proceeding paid or provided for, and the affairs of the district wound up, the court shall declare the district dissolved: PROVIDED, That if the indebtedness be composed in whole or in part of bonded debt for which a

regular program of retirement has been provided, then the board of county commissioners shall be directed by the court to continue to make such annual levies as are required for the purpose of debt service upon said bonded debt. [1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 59; 1971 ex.s. c 162 § 4.]

**Severability—Effective dates and termination dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

**53.47.050 Effect of final order of dissolution.** Upon the entry of the final order of dissolution declaring the port district dissolved all offices of the port district shall be deemed abolished, and no other or further levy shall be certified by the county commissioners except pursuant to the directive of the court as hereinabove provided. [1971 ex.s. c 162 § 5.]

**53.47.900 Chapter cumulative and nonexclusive.** The provisions of this chapter shall be cumulative and nonexclusive and shall not affect any other remedy. [1971 ex.s. c 162 § 6.]

## Chapter 53.48

### DISSOLUTION OF PORT AND OTHER DISTRICTS

#### Sections

53.48.001	Dissolution of certain districts subject to review by boundary review board.
53.48.010	Definitions.
53.48.020	Petition.
53.48.030	Order for hearing—Notice.
53.48.040	Order of dissolution—Sale of assets.
53.48.050	Payment of debts and costs—Balance to school district.
53.48.060	Insolvency—Second hearing.
53.48.070	Notice of second hearing.
53.48.080	Sale of property—Levy to pay deficit.
53.48.090	Order of dissolution or refusal.
53.48.120	Provision for costs and expenses.
53.48.140	Dissolution of district which has no active commission—Powers of county commissioners.

#### Dissolution of

*air pollution control authorities:* RCW 70.94.260.

*cemetery districts:* RCW 68.52.320.

*depopulated school districts:* RCW 28A.315.320.

*fire protection districts, election method:* RCW 52.10.010.

*flood control districts:* 1937 act—RCW 86.09.622, 86.09.625.

*inactive special purpose districts:* Chapter 36.96 RCW.

*irrigation districts:* Chapters 87.52, 87.53, 87.56 RCW.

*metropolitan park districts:* RCW 35.61.310.

*soil conservation districts:* RCW 89.08.350 through 89.08.380.

*water-sewer districts, election method:* RCW 57.04.090, 57.04.100, and chapter 53.48 RCW.

**53.48.001 Dissolution of certain districts subject to review by boundary review board.** The dissolution of a metropolitan park district, fire protection district, sewer district, water district, or flood control zone district under chapter 53.48 RCW may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1989 c 84 § 46.]

**53.48.010 Definitions.** The following words and terms shall, whenever used in this chapter, have the meaning set forth in this section:

(1) The term "district" as used herein, shall include all municipal and quasi municipal corporations having a

governing body, other than cities, towns, counties, and townships, such as port, school, water, fire protection, and all other districts of similar organization, but shall not include local improvement districts, diking, drainage and irrigation districts, special districts as defined in RCW 85.38.010, nor public utility districts.

(2) The words "board of commissioners," as used herein, shall mean the governing authority of any district as defined in subdivision (1) of this section. [1986 c 278 § 17; 1979 ex.s. c 30 § 10; 1941 c 87 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 8931-11.]

**Severability—1986 c 278:** See note following RCW 36.01.010.

**Purpose—1941 c 87:** "This act is intended to authorize the dissolution of all types of municipal corporations having governing bodies, other than those excepted from the application of this act, in cases where the occasion or reason for continued existence of such corporation has ceased, or where the best interests of all persons concerned would be served by such dissolution, and shall be liberally construed to effect such intent." [1941 c 87 § 12.]

**Severability—1941 c 87:** "If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable." [1941 c 87 § 11.]

**53.48.020 Petition.** For the purpose of dissolution of a district, a petition for an order of dissolution signed by the majority of the board of commissioners, or other governing authority of such district shall be presented to the superior court of the county in which the board of commissioners is situated. [1941 c 87 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 8931-12.]

**53.48.030 Order for hearing—Notice.** Upon the filing of such petition for an order of dissolution, the superior court shall enter an order setting the same for hearing at a date not less than thirty days from the date of filing, and the clerk of the court of said county shall give notice of such hearing by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the district is located once a week for three successive weeks, and by posting in three public places in the county in which the district is located at least twenty-one days before said hearing. At least one notice shall be posted in the district. The notices shall set forth the filing of the petition, its purpose and the date and place of the hearing thereon. [1941 c 87 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 8931-13.]

**53.48.040 Order of dissolution—Sale of assets.** After said hearing the court shall enter its order dissolving or refusing to dissolve said district. A finding that the best interests of all persons concerned will be served by the proposed dissolution shall be essential to an order of dissolution. If the court find that such district is solvent, the court shall order the sale of such assets, other than cash, by the sheriff of the county in which the board is situated, in the manner provided by law for the sale of property on execution. [1941 c 87 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 8931-14.]

*Execution: Chapter 6.17 RCW.*

**53.48.050 Payment of debts and costs—Balance to school district.** The proceeds of the sale, together with moneys on hand in the treasury of the district, shall after

payment of all costs and expenses, be paid to the treasurer of the same county and placed to the credit of the school district, or districts, in which such district is situated. [1941 c 87 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 8931-15.]

*Port districts in counties with populations of from eight thousand to less than twelve thousand—Disposition of funds: Chapter 53.49 RCW.*

**53.48.060 Insolvency—Second hearing.** Upon a finding of insolvency the court shall then determine the indebtedness of the district, the creditors thereof and their claims. The court shall then set a date and a place for a second hearing, which hearing shall be not less than sixty days nor more than one hundred twenty days from the hearing as provided in RCW 53.48.030.

The purpose of such hearing shall be to determine ways and means of retiring the established indebtedness of the district and paying all costs and expenses of proceedings hereunder. Such ways and means may include the levy of assessments against the property in the district as provided in RCW 53.48.080. [1941 c 87 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 8931-16.]

**53.48.070 Notice of second hearing.** The clerk shall give notice of the second hearing by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the district is located once a week for three successive weeks, and by posting in three public places in the county in which the district is located at least twenty-one days before the hearing, and shall give such other notice to creditors and other interested parties as the court may deem necessary or advisable. At least one notice shall be posted in the district. The notices shall set forth the filing of the petition, its purpose, the finding of the court on the petition, the date and place of the second hearing and the purpose of the hearing as stated in RCW 53.48.060. [1941 c 87 § 7; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 8931-17.]

**53.48.080 Sale of property—Levy to pay deficit.** At the second hearing the court shall have authority to order the sale of any district property. If the proceeds of such sale together with any cash remaining on hand to the credit of the district are insufficient to retire such indebtedness together with all costs and expenses, the court shall have authority to order the board of commissioners to levy assessments in the manner provided by law against the property in the district in amounts sufficient to retire said indebtedness and pay the costs and expenses. At such hearing any property owner within the district may appear and be heard for or against such levy. [1941 c 87 § 8; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 8931-18.]

**53.48.090 Order of dissolution or refusal.** After the indebtedness of the district has been settled or paid, the court shall determine whether the best interests of all persons concerned will be served by the proposed dissolution and shall make a finding thereon. The court shall then enter its order dissolving or refusing to dissolve said district. [1941 c 87 § 9; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 8931-19.]

**53.48.120 Provision for costs and expenses.** In all proceedings brought under this chapter the court shall make provision for the costs and expenses of proceedings hereun-

der and for the payment of the same. [1941 c 87 § 10; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 8931-20.]

**53.48.140 Dissolution of district which has no active commission—Powers of county commissioners.** See RCW 53.46.060.

### Chapter 53.49

#### DISPOSITION OF FUNDS ON DISSOLUTION OF CERTAIN DISTRICTS

##### Sections

- 53.49.010 Port districts in counties with populations of from eight thousand to less than twelve thousand—Disposition of funds.
- 53.49.020 Port districts in counties with populations of from eight thousand to less than twelve thousand—Order to transfer funds.

**53.49.010 Port districts in counties with populations of from eight thousand to less than twelve thousand—Disposition of funds.** Whenever any port district located in any county with a population of from eight thousand to less than twelve thousand shall be dissolved and disestablished or is about to be dissolved and disestablished and any sums of money remain in any of its funds, the port commissioners are authorized and directed to apply by petition, which may be filed without fee, to the superior court of such county for an order authorizing the transfer of such funds to the school district fund or if there be more than one such district, the school district funds of all districts, which are located within the boundaries of such port district. [1991 c 363 § 134; 1943 c 282 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 9718-10. Formerly RCW 53.48.100.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**53.49.020 Port districts in counties with populations of from eight thousand to less than twelve thousand—Order to transfer funds.** The superior court of any such county shall enter his order authorizing such transfer of funds if he is satisfied, after hearing the petition therefor, that the port district is dissolved and disestablished or is about to be dissolved and disestablished and that no obligations of the port district remain unpaid. The court shall equitably divide such sums of money between school districts if there be more than one district involved. [1943 c 282 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 9718-11. Formerly RCW 53.48.110.]

### Chapter 53.54

#### AIRCRAFT NOISE ABATEMENT

##### Sections

- 53.54.010 Programs for abatement of aircraft noise authorized.
- 53.54.020 Investigation and monitoring of noise impact—Programs to conform to needs—"Impacted areas."
- 53.54.030 Authorized programs—When property deemed within impacted area.
- 53.54.040 Fund authorized—Sources.
- 53.54.900 Liberal construction—Powers additional.
- 53.54.910 Severability—1974 ex.s. c 121.

**53.54.010 Programs for abatement of aircraft noise authorized.** A port district operating an airport serving more than twenty scheduled jet aircraft flights per day may undertake any of the programs or combinations of such programs, as authorized by this chapter, for the purpose of alleviating and abating the impact of jet aircraft noise on areas surrounding such airport. [1974 ex.s. c 121 § 1.]

**53.54.020 Investigation and monitoring of noise impact—Programs to conform to needs—"Impacted areas."** Prior to initiating programs as authorized in this chapter, the port commission shall undertake the investigation and monitoring of aircraft noise impact to determine the nature and extent of the impact. The port commission shall adopt a program of noise impact abatement based upon the investigations and as amended periodically to conform to needs demonstrated by the monitoring programs: PROVIDED, That in no case may the port district undertake any of the programs of this chapter in an area which is more than six miles beyond the paved end of any runway or more than one mile from the centerline of any runway or from an imaginary runway centerline extending six miles from the paved end of such runway. Such areas as determined above, shall be known as "impacted areas". [1984 c 193 § 1; 1979 c 85 § 1; 1974 ex.s. c 121 § 2.]

**53.54.030 Authorized programs—When property deemed within impacted area.** For the purposes of this chapter, in developing a remedial program, the port commission may utilize one or more of the following programs:

(1) Acquisition of property or property rights within the impacted area, which shall be deemed necessary to accomplish a port purpose. The port district may purchase such property or property rights by time payment notwithstanding the time limitations provided for in RCW 53.08.010. The port district may mortgage or otherwise pledge any such properties acquired to secure such transactions. The port district may assume any outstanding mortgages.

(2) Transaction assistance programs, including assistance with real estate fees and mortgage assistance, and other neighborhood remedial programs as compensation for impacts due to aircraft noise and noise associated conditions. Any such programs shall be in connection with properties located within an impacted area and shall be provided upon terms and conditions as the port district shall determine appropriate.

(3) Programs of soundproofing structures located within an impacted area. Such programs may be executed without regard to the ownership, provided the owner waives damages and conveys an easement for the operation of aircraft, and for noise and noise associated conditions therewith, to the port district.

(4) Mortgage insurance of private owners of lands or improvements within such noise impacted area where such private owners are unable to obtain mortgage insurance solely because of noise impact. In this regard, the port district may establish reasonable regulations and may impose reasonable conditions and charges upon the granting of such mortgage insurance: PROVIDED, That such fees and charges shall at no time exceed fees established for federal mortgage insurance programs for like service.

(5) An individual property may be provided benefits by the port district under each of the programs described in subsections (1) through (4) of this section. However, an individual property may not be provided benefits under any one of these programs more than once, unless the property is subjected to increased aircraft noise or differing aircraft noise impacts that would have afforded different levels of mitigation, even if the property owner had waived all damages and conveyed a full and unrestricted easement.

(6) Management of all lands, easements, or development rights acquired, including but not limited to the following:

(a) Rental of any or all lands or structures acquired;

(b) Redevelopment of any such lands for any economic use consistent with airport operations, local zoning and the state environmental policy;

(c) Sale of such properties for cash or for time payment and subjection of such property to mortgage or other security transaction: PROVIDED, That any such sale shall reserve to the port district by covenant an unconditional right of easement for the operation of all aircraft and for all noise or noise conditions associated therewith.

(7) A property shall be considered within the impacted area if any part thereof is within the impacted area. [1993 c 150 § 1; 1985 c 115 § 1; 1974 ex.s. c 121 § 3.]

**53.54.040 Fund authorized—Sources.** A port district may establish a fund to be utilized in effectuating the intent of this chapter. The port district may finance such fund by: The proceeds of any grants or loans made by federal agencies; rentals, charges and other revenues as may be generated by programs authorized by this chapter, airport revenues; and revenue bonds based upon such revenues. The port district may also finance such fund, as necessary, in whole or in part, with the proceeds of general obligation bond issues of not more than one-eighth of one percent of the value of taxable property in the port district: PROVIDED, That any such bond issue shall be in addition to bonds authorized by RCW 53.36.030: PROVIDED FURTHER, That any such general obligation bond issue may be subject to referendum by petition as provided by county charter, the same as if it were a county ordinance. [1974 ex.s. c 121 § 4.]

**53.54.900 Liberal construction—Powers additional.** The rule of strict construction shall have no application to this chapter, which shall be liberally construed to carry out the purposes and objects for which this chapter is intended. The powers granted in this chapter shall be in addition to all others granted to port districts. [1974 ex.s. c 121 § 5.]

**53.54.910 Severability—1974 ex.s. c 121.** If any provision of this 1974 act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected. [1974 ex.s. c 121 § 7.]

# Title 54

## PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICTS

### Chapters

- 54.04 General provisions.**
- 54.08 Formation—Dissolution—Elections.**
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*Acquisition of electrical distribution property from public utility district by cities and towns: RCW 35.92.054.*

*Conversion of overhead electric utility to underground: Chapter 35.96 RCW, RCW 36.88.410 through 36.88.485.*

*Conveyance of real property by public bodies—Recording: RCW 65.08.095.*

*Credit card use by local governments: RCW 43.09.2855.*

*Electric energy, falling waters—Sale or purchase authorized: RCW 43.52.410.*

*Generation of electricity by steam: Chapter 43.21 RCW.*

*Hospitalization and medical aid for public employees and dependents—Premiums, governmental contributions authorized: RCW 41.04.180, 41.04.190.*

*Joint operating agencies: Chapter 43.52 RCW.*

*Local governmental organizations, actions affecting boundaries, etc., review by boundary review board: Chapter 36.93 RCW.*

*Municipal corporation may authorize investment of funds which are in custody of county treasurer or other municipal corporation treasurer: RCW 36.29.020.*

*Municipal utilities: Chapter 35.92 RCW.*

*Public bodies may retain collection agencies to collect public debts: RCW 19.16.500.*

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### Chapter 54.04

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### Sections

- 54.04.010 Definitions.
- 54.04.020 Districts authorized.
- 54.04.030 Restrictions on invading other municipalities.
- 54.04.035 Annexation of territory.
- 54.04.037 Annexation of territory—Coordination among county officials.
- 54.04.040 Utilities within a city or town—Restrictions.
- 54.04.045 Locally regulated utilities—Attachments to poles.
- 54.04.050 Group employee insurance—Annuities—Retirement income policies.

- 54.04.055 Employee benefits—District may continue to pay premiums after employee retires.
- 54.04.060 District elections.
- 54.04.070 Contracts for work or materials—Notice—Emergency purchases.
- 54.04.080 Bids—Deposit—Low bidder claiming error—Contract—Bond—Definitions.
- 54.04.082 Alternative bid procedure.
- 54.04.085 Electrical facility construction or improvement—Bid proposals—Contract proposal forms—Conditions for issuance—Appeals.
- 54.04.090 Minimum wages.
- 54.04.092 Application of RCW 54.04.070 through 54.04.090 to certain service provider agreements under chapter 70.150 RCW.
- 54.04.100 Wholesale power—Procedure as to rate filing—Definition—Duty to furnish to district.
- 54.04.120 Planning powers.
- 54.04.130 Employee benefit plans when private utility acquired—Rights, powers and duties as to existing private employee benefit plans.
- 54.04.140 Employee benefit plans when private utility acquired—Admission to district's employee plan—Service credit—Contributions—Benefits.
- 54.04.150 Employee benefit plans when private utility acquired—Agreements and contracts—Prior rights preserved.
- 54.04.160 Assumption of obligations of private pension plan when urban transportation system acquired.
- 54.04.170 Collective bargaining authorized for employees.
- 54.04.180 Collective bargaining authorized for districts.

*Lien for labor and materials on public works: Chapter 60.28 RCW.*

*Local governmental organizations, actions affecting boundaries, etc., review by boundary review board: Chapter 36.93 RCW.*

*Traffic control at work sites: RCW 47.36.200 through 47.36.230.*

*Utility poles, unlawful to attach object to: RCW 70.54.090 and 70.54.100.*

**54.04.010 Definitions.** As used in this title "revenue obligation" or "revenue obligations" mean and include bonds, notes, warrants, certificates of indebtedness, or any other evidences of indebtedness issued by a district which, by the terms thereof, shall be payable from the revenues of its public utilities. [1959 c 218 § 14.]

"Wholesale power" defined: RCW 54.04.100.

**54.04.020 Districts authorized.** Municipal corporations, to be known as public utility districts, are hereby authorized for the purposes of \*this act and may be established within the limits of the state of Washington, as provided herein. [1931 c 1 § 2; RRS § 11606.]

**\*Reviser's note:** This act [1931 c 1] is codified as RCW 54.04.020, 54.04.030, 54.04.060, 54.04.070, 54.04.080, 54.04.090, 54.08.010, 54.12.010, 54.12.080, 54.12.090, 54.16.010 through 54.16.090, 54.16.100 through 54.16.160, 54.16.170, 54.16.180, 54.16.190, 54.24.010, 54.24.018, and 54.32.010.

**Purpose—1931 c 1:** "The purpose of this act is to authorize the establishment of public utility districts to conserve the water and power resources of the State of Washington for the benefit of the people thereof, and to supply public utility service, including water and electricity for all uses." [1931 c 1 § 1.]

**Severability—Construction—1931 c 1:** "Adjudication of invalidity of any section, clause or part of a section of this act shall not impair or otherwise affect the validity of the act as a whole or any other part thereof.

The rule of strict construction shall have no application to this act, but the same shall be liberally construed, in order to carry out the purposes and objects for which this act is intended.

When this act comes in conflict with any provision, limitation or restriction in any other law, this act shall govern and control." [1931 c 1 § 11.]

**54.04.030 Restrictions on invading other municipalities.** \*This act shall not be deemed or construed to repeal or affect any existing act, or any part thereof, relating to the construction, operation and maintenance of public utilities by irrigation or water districts or other municipal corporations, but shall be supplemental thereto and concurrent therewith. No public utility district created hereunder shall include therein any municipal corporation, or any part thereof, where such municipal corporation already owns or operates all the utilities herein authorized: PROVIDED, that in case it does not own or operate all such utilities it may be included within such public utility district for the purpose of establishing or operating therein such utilities as it does not own or operate: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That no property situated within any irrigation or water districts or other municipal corporations shall ever be taxed or assessed to pay for any utility, or part thereof, of like character to any utility, owned or operated by such irrigation or water districts or other municipal corporations. [1931 c 1 § 12; RRS § 11616.]

\*Reviser's note: "This act," see note following RCW 54.04.020.

*Irrigation districts: Title 87 RCW.*

*Municipal utilities: RCW 80.04.500, 81.04.490 and chapter 35.92 RCW.*

*Water-sewer districts: Title 57 RCW.*

**54.04.035 Annexation of territory.** In addition to other powers authorized in Title 54 RCW, public utility districts may annex territory as provided in this section.

The boundaries of a public utility district may be enlarged and new contiguous territory added pursuant to the procedures for annexation by cities and towns provided in RCW 35.13.015 through 35.13.110. The provisions of these sections concerning community municipal corporations, review boards, and comprehensive plans, however, do not apply to public utility district annexations. For purposes of conforming with such procedures, the public utility district is deemed to be the city or town and the board of commissioners is deemed to be the city or town legislative body.

Annexation procedures provided in this section may only be used to annex territory that is both: (1) Contiguous to the annexing public utility district; and (2) located within the service area of the annexing public utility district. As used in this section, a public utility district's "service area" means those areas whether located within or outside of the annexing public utility district's boundaries that were generally served with electrical energy by the annexing public utility district on January 1, 1987. Such service area may, or may not, have been recognized in an agreement made under chapter 54.48 RCW, but no area may be included within such service area that was generally served with electrical energy on January 1, 1987, by another public utility as defined in RCW 54.48.010. An area proposed to be annexed may be located in the same or a different county as the annexing public utility district.

If an area proposed to be annexed is located within the boundaries of another public utility district, annexation may be initiated only upon petition of registered voters residing in the area in accordance with RCW 35.13.020 and adoption by the boards of commissioners of both districts of identical resolutions stating (a) the boundaries of the area to be annexed, (b) a determination that annexation is in the public interest of the residents of the area to be annexed as well as the public interest of their respective districts, (c) approval of annexation by the board, (d) the boundaries of the districts after annexation, (e) the disposition of any assets of the districts in the area to be annexed, (f) the obligations to be assumed by the annexing district, (g) apportionment of election costs, and (h) that voters in the area to be annexed will be advised of lawsuits that may impose liability on the annexed territory and the possible impact of annexation on taxes and utility rates.

If annexation is approved, the area annexed shall cease to be a part of the one public utility district at the same time that it becomes a part of the other district. The annexing public utility district shall assume responsibility for providing the area annexed with the services provided by the other public utility district in the area annexed. [1987 c 292 § 2; 1983 c 101 § 1.]

*Consolidation and annexation: Chapter 54.32 RCW.*

**54.04.037 Annexation of territory—Coordination among county officials.** When territory has been added to a public utility district in accordance with RCW 54.04.035, the supervisor of elections and other officers of the county in which the public utility district first operated shall coordinate elections, the levy and collection of taxes, and other necessary duties with the appropriate county officials of the other county. [1987 c 292 § 3.]

**54.04.040 Utilities within a city or town—Restrictions.** A district shall not construct any property to be utilized by it in the operation of a plant or system for the generation, transmission, or distribution of electric energy for sale, on the streets, alleys, or public places within a city or town without the consent of the governing body of the city or town and approval of the plan and location of the construction, which shall be made under such reasonable terms as the city or town may impose. All such properties shall be maintained and operated subject to such regulations as the city or town may prescribe under its police power. [1957 c 278 § 9. Prior: (i) 1941 c 245 § 3a; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11616-4. (ii) 1941 c 245 § 1, part; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11616-1.]

**54.04.045 Locally regulated utilities—Attachments to poles.** (1) As used in this section:

(a) "Attachment" means the affixation or installation of any wire, cable or other physical material capable of carrying electronic impulses or light waves for the carrying of intelligence for telecommunications or television, including, but not limited to cable, and any related device, apparatus, or auxiliary equipment upon any pole owned or controlled in whole or in part by one or more locally regulated utilities where the installation has been made with the necessary consent.

(b) "Locally regulated utility" means a public utility district not subject to rate or service regulation by the utilities and transportation commission.

(c) "Nondiscriminatory" means that pole owners may not arbitrarily differentiate among or between similar classes of persons approved for attachments.

(2) All rates, terms, and conditions made, demanded or received by a locally regulated utility for attachments to its poles must be just, reasonable, nondiscriminatory and sufficient. A locally regulated utility shall levy attachment space rental rates that are uniform for the same class of service within the locally regulated utility service area.

(3) Nothing in this section shall be construed or is intended to confer upon the utilities and transportation commission any authority to exercise jurisdiction over locally regulated utilities. [1996 c 32 § 5.]

**54.04.050 Group employee insurance—Annuities—Retirement income policies.** (1) Subject to chapter 48.62 RCW, any public utility district engaged in the operation of electric or water utilities may enter into contracts of group insurance for the benefit of its employees, and pay all or any part of the premiums for such insurance. Such premiums shall be paid out of the revenues derived from the operation of such properties: PROVIDED, That if the premium is to be paid by the district and employees jointly, and the benefits of the policy are offered to all eligible employees, not less than seventy-five percent of such employees may be so insured.

(2) A public utility district whose employees or officials are not members of the state retirement system engaged in the operation of electric or water utilities may contract for individual annuity contracts, retirement income policies or group annuity contracts, including prior service, to provide a retirement plan, or any one or more of them, and pay all or any part of the premiums therefor out of the revenue derived from the operation of its properties. [1991 sp.s. c 30 § 23; 1984 c 15 § 1; 1959 c 233 § 1; 1941 c 245 § 8; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11616-6.]

**Effective date, implementation, application—Severability—1991 sp.s. c 30:** See RCW 48.62.900 and 48.62.901.

**Severability—1941 c 245:** "If any section or provision of this act shall be adjudged to be invalid, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the act as a whole or any section, provision or part thereof not adjudged to be invalid." [1941 c 245 § 11.]

*Group insurance: Chapters 48.21 and 48.24 RCW.*

*Hospitalization and medical insurance authorized: RCW 41.04.180.*

**54.04.055 Employee benefits—District may continue to pay premiums after employee retires.** Any public utility district which provides for the coverage of any of its employees under any plan for individual annuity contracts, retirement income policies, group annuity contracts, group insurance for the benefit of its employees, or any other contract for the benefit of its employees, and pays all or any part of the premiums or other payments required therefor, is hereby authorized to continue to make such payments for such employees after their retirement from employment. Such payments agreed to by the public utility district shall be considered as deferred compensation. Such payments shall not be retroactive but shall only be available for those employees employed on or after August 6, 1965 provided

that such payments for retired employees shall not exceed those being paid for regular employees. [1965 ex.s. c 149 § 1.]

**54.04.060 District elections.** The supervisor of elections or other proper officer of the county shall give notice of all elections held under this title, for the time and in the manner and form provided for city, town, school district, and port district elections. When the supervisor or other officer deems an emergency exists, and is requested so to do by a resolution of the district commission, he may call a special election at any time in the district, and he may combine or divide precincts for the purpose of holding special elections, and special elections shall be conducted and notice thereof given in the manner provided by law.

The supervisor or other officer shall provide polling places, appoint the election officers, provide their compensation, provide ballot boxes, and ballots or voting machines, poll books and tally sheets, and deliver them to the election officers at the polling places, publish and post notices of the elections in the manner provided by law, and apportion to the district its share of the expense of the election.

The manner of conducting and voting at the elections, opening and closing of polls, keeping of poll lists, canvassing the votes, declaring the result, and certifying the returns, shall be the same as for the election of state and county officers, except as otherwise provided herein.

The district commission shall certify to the supervisor a list of offices to be filled at a district election and the commission, if it desires to submit to the voters of the district a proposition, shall require the secretary of the commission to certify it at the time and in the manner and form provided for certifying propositions by the governing board of cities, towns, and port districts. [1951 c 207 § 1; 1941 c 245 § 5; 1931 c 1 § 5; RRS § 11609.]

*Certification of measures: RCW 29.27.060.*

*Notice of election: RCW 29.27.080.*

**54.04.070 Contracts for work or materials—Notice—Emergency purchases.** Any item, or items of the same kind of materials, equipment, or supplies purchased, the estimated cost of which is in excess of five thousand dollars, exclusive of sales tax shall be by contract: PROVIDED, That a district may make purchases of the same kind of items of materials, equipment and supplies not exceeding five thousand dollars in any calendar month without a contract, purchasing any excess thereof over five thousand dollars by contract. Any work ordered by a district commission, the estimated cost of which is in excess of ten thousand dollars exclusive of sales tax, shall be by contract, except that a district commission may have its own regularly employed personnel perform work which is an accepted industry practice under prudent utility management without a contract. Prudent utility management means performing work with regularly employed personnel utilizing material of a worth not exceeding fifty thousand dollars in value without a contract: PROVIDED, That such limit on the value of material being utilized in work being performed by regularly employed personnel shall not include the value of individual items of equipment purchased or acquired and used as one unit of a project. Before awarding such a contract, the com-

mission shall publish a notice once or more in a newspaper of general circulation in the district at least thirteen days before the last date upon which bids will be received, inviting sealed proposals for the work or materials; plans and specifications of which shall at the time of the publication be on file at the office of the district subject to public inspection. Any published notice ordering work to be performed for the district shall be mailed at the time of publication to any established trade association which files a written request with the district to receive such notices. The commission may at the same time and as part of the same notice, invite tenders for the work or materials upon plans and specifications to be submitted by the bidders.

Notwithstanding any other provisions herein, all contract projects, the estimated cost of which is less than one hundred thousand dollars, may be awarded to a contractor using the small works roster process provided in RCW 39.04.155. All contract projects equal to or in excess of one hundred thousand dollars shall be let by competitive bidding.

Whenever equipment or materials required by a district are held by a governmental agency and are available for sale but such agency is unwilling to submit a proposal, the commission may ascertain the price of such items and file a statement of such price supported by the sworn affidavit of one member of the commission and may consider such price as a bid without a deposit or bond. In the event of an emergency when the public interest or property of the district would suffer material injury or damage by delay, upon resolution of the commission, or proclamation of an official designated by the board to act for the board during such emergencies, declaring the existence of such emergency and reciting the facts constituting the same, the board, or the official acting for the board, may waive the requirements of this chapter with reference to any purchase or contract, after having taken precautions to secure the lowest price practicable under the circumstances.

After determination by the commission during a public meeting that a particular purchase is available clearly and legitimately only from a single source of supply, the bidding requirements of this section may be waived by the commission. [1993 c 198 § 14; 1990 c 251 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 220 § 4; 1955 c 124 § 2. Prior: 1951 c 207 § 2; 1931 c 1 § 8, part; RRS § 11612, part.]

*Contracts with state department of transportation: RCW 47.01.210.*

*Emergency public works: Chapter 39.28 RCW.*

*Prevailing wages on public works: Chapter 39.12 RCW.*

*Public purchase preferences: Chapter 39.24 RCW.*

**54.04.080 Bids—Deposit—Low bidder claiming error—Contract—Bond—Definitions.** Any notice inviting sealed bids shall state generally the work to be done, or the material to be purchased and shall call for proposals for furnishing it, to be sealed and filed with the commission on or before the time named therein. Each bid shall be accompanied by a certified or cashier's check, payable to the order of the commission, for a sum not less than five percent of the amount of the bid, or accompanied by a bid bond in an amount not less than five percent of the bid with a corporate surety licensed to do business in the state, conditioned that the bidder will pay the district as liquidated damages the amount specified in the bond unless he or she enters into a

contract in accordance with his or her bid and furnishes the performance bond within ten days from the date on which he or she is notified that he or she is the successful bidder. A low bidder who claims error and fails to enter into a contract is prohibited from bidding on the same project if a second or subsequent call for bids is made for the project.

At the time and place named, the bids shall be publicly opened and read, and the commission shall canvass the bids, and may let the contract to the lowest responsible bidder upon the plans and specifications on file, or to the best bidder submitting his or her own plans or specifications; or if the contract to be let is to construct or improve electrical facilities, the contract may be let to the lowest bidder prequalified according to the provisions of RCW 54.04.085 upon the plans and specifications on file, or to the best bidder submitting his or her own plans and specifications: PROVIDED, That no contract shall be let for more than fifteen percent in excess of the estimated cost of the materials or work. The commission may reject all bids and readvertise, and in such case all checks shall be returned to the bidders. The commission may procure materials in the open market, have its own personnel perform the work or negotiate a contract for such work to be performed by others, in lieu of readvertising, if it receives no bid. If the contract is let, all checks shall be returned to the bidders, except that of the successful bidder, which shall be retained until a contract is entered into and a bond to perform the work furnished, with sureties satisfactory to the commission, in an amount to be fixed by the commission, not less than twenty-five percent of the contract price, in accordance with the bid. If the bidder fails to enter into the contract and furnish the bond within ten days from the date at which he or she is notified that he or her [she] is the successful bidder, his or her check and the amount thereof shall be forfeited to the district.

The commission shall, by resolution, define the term "same kind of materials, equipment, and supplies" with respect to purchase of items under the provisions of RCW 54.04.070.

The term "construction or improvement of any electrical facility" as used in this section and in RCW 54.04.085, shall mean the construction, the moving, maintenance, modification, or enlargement of facilities primarily used or to be used for the transmission or distribution of electricity at voltages above seven hundred fifty volts, including structures directly supporting transmission or distribution conductors but not including site preparation, housing, or protective fencing associated with but not included in a contract for such construction, moving, modification, maintenance, or enlargement of such facilities.

The commission shall be the final authority with regard to whether a bid is responsive to the call for bids and as to whether a bidder is a responsible bidder under the conditions of his or her bid. No award of contract shall be invalidated solely because of the failure of any prospective bidder to receive an invitation to bid. [1996 c 18 § 12; 1972 ex.s. c 41 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 220 § 3; 1955 c 124 § 3. Prior: 1951 c 207 § 3; 1931 c 1 § 8, part; RRS § 11612, part.]

**54.04.082 Alternative bid procedure.** For the awarding of a contract to purchase any item, or items of the



same kind of materials, equipment, or supplies in an amount exceeding five thousand dollars, but less than thirty-five thousand dollars, exclusive of sales tax, the commission may, in lieu of the procedure described in RCW 54.04.070 and 54.04.080 requiring public notice to invite sealed proposals for such materials, equipment, or supplies, pursuant to commission resolution use the process provided in RCW 39.04.190. Waiver of the deposit or bid bond required under RCW 54.04.080 may be authorized by the commission in securing such bid quotations. [1995 c 354 § 1; 1993 c 198 § 15; 1977 ex.s. c 116 § 1.]

**54.04.085 Electrical facility construction or improvement—Bid proposals—Contract proposal forms—Conditions for issuance—Appeals.** A district shall require that bid proposals upon any construction or improvement of any electrical facility shall be made upon contract proposal form supplied by the district commission, and in no other manner. The district commission shall, before furnishing any person, firm or corporation desiring to bid upon any electrical work with a contract proposal form, require from such person, firm or corporation, answers to questions contained in a standard form of questionnaire and financial statement, including a complete statement of the financial ability and experience of such person, firm, or corporation in performing electrical work. Such questionnaire shall be sworn to before a notary public or other person authorized to take acknowledgment of deeds, and shall be submitted once a year and at such other times as the district commission may require. Whenever the district commission is not satisfied with the sufficiency of the answers contained in such questionnaire and financial statement or whenever the district commission determines that such person, firm, or corporation does not meet all of the requirements hereinafter set forth it may refuse to furnish such person, firm or corporation with a contract proposal form and any bid proposal of such person, firm or corporation must be disregarded. In order to obtain a contract proposal form, a person, firm or corporation shall have all of the following requirements:

- (1) Adequate financial resources, or the ability to secure such resources;
- (2) The necessary experience, organization, and technical qualifications to perform the proposed contract;
- (3) The ability to comply with the required performance schedule taking into consideration all of its existing business commitments;
- (4) A satisfactory record of performance, integrity, judgment and skills; and
- (5) Be otherwise qualified and eligible to receive an award under applicable laws and regulations.

Such refusal shall be conclusive unless appeal therefrom to the superior court of the county where the utility district is situated or Thurston county be taken within fifteen days, which appeal shall be heard summarily within ten days after the same is taken and on five days' notice thereof to the district commission. [1971 ex.s. c 220 § 2.]

**54.04.090 Minimum wages.** Each contractor and subcontractor performing work for a public utility district or a local utility district within a public utility district shall pay

or cause to be paid to its employees on the work or under the contract or subcontract, not less than the minimum scale fixed by the resolution of the commission prior to the notice and call for bids on the work. The commission, in fixing the minimum scale of wages, shall fix them as nearly as possible to the current prevailing wages within the district for work of like character. [1955 c 124 § 4. Prior: 1931 c 1 § 8, part; RRS § 11612, part.]

*Prevailing wages on public works: Chapter 39.12 RCW.*

**54.04.092 Application of RCW 54.04.070 through 54.04.090 to certain service provider agreements under chapter 70.150 RCW.** RCW 54.04.070 through 54.04.090 shall not apply to agreements entered into under authority of chapter 70.150 RCW provided there is compliance with the procurement procedure under RCW 70.150.040. [1986 c 244 § 14.]

**Severability—1986 c 244:** See RCW 70.150.905.

**54.04.100 Wholesale power—Procedure as to rate filing—Definition—Duty to furnish to district.** Whenever a decree of public use and necessity heretofore has been or hereafter shall be entered in condemnation proceedings conducted by a public utility district for the acquisition of electrical distribution properties, or whenever it has executed a contract for the purchase of such properties, the district may cause to be filed with the utilities and transportation commission a copy of such contract or a certified copy of the decree, together with a petition requesting that the commission cause a rate to be filed with it for the sale of wholesale power to the district. Thereupon the utilities and transportation commission shall order that a rate be filed with the commission forthwith for the sale of wholesale power to such district. The term "wholesale power" means electric energy sold for purposes of resale. The commission shall have authority to enter such order as to any public service corporation which owns or operates the electrical distribution properties being condemned or purchased or as to any such corporation which owns or operates transmission facilities within a reasonable distance of such distribution properties and which engages in the business of selling wholesale power, pursuant to contract or otherwise. The rate filed shall be for the period of service specified by the district, or if the district does not specify a particular period, such rate shall apply from the commencement of service until the district terminates same by thirty days' written notice.

Upon reasonable notice, any such public service corporation shall furnish wholesale power to any public utility district owning or operating electrical distribution properties. Whenever a public service corporation shall furnish wholesale power to a district and the charge or rate therefor is reviewed by the commission, such reasonable rate as the commission finally may fix shall apply as to power thereafter furnished and as to that previously furnished under such charge or rate from the time that the complaint concerning the same shall have been filed by the commission or the district, as the case may be. [1983 c 4 § 5; 1945 c 130 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 10459-12. Formerly RCW 54.04.010, 54.04.100 and 54.04.110.]

**Purpose—1945 c 130:** "The legislature has found that the public utility districts of this state, including several which at the present moment are completing the acquisition of electrical properties and the sale of revenue bonds, have immediate need for this act, in order to effectuate timely arrangements for their wholesale power requirements, clarify their condemnation procedure, and plan their operations." [1945 c 130 § 1.]

**Severability—1945 c 130:** "If any section or provision of this act shall be adjudged to be invalid, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the act as a whole or any section, provision or part thereof not adjudged to be invalid." [1945 c 130 § 5.]

**54.04.120 Planning powers.** In order that the commissioners of a public utility district may be better able to plan for the marketing of power and for the development of resources pertaining thereto, they shall have the same powers as are vested in a board of county commissioners as provided in \*chapter 44, Laws of 1935 (sections 9322-2 to 9322-4, both inclusive, and 9322-10 to 9322-11 inclusive, Remington's Revised Statutes, also Pierce's Perpetual Code 776-3 to -7, 776-19 and -21), entitled: "An Act relating to city, town, county and regional planning and the creation, organization, duties and powers of planning commissions." For the purposes of such act, the president of a public utility district shall have the powers of the chairman of the board of county commissioners, and a planning commission created hereunder shall have the same powers, enumerated in the above sections, with reference to a public utility district as a county planning commission has with reference to a county. However, this section shall not be construed to grant the power to adopt, regulate, or enforce comprehensive plans, zoning, land use, or building codes. [1985 c 95 § 1; 1945 c 130 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 10459-14.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The portions of chapter 44, Laws of 1935 compiled as RRS §§ 9322-2 to 9322-4 and 9322-10 to 9322-11 are codified in RCW 35.63.020 through 35.63.070.

**Purpose—Severability—1945 c 130:** See notes following RCW 54.04.100.

**54.04.130 Employee benefit plans when private utility acquired—Rights, powers and duties as to existing private employee benefit plans.** Whenever any municipal corporation acquires by condemnation or otherwise any utility which at the time of acquisition is in private ownership and the employees of such private utility have been for at least two years and are at the time of acquisition covered by any plan for individual annuity contracts, retirement income policies, group annuity contracts, group insurance for the benefit of employees, or any other contract for the benefit of employees, such district shall, when the personnel is retained by the district, assume all of the obligations and liabilities of the private utility acquired with relation to such plan and the employees covered thereby at the time of acquisition; or the municipal corporation may by agreement with a majority of the employees affected substitute a plan or contract of the same or like nature. The municipal corporations acquiring such private utility shall proceed in such manner as is necessary so as not to reduce or impair any benefits or privileges which such employees would have received or be entitled to had such acquisition not been effected. The district may pay all or any part of the premiums or other payments required therefor out of the revenue derived from the operation of its properties. [1961 c 139 § 1.]

**54.04.140 Employee benefit plans when private utility acquired—Admission to district's employee plan—Service credit—Contributions—Benefits.** Any person affected by RCW 54.04.130 who was employed by the private utility at the time of acquisition may, at his option, apply to the district and/or appropriate officers, for admission to any plan available to other employees of the district. Every such person who was covered at the time of acquisition by a plan with the private utility shall have added and accredited to his period of employment his period of immediately preceding continuous service with such private utility if he remains in the service of the municipal corporation until such plan for which he seeks admission becomes applicable to him.

No such person shall have added and accredited to his period of employment his period of service with said private utility unless he or a third party shall pay to the appropriate officer or fund of the plan to which he requests admission his contribution for the period of such service with the private utility at the rate provided in or for such plan to which he desires admission, or if he shall be entitled to any private benefits, as a result of such private service, unless he agrees at the time of his employment with the district to accept a reduction in the payment of any benefits payable under the plan to which he requests entry that are based in whole or in part on such added and accredited service by the amount of benefits received. For the purposes of contributions, the date of entry of service shall be deemed the date of entry into service with the private utility, which service is accredited by this section, and the amount of contributions for the period of accredited service shall be based on the wages or salary of such person during that added and accredited period of service with the private utility.

The district may receive such payments from a third party and shall make from such payments contributions with respect to such prior service as may be necessary to enable it to assume its obligations.

After such contributions have been made and such service added and accredited such employee shall be established in the plan to which he seeks admission with all rights, benefits and privileges that he would have been entitled to had he been a member of the plan from the beginning of his immediately preceding continuous employment with the private utility or of his eligibility. [1961 c 139 § 2.]

**54.04.150 Employee benefit plans when private utility acquired—Agreements and contracts—Prior rights preserved.** The municipal corporation may enter into any agreements and contracts necessary to carry out the powers and duties prescribed by RCW 54.04.130 and 54.04.140, but nothing in RCW 54.04.130 through 54.04.160 shall be so construed as requiring without consent the modification of the obligation of any contract or as requiring any third party to modify the rights, privileges or obligations acquired or incurred under a prior agreement. [1961 c 139 § 3.]

**54.04.160 Assumption of obligations of private pension plan when urban transportation system acquired.** Any municipal corporation which has heretofore or shall hereafter acquire from a private owner any urban transporta-

tion system which at the time of such acquisition has or had in effect any pension or retirement system for its employees, shall assume all such obligations with respect to continued contributions to and/or administration of, such retirement system, as the private owner bore or shall bear at such time, insofar as shall be necessary to discharge accrued obligations under such retirement system to beneficiaries who are not thereafter made members of a municipal or state retirement system. [1961 c 139 § 4.]

**54.04.170 Collective bargaining authorized for employees.** Employees of public utility districts are hereby authorized and entitled to enter into collective bargaining relations with their employers with all the rights and privileges incident thereto as are accorded to similar employees in private industry. [1963 c 28 § 1.]

**54.04.180 Collective bargaining authorized for districts.** Any public utility district may enter into collective bargaining relations with its employees in the same manner that a private employer might do and may agree to be bound by the result of such collective bargaining. [1963 c 28 § 2.]

**Chapter 54.08**

**FORMATION—DISSOLUTION—ELECTIONS**

Sections

- 54.08.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.
- 54.08.010 Districts including entire county or less—Procedure.
- 54.08.041 Formation election expenses.
- 54.08.050 Validity of district, questioning of.
- 54.08.060 Special election for formation of district and first commissioners—Terms.
- 54.08.070 Construction or acquisition of electric facilities for generation, transmission, or distribution of power—When voter approval required—Election.
- 54.08.080 Dissolution.

**54.08.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.** Actions taken under chapter 54.08 RCW may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1989 c 84 § 47.]

**54.08.010 Districts including entire county or less—Procedure.** At any general election held in an even-numbered year, the county legislative authority of any county in this state may, or, on petition of ten percent of the qualified electors of the county based on the total vote cast in the last general county election held in an even-numbered year, shall, by resolution, submit to the voters of the county the proposition of creating a public utility district which shall be coextensive with the limits of the county as now or hereafter established. A form of petition for the creation of a public utility district shall be submitted to the county auditor within ten months prior to the election at which the proposition is to be submitted to the voters. Petitions shall be filed with the county auditor not less than four months before the election and the county auditor shall within thirty days examine the signatures thereof and certify to the sufficiency or insufficiency thereof. If the petition be found to be insufficient, it shall be returned to the persons filing the same, who may amend or add names thereto for ten days,

when the same shall be returned to the county auditor, who shall have an additional fifteen days to examine the same and attach his certificate thereto. No person having signed the petition shall be allowed to withdraw his name therefrom after the filing of the same with the county auditor: PROVIDED, That each signature shall be dated and that no signature dated prior to the date on which the form of petition was submitted to the county auditor shall be valid. Whenever the petition shall be certified to as sufficient, the county auditor shall forthwith transmit the same, together with his certificate of sufficiency attached thereto, to the county legislative authority which shall submit the proposition to the voters of the county at the next general election in an even-numbered year occurring forty-five days after submission of the proposition to the legislative authority. The notice of the election shall state the boundaries of the proposed public utility district and the object of such election, and shall in other respects conform to the requirements of the general laws of the state of Washington, governing the time and manner of holding elections. In submitting the question to the voters for their approval or rejection, the proposition shall be expressed on the ballot substantially in the following terms:

- Public Utility District No. . . . . YES
- Public Utility District No. . . . . NO

Any petition for the formation of a public utility district may describe a less area than the entire county in which the petition is filed, the boundaries of which shall follow the then existing precinct boundaries and not divide any voting precinct; and in the event that such a petition is filed the county legislative authority shall fix a date for a hearing on such petition, and shall publish the petition, without the signatures thereto appended, for two weeks prior to the date of the hearing, together with a notice stating the time of the meeting when the petition will be heard. The publication, and all other publications required by \*this act, shall be in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the district is situated. The hearing on the petition may be adjourned from time to time, not exceeding four weeks in all. If upon the final hearing the county legislative authority shall find that any lands have been unjustly or improperly included within the proposed public utility district and will not be benefited by inclusion therein, it shall change and fix the boundary lines in such manner as it shall deem reasonable and just and conducive to the public welfare and convenience, and make and enter an order establishing and defining the boundary lines of the proposed public utility district: PROVIDED, That no lands shall be included within the boundaries so fixed lying outside the boundaries described in the petition, except upon the written request of the owners of those lands. Thereafter the same procedure shall be followed as prescribed in this chapter for the formation of a public utility district including an entire county, except that the petition and election shall be confined solely to the lesser public utility district.

No public utility district created after September 1, 1979, shall include any other public utility district within its boundaries: PROVIDED, That this paragraph shall not alter, amend, or modify provisions of chapter 54.32 RCW. [1985 c 469 § 55; 1979 ex.s. c 240 § 1; 1977 c 53 § 1; 1931 c 1

§ 3; RRS § 11607. Formerly RCW 54.08.010 and 54.08.020.]

\*Reviser's note: For translation of "this act," see note following RCW 54.04.020.

Elections: Title 29 RCW.

**54.08.041 Formation election expenses.** All expenses of elections for the formation of such public utility districts shall be paid by the county holding such election, and such expenditure is hereby declared to be for a county purpose, and the money paid out for such purpose shall be repaid to such county by the public utility district, if formed. [1969 c 106 § 2.]

**Construction—1969 c 106:** "The rule of strict construction shall have no application to this act. The act shall be liberally construed, in order to carry out the purposes and objectives for which this act is intended." [1969 c 106 § 8.]

**Severability—1969 c 106:** "If any provision of this act, or its application to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the remainder of this act, or the application to other persons or circumstances, is not affected." [1969 c 106 § 9.]

**54.08.050 Validity of district, questioning of.** The existence of any public utility district now or hereafter formed under \*chapter 1, Laws of 1931, cannot hereafter be legally questioned by any person except the state of Washington in an appropriate court action brought within six months from the date that the county election board shall have canvassed the returns of the election held on the proposition of creating such district. If the existence of a district is not challenged within the period above specified, by the filing and service of petition or complaint in the action aforesaid, the state of Washington thereafter shall be barred forever from questioning the legal existence and validity of such district by reason of any defect in the organization thereof, and the same shall be deemed duly and regularly organized under the laws of this state. [1941 c 245 § 10; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11616-7.]

\*Reviser's note: For the codification of chapter 1, Laws of 1931, see note following RCW 54.04.020.

**54.08.060 Special election for formation of district and first commissioners—Terms.** Whenever a proposition for the formation of a public utility district is to be submitted to voters in any county, the county legislative authority may by resolution call a special election, and at the request of petitioners for the formation of such district contained in the petition shall do so and shall provide for holding the same at the earliest practicable time. If the boundaries of the proposed district embrace an area less than the entire county, such election shall be confined to the area so included. The notice of such election shall state the boundaries of the proposed district and the object of such election; in other respects, such election shall be held and called in the same manner as provided by law for the holding and calling of general elections: PROVIDED, That notice thereof shall be given for not less than ten days nor more than thirty days prior to such special election. In submitting the proposition to the voters for their approval or rejection, such proposition shall be expressed on the ballots in substantially the following terms:

Public Utility District No. . . . . YES

Public Utility District No. . . . . NO

At the same special election on the proposition to form a public utility district, there shall also be an election for three public utility district commissioners. However, the election of such commissioners shall be null and void if the proposition to form the public utility district does not receive approval by a majority of the voters voting on the proposition. No primary shall be held. A special filing period shall be opened as provided in RCW 29.15.170 and 29.15.180. The person receiving the greatest number of votes for the commissioner of each commissioner district shall be elected as the commissioner of that district. Commissioner districts shall be established as provided in RCW 54.12.010. The terms of the initial commissioners shall be staggered as follows: (1) The person who is elected receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected to a six-year term of office if the election is held in an even-numbered year or a five-year term if the election is held in an odd-numbered year; (2) the person who is elected receiving the next greatest number of votes shall be elected to a four-year term of office if the election is held in an even-numbered year or a three-year term of office if the election is held in an odd-numbered year; and (3) the other person who is elected shall be elected to a two-year term of office if the election is held in an even-numbered year or a one-year term of office if the election is held in an odd-numbered year. The commissioners first to be elected at such special election shall assume office immediately when they are elected and qualified, but the length of their terms of office shall be calculated from the first day in January in the year following their elections.

The term "general election" as used herein means biennial general elections at which state and county officers in a noncharter county are elected. [1994 c 223 § 55; 1979 ex.s. c 126 § 36; 1951 c 207 § 5.]

**Purpose—1979 ex.s. c 126:** See RCW 29.04.170(1).

Elections: Title 29 RCW.

**54.08.070 Construction or acquisition of electric facilities for generation, transmission, or distribution of power—When voter approval required—Election.** Any district which does not own or operate electric facilities for the generation, transmission or distribution of electric power on March 25, 1969, or any district which hereafter does not construct or acquire such electric facilities within ten years of its creation, shall not construct or acquire any such electric facilities without the approval of such proposal by the voters of such district: PROVIDED, That a district shall have the power to construct or acquire electric facilities within ten years following its creation by action of its commission without voter approval of such action.

At any general election held in an even-numbered year, the proposal to construct or acquire electric facilities may be submitted to the voters of the district by resolution of the public utility district commission or shall be submitted to the voters of the district by the county legislative authority on petition of ten percent of the qualified electors of such district, based on the total vote cast in the last general county election held in an even-numbered year. A form of petition for the construction or acquisition of electric facilities by the public utility district shall be submitted to the county auditor within ten months prior to the election at which such

proposition is to be submitted to the voters. Petitions shall be filed with the county auditor not less than four months before such election and the county auditor shall within thirty days examine the signatures thereof and certify to the sufficiency or insufficiency thereof. If such petition is found to be insufficient, it shall be returned to the persons filing the same, who may amend and add names thereto for ten days, when the same shall be returned to the county auditor, who shall have an additional fifteen days to examine the same and attach his certificate thereto. No person having signed such petition shall be allowed to withdraw his name therefrom after the filing of the same with the county auditor. PROVIDED, That each signature shall be dated and that no signature dated prior to the date on which the form of petition was submitted to the county auditor shall be valid. Whenever such petition shall be certified to as sufficient, the county auditor shall forthwith transmit the same, together with his certificate of sufficiency attached thereto, to the county legislative authority which shall submit such proposition to the voters of said district at the next general election in an even-numbered year occurring forty-five days after submission of the proposition to said legislative authority. The notice of the election shall state the object of such election, and shall in other respects conform to the requirements of the general laws of Washington, governing the time and manner of holding elections.

The proposal submitted to the voters for their approval or rejection, shall be expressed on the ballot substantially in the following terms:

Shall Public Utility District No. . . . . of . . . . . County construct or acquire electric facilities for the generation, transmission or distribution of electric power?

- Yes
- No

Within ten days after such election, the election board of the county shall canvass the returns, and if at such election a majority of the voters voting on such proposition shall vote in favor of such construction or acquisition of electric facilities, the district shall be authorized to construct or acquire electric facilities. [1979 ex.s. c 240 § 2; 1969 c 106 § 3.]

**Construction—Severability—1969 c 106:** See notes following RCW 54.08.041.

**54.08.080 Dissolution.** Any district now or hereafter created under the laws of this state may be dissolved, as hereinafter provided, by a majority vote of the qualified electors of such district at any general election upon a resolution of the district commission, or upon petition being filed and such proposition for dissolution submitted to said electors in the same manner provided by chapter 54.08 RCW for the creation of public utility districts. The returns of the election on such proposition for dissolution shall be canvassed and the results declared in the same manner as is provided by RCW 54.08.010: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That any such proposition to dissolve a district shall not be submitted to the electors if within five years prior to the filing of such petition or resolution such district has undertaken any material studies or material action relating to the construction or acquisition of any utility properties or if such

district at the time of the submission of such proposition is actually engaged in the operation of any utility properties.

If a majority of the votes cast at the election favor dissolution, the commission of the district shall petition, without any filing fee, the superior court of the county in which such district is located for an order authorizing the payment of all indebtedness of the district and directing the transfer of any surplus funds or property to the general fund of the county in which such district is organized. [1969 c 106 § 4.]

**Construction—Severability—1969 c 106:** See notes following RCW 54.08.041.

*Dissolution of special purpose districts: Chapters 36.96 and 53.48 RCW.*

## Chapter 54.12 COMMISSIONERS

- Sections
- 54.12.010 Exercise of power by commissioners—Number—Districts—Terms—Vacancies.
  - 54.12.080 Compensation and expenses—Waiver of compensation—Group insurance.
  - 54.12.090 President—Secretary—Rules—Seal—Minutes.
  - 54.12.100 Oath or affirmation.
  - 54.12.110 Electrical utilities—Civil immunity of commissioners and employees for good faith mistakes and errors of judgment.

*Redistricting by local governments and municipal corporations—Census information for—Plan, prepared when, criteria for, hearing on, request for review of, certification, remand—Sanctions when review request frivolous: RCW 29.70.100.*

**54.12.010 Exercise of power by commissioners—Number—Districts—Terms—Vacancies.** A public utility district that is created as provided in RCW 54.08.010 shall be a municipal corporation of the state of Washington, and the name of such public utility district shall be Public Utility District No. . . . . of . . . . . County.

The powers of the public utility district shall be exercised through a commission consisting of three members in three commissioner districts, and five members in five commissioner districts.

When the public utility district is county-wide and the county has three county legislative authority districts, then, at the first election of commissioners and until any change shall have been made in the boundaries of public utility district commissioner districts, one public utility district commissioner shall be chosen from each of the three county legislative authority districts. When the public utility district comprises only a portion of the county, with boundaries established in accordance with chapter 54.08 RCW, or when the public utility district is county-wide and the county does not have three county legislative authority districts, three public utility district commissioner districts, numbered consecutively, each with approximately equal population and following precinct lines, as far as practicable, shall be described in the petition for the formation of the public utility district, which shall be subject to appropriate change by the county legislative authority if and when it changes the boundaries of the proposed public utility district, and one commissioner shall be elected as a commissioner of each of the public utility district commissioner districts. Commissioner districts shall be used as follows: (1) Only a regis-

tered voter who resides in a commissioner district may be a candidate for, or hold office as, a commissioner of the commissioner district; and (2) only voters of a commissioner district may vote at a primary to nominate candidates for a commissioner of the commissioner district. Voters of the entire public utility district may vote at a general election to elect a person as a commissioner of the commissioner district.

The term of office of each public utility district commissioner other than the commissioners at large shall be six years, and the term of each commissioner at large shall be four years. Each term shall be computed in accordance with RCW 29.04.170 following the commissioner's election.

All public utility district commissioners shall hold office until their successors shall have been elected and have qualified and assume office in accordance with RCW 29.04.170.

A vacancy in the office of public utility district commissioner shall occur as provided in chapter 42.12 RCW or by nonattendance at meetings of the public utility district commission for a period of sixty days unless excused by the public utility district commission. Vacancies on a board of public utility district commissioners shall be filled as provided in chapter 42.12 RCW.

The boundaries of the public utility district commissioner districts may be changed only by the public utility district commission, and shall be examined every ten years to determine substantial equality of population in accordance with chapter 29.70 RCW, but the boundaries shall not be changed oftener than once in four years, and only when all members of the commission are present. Whenever territory is added to a public utility district under RCW 54.04.035, the boundaries of the public utility commissioner districts shall be changed to include such additional territory. The proposed change of the boundaries of the public utility district commissioner district must be made by resolution and after public hearing. Notice of the time of a public hearing thereon shall be published for two weeks prior thereto. Upon a referendum petition signed by ten percent of the qualified voters of the public utility district being filed with the county auditor, the county legislative authority shall submit such proposed change of boundaries to the voters of the public utility district for their approval or rejection. Such petition must be filed within ninety days after the adoption of resolution of the proposed action. The validity of the petition shall be governed by the provisions of chapter 54.08 RCW. [1994 c 223 § 56; 1990 c 59 § 109; 1987 c 292 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 126 § 37; 1977 ex.s. c 36 § 8; 1977 c 53 § 2; 1969 c 106 § 1; 1959 c 265 § 9; 1941 c 245 § 4; 1931 c 1 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11608. Formerly RCW 54.08.030, 54.08.040, 54.12.010 through 54.12.070.]

**Intent—Effective date—1990 c 59:** See notes following RCW 29.01.006.

**Purpose—1979 ex.s. c 126:** See RCW 29.04.170(1).

**Construction—Severability—1969 c 106:** See notes following RCW 54.08.041.

**54.12.080 Compensation and expenses—Waiver of compensation—Group insurance.** (1) Each public utility district commissioner of a district operating utility properties shall receive a salary during a calendar year which shall depend upon the total gross revenue of the district from its

distribution system and its generating system, if any, for the fiscal year ending June 30th prior to such calendar year, based upon the following schedule:

REVENUE	SALARY
OVER \$15 million	\$500 per month
\$2 to 15 million	\$350 per month

Commissioners of other districts shall serve without salary unless the district provides by resolution for the payment thereof, which however shall not exceed two hundred dollars per month for each commissioner. In addition to salary, all districts may provide by resolution for the payment of per diem compensation to each commissioner at a rate not exceeding fifty dollars for each day or major part thereof devoted to the business of the district, and days upon which he attends meetings of the commission of his district or meetings attended by one or more commissioners of two or more districts called to consider business common to them, but such compensation paid during any one year to a commissioner shall not exceed seven thousand dollars. Per diem compensation shall not be paid for services of a ministerial or professional nature.

(2) Any commissioner may waive all or any portion of his or her compensation payable under this section as to any month or months during his or her term of office, by a written waiver filed with the district as provided in this section. The waiver, to be effective, must be filed any time after the commissioner's election and prior to the date on which the compensation would otherwise be paid. The waiver shall specify the month or period of months for which it is made.

(3) Each district commissioner shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses actually incurred in connection with such business and meetings, including his subsistence and lodging and travel while away from his place of residence.

(4) Any district providing group insurance for its employees, covering them, their immediate family and dependents, may provide insurance for its commissioner with the same coverage. [1985 c 330 § 4; 1977 ex.s. c 157 § 1; 1969 c 106 § 5; 1967 c 161 § 1; 1957 c 140 § 2; 1955 c 124 § 5; 1951 c 207 § 4. Prior: (i) 1931 c 1 § 8, part; RRS § 11612, part. (ii) 1941 c 245 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11616-5.]

**Construction—Severability—1969 c 106:** See notes following RCW 54.08.041.

*Group employee insurance:* RCW 54.04.050.

*Hospitalization and medical insurance not deemed additional compensation:* RCW 41.04.190.

**54.12.090 President—Secretary—Rules—Seal—Minutes.** The commission shall elect from its members, a president and secretary, and shall, by resolution, adopt rules governing the transaction of district business, and adopt an official seal. All proceedings of the commission shall be by motion or resolution, recorded in its minute books, which shall be public records.

A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum of the commission for the transaction of business. The concurrence of a majority of the whole commission in office at the time shall be necessary for the passage of any resolution, and no business shall be transacted, except in usual and

ordinary course, unless there are in office at least a majority of the full number of commissioners as fixed by law.

The commission may create and fill such positions and fix salaries and bonds thereof as it may provide by resolution. [1955 c 124 § 6. Prior: 1931 c 1 § 8, part; RRS § 11612, part.]

**54.12.100 Oath or affirmation.** Each commissioner before he enters upon the duties of his office shall take and subscribe an oath or affirmation that he will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of his office to the best of his ability. This oath, or affirmation, shall be administered and certified by an officer of the county in which the district is situated, who is authorized to administer oaths, without charge therefor. The oath or affirmation shall be filed with the county auditor. [1986 c 167 § 23; 1959 c 265 § 10.]

**Severability—1986 c 167:** See note following RCW 29.01.055.

**54.12.110 Electrical utilities—Civil immunity of commissioners and employees for good faith mistakes and errors of judgment.** Commissioners and employees of public utility districts shall be immune from civil liability for mistakes and errors of judgment in the good faith performance of acts within the scope of their official duties involving the exercise of judgment and discretion which relate solely to their responsibilities for electrical utilities. This grant of immunity shall not be construed as modifying the liability of the public utility district. [1983 1st ex.s. c 48 § 2.]

**Severability—1983 1st ex.s. c 48:** See note following RCW 35.21.415.

## Chapter 54.16 POWERS

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*Deferral of special assessments: Chapter 84.38 RCW.*

*Special benefit assessments—Property taxes—Exemptions: RCW 84.34.300 through 84.34.380.*

### 54.16.010 Surveys, plans, investigations, or studies.

A district may make surveys, plans, investigations or studies for generating electric energy by water power, steam, or other methods, and for systems and facilities for the generation, transmission or distribution thereof, and for domestic and industrial water supply and irrigation, and for matters and purposes reasonably incidental thereto, within or without the district, and compile comprehensive maps and plans showing the territory that can be most economically served by the various resources and utilities, the natural order in which they should be developed, and how they may be joined and coordinated to make a complete and systematic whole. [1969 c 106 § 6; 1955 c 390 § 2. Prior: 1945 c 143 § 1(a); 1931 c 1 § 6(a); Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11610(a).]

**Construction—Severability—1969 c 106:** See notes following RCW 54.08.041.

**54.16.020 Acquisition of property and rights—Eminent domain.** A district may construct, condemn and purchase, purchase, acquire, lease, add to, maintain, operate, develop, and regulate all lands, property, property rights, water, water rights, dams, ditches, flumes, aqueducts, pipes and pipe lines, water power, leases, easements, rights of way, franchises, plants, plant facilities, and systems for generating electric energy by water power, steam, or other

methods; plants, plant facilities, and systems for developing, conserving, and distributing water for domestic use and irrigation; buildings, structures, poles and pole lines, and cables and conduits and any and all other facilities; and may exercise the right of eminent domain to effectuate the foregoing purposes or for the acquisition and damaging of such property and rights, or property of any kind appurtenant thereto, and for the purpose of acquiring the right to make physical connection with plants and plant facilities of all persons and municipalities. The right of eminent domain shall be exercised pursuant to resolution of the commission and conducted in the same manner and by the same procedure as is provided for the exercise of that power by cities and towns of the state in the acquisition of like property and property rights. It shall be no defense to a condemnation proceeding that a portion of the electric current generated or sold by the district will be applied to private purposes, if the principal uses intended are public: PROVIDED, That no public utility owned by a city or town shall be condemned, and none shall be purchased without submission of the question to the voters of the utility district. In a condemnation proceeding, the court shall submit to the jury the values placed upon the property by the taxing authority for taxation purposes, and in respect to property, plants, and facilities of persons using public highways for furnishing public service without franchises, shall consider in determining the value thereof the fact that the property, plants, and facilities are subject to be removed from the highways by reason of being so operated without a franchise. [1955 c 390 § 3. Prior: 1945 c 143 § 1(b); 1931 c 1 § 6(b); Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11610(b).]

*Eminent domain: State Constitution Art. I § 16 (Amendment 9).*

*Eminent domain by cities: Chapter 8.12 RCW.*

**54.16.030 Water and irrigation works.** A district may construct, purchase, condemn and purchase, acquire, add to, maintain, conduct, and operate water works and irrigation plants and systems, within or without its limits, for the purpose of furnishing the district, and the inhabitants thereof, and any other persons including public and private corporations within or without its limits, with an ample supply of water for all purposes, public and private, including water power, domestic use, and irrigation, with full and exclusive authority to sell and regulate and control the use, distribution, and price thereof. [1955 c 390 § 4. Prior: 1945 c 143 § 1(c); 1931 c 1 § 6(c); Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11610(c).]

**54.16.032 Authority to assist customers in the acquisition of water conservation equipment—Limitations.** Any district is hereby authorized, within limits established by the Constitution of the state of Washington, to assist the owners of structures in financing the acquisition and installation of fixtures, systems, and equipment, for compensation or otherwise, for the conservation or more efficient use of water in the structures under a water conservation plan adopted by the district if the cost per unit of water saved or conserved by the use of the fixtures, systems, and equipment is less than the cost per unit of water supplied by the next least costly new water source available to

the district to meet future demand. Except where otherwise authorized, assistance shall be limited to:

(1) Providing an inspection of the structure, either directly or through one or more inspectors under contract, to determine and inform the owner of the estimated cost of purchasing and installing conservation fixtures, systems, and equipment for which financial assistance will be approved and the estimated life cycle savings to the water system and the consumer that are likely to result from the installation of the fixtures, systems, or equipment;

(2) Providing a list of businesses that sell and install the fixtures, systems, and equipment within or in close proximity to the service area of the city or town, each of which businesses shall have requested to be included and shall have the ability to provide the products in a workmanlike manner and to utilize the fixtures, systems, and equipment in accordance with the prevailing national standards;

(3) Arranging to have approved conservation fixtures, systems, and equipment installed by a private contractor whose bid is acceptable to the owner of the structure and verifying the installation; and

(4) Arranging or providing financing for the purchase and installation of approved conservation fixtures, systems, and equipment. The fixtures, systems, and equipment shall be purchased or installed by a private business, the owner, or the utility.

Pay back shall be in the form of incremental additions to the utility bill, billed either together with use charge or separately. Loans shall not exceed one hundred twenty months in length. [1989 c 421 § 4.]

**Intent—Contingent effective date—1989 c 421:** See notes following RCW 35.92.017.

**54.16.035 Provision of water service beyond district subject to review by boundary review board.** The provision of water service beyond the boundaries of a public utility district may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1989 c 84 § 48.]

**54.16.040 Electric energy.** A district may purchase, within or without its limits, electric current for sale and distribution within or without its limits, and construct, condemn and purchase, purchase, acquire, add to, maintain, conduct, and operate works, plants, transmission and distribution lines and facilities for generating electric current, operated either by water power, steam, or other methods, within or without its limits, for the purpose of furnishing the district, and the inhabitants thereof and any other persons, including public and private corporations, within or without its limits, with electric current for all uses, with full and exclusive authority to sell and regulate and control the use, distribution, rates, service, charges, and price thereof, free from the jurisdiction and control of the utilities and transportation commission, in all things, together with the right to purchase, handle, sell, or lease motors, lamps, transformers and all other kinds of equipment and accessories necessary and convenient for the use, distribution, and sale thereof: PROVIDED, That the commission shall not supply water to a privately owned utility for the production of electric energy, but may supply, directly or indirectly, to an instru-



mentality of the United States government or any publicly or privately owned public utilities which sell electric energy or water to the public, any amount of electric energy or water under its control, and contracts therefor shall extend over such period of years and contain such terms and conditions for the sale thereof as the commission of the district shall elect; such contract shall only be made pursuant to a resolution of the commission authorizing such contract, which resolution shall be introduced at a meeting of the commission at least ten days prior to the date of the adoption of the resolution: PROVIDED FURTHER, That it shall first make adequate provision for the needs of the district, both actual and prospective. [1955 c 390 § 5. Prior: 1945 c 143 § 1(d); 1931 c 1 § 6(d); Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11610(d).]

*Joint operating agency:* RCW 43.52.360.

*Reduced utility rates for low-income senior citizens and low-income disabled citizens:* RCW 74.38.070.

*Right of city or town to acquire electrical distribution property from P.U.D.:* RCW 35.92.054.

**54.16.045 Nonpolluting power generation by individual—Exemption from regulation—Authorization to contract with utility.** See chapter 80.58 RCW.

**54.16.047 Hydroelectric resources—Separate legal authority—Creation by irrigation districts and cities, towns, or public utility districts.** See RCW 87.03.825 through 87.03.840.

**54.16.050 Water rights.** A district may take, condemn and purchase, purchase and acquire any public and private property, franchises and property rights, including state, county, and school lands, and property and littoral and water rights, for any of the purposes aforesaid, and for railroads, tunnels, pipe lines, aqueducts, transmission lines, and all other facilities necessary or convenient, and, in connection with the construction, maintenance, or operation of any such utilities, may acquire by purchase or condemnation and purchase the right to divert, take, retain, and impound and use water from or in any lake or watercourse, public or private, navigable or nonnavigable, or held, owned, or used by the state, or any subdivision thereof, or by any person for any public or private use, or any underflowing water within the state; and the district may erect, within or without its limits, dams or other works across any river or watercourse, or across or at the outlet of any lake, up to and above high water mark; and, for the purpose of constructing or laying aqueducts or pipelines, dams, or waterworks or other necessary structures in storing, retaining, and distributing water, or for any other purpose authorized hereunder, the district may occupy and use the beds and shores up to the high water mark of any such lake, river, or watercourse, and acquire by purchase or by condemnation and purchase, or otherwise, any water, water rights, easements, or privileges named herein or necessary for any of such purposes, and a district may acquire by purchase, or condemnation and purchase, or otherwise, any lands, property, or privileges necessary to protect the water supply of the district from pollution: PROVIDED, That should private property be necessary for any of its purposes, or for storing water above high water mark, the district may condemn and purchase, or

purchase and acquire such private property. [1955 c 390 § 6. Prior: 1945 c 143 § 1(e), part; 1931 c 1 § 6(e), part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11610(e), part.]

*Water rights:* Title 90 RCW.

**54.16.060 Intertie lines.** A district may build and maintain intertie lines connecting its power plant and distribution system with the power plant and distribution system owned by any other public utility district, or municipal corporation, or connect with the power plants and distribution systems owned by any municipal corporation in the district, and from any such intertie line, sell electric energy to any person, public utility district, city, town or other corporation, public or private, and, by means of transmission or pole lines, conduct electric energy from the place of production to the point of distribution, and construct and lay aqueducts, pipe or pole lines, and transmission lines along and upon public highways, roads, and streets, and condemn and purchase, purchase or acquire, lands, franchises, and rights of way necessary therefor. [1955 c 390 § 7. Prior: 1945 c 143 § 1(e), part; 1931 c 1 § 6(e), part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11610(e), part.]

**54.16.070 District may borrow money, contract indebtedness, issue bonds or obligations—Guaranty fund.**

(1) A district may contract indebtedness or borrow money for any corporate purpose on its credit or on the revenues of its public utilities, and to evidence such indebtedness may issue general obligation bonds or revenue obligations; may issue and sell local utility district bonds of districts created by the commission, and may purchase with surplus funds such local utility district bonds, and may create a guaranty fund to insure prompt payment of all local utility district bonds. The general obligation bonds shall be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. A district is authorized to establish lines of credit or make other prearranged agreements, or both, to borrow money with any financial institution.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such revenue obligations and local utility district bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1991 c 74 § 1; 1984 c 186 § 44; 1983 c 167 § 144; 1959 c 218 § 1; 1955 c 390 § 8. Prior: 1945 c 143 § 1(f); 1931 c 1 § 6(f); Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11610(f).]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**54.16.080 Levy and collection of taxes—Tax anticipation warrants.** A district may raise revenue by the levy of an annual tax on all taxable property within the district, not exceeding forty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value in any one year, exclusive of interest and redemption for general obligation bonds. The commission shall prepare a proposed budget of the contemplated financial transactions for the ensuing year and file it in its records, on or before the first Monday in September. Notice of the filing of the proposed budget and the date and place of hearing thereon shall be published for at least two consecutive weeks in a newspaper printed and of general circulation in the county. On the first Monday in October,

the commission shall hold a public hearing on the proposed budget at which any taxpayer may appear and be heard against the whole or any part thereof. Upon the conclusion of the hearing, the commission shall, by resolution, adopt the budget as finally determined, and fix the final amount of expenditures for the ensuing year. Taxes levied by the commission shall be certified to and collected by the proper officer of the county in which the district is located in the same manner as provided for the certification and collection of port district taxes. The commission may, prior to the receipt of taxes raised by levy, borrow money or issue warrants of the district in anticipation of the revenue to be derived from the levy or taxes for district purposes, and the warrants shall be redeemed from the first money available from such taxes. The warrants shall not exceed the anticipated revenue of one year, and shall bear interest at a rate determined by the commission. [1981 c 156 § 18; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 60; 1955 c 390 § 9. Prior: 1945 c 143 § 1(g); 1931 c 1 § 6(g); Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11610(g).]

**Severability—Effective dates and termination dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043. *Application of one percentum levy limitation to public utility district: State Constitution Art. 7 § 2 and RCW 84.52.050.*

*Collection of taxes by port districts: RCW 53.36.020.*

**54.16.085 Interfund loans.** A public utility district may make and repay interfund loans between its funds. [1987 c 18 § 2.]

**54.16.090 Contracts with other agencies or utilities—Gifts, etc.—Employees and experts—Advancements.** A district may enter into any contract or agreement with the United States, or any state, municipality, or other utility district, or any department of those entities, or with any cooperative, mutual, consumer-owned utility, or with any investor-owned utility or with an association of any of such utilities, for carrying out any of the powers authorized by this title.

It may acquire by gift, devise, bequest, lease, or purchase, real and personal property necessary or convenient for its purposes, or for any local district therein.

It may make contracts, employ engineers, attorneys, and other technical or professional assistance; print and publish information or literature; advertise or promote the sale and distribution of electricity or water and do all other things necessary to carry out the provisions of this title.

It may advance funds, jointly fund or jointly advance funds for surveys, plans, investigations, or studies as set forth in RCW 54.16.010, including costs of investigations, design and licensing of properties and rights of the type described in RCW 54.16.020, including the cost of technical and professional assistance, and for the advertising and promotion of the sale and distribution of electricity or water. [1969 c 106 § 7; 1955 c 390 § 10. Prior: 1945 c 143 § 1(h), (i), (j), part; 1931 c 1 § 6(h), (i), (j), part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11610(h), (i), (j), part.]

**Construction—Severability—1969 c 106:** See notes following RCW 54.08.041.

**54.16.092 Employment interview expenses.** When a district commission finds that a vacancy for a technical or

managerial position requires special qualifications or entails responsibilities and duties of such a nature that substantial benefits will accrue to the district from personal interviews of candidates for such a vacancy to be held in the district, the district commission, by resolution adopted at a regular meeting, may authorize the payment of actual necessary travel and living expenses of such candidates incurred while in travel status. [1975 1st ex.s. c 140 § 1.]

*Special purpose districts, expenditures to recruit job candidates: RCW 42.24.170.*

**54.16.095 Liability insurance for officials and employees.** The board of commissioners of each public utility district may purchase liability insurance with such limits as they may deem reasonable for the purpose of protecting their officials and employees against liability for personal or bodily injuries and property damage arising from their acts or omissions while performing or in good faith purporting to perform their official duties. [1973 c 125 § 5.]

**54.16.096 Liability insurance for officers and employees authorized.** See RCW 36.16.138.

**54.16.097 Actions against officer, employee, or agent—Defense and costs provided by public utility district—Exception.** Whenever any action, claim or proceeding is instituted against any person who is or was an officer, employee, or agent of a public utility district established under this title arising out of the performance or failure of performance of duties for, or employment with any such district, the commission of the district may grant a request by such person that the attorney of the district's choosing be authorized to defend said claim, suit or proceeding, and the costs of defense, attorney's fees, and any obligation for payment arising from such action may be paid from the district's funds: PROVIDED, That costs of defense and/or judgment or settlement against such person shall not be paid in any case where the court has found that such person was not acting in good faith or within the scope of his employment with or duties for the district. [1975 c 60 § 2.]

**54.16.100 Manager—Appointment—Compensation—Duties.** The commission, by resolution introduced at a regular meeting and adopted at a subsequent regular meeting, shall appoint and may remove at will a district manager, and shall, by resolution, fix his or her compensation.

The manager shall be the chief administrative officer of the district, in control of all administrative functions and shall be responsible to the commission for the efficient administration of the affairs of the district placed in his or her charge. The manager shall be an experienced executive with administrative ability. In the absence or temporary disability of the manager, the manager shall, with the approval of the president of the commission, designate some competent person as acting manager.

The manager may attend all meetings of the commission and its committees, and take part in the discussion of any matters pertaining to the duties of his or her department, but shall have no vote.

The manager shall carry out the orders of the commission, and see that the laws pertaining to matters within the functions of his or her department are enforced; keep the commission fully advised as to the financial condition and needs of the districts; prepare an annual estimate for the ensuing fiscal year of the probable expenses of the department, and recommend to the commission what development work should be undertaken, and what extensions and additions, if any, should be made during the ensuing fiscal year, with an estimate of the costs of the development work, extensions, and additions; certify to the commission all bills, allowances, and payrolls, including claims due contractors of public works; recommend to the commission compensation of the employees of his or her office, and a scale of compensation to be paid for the different classes of service required by the district; hire and discharge employees under his or her direction; and perform such other duties as may be imposed upon the manager by resolution of the commission. It is unlawful for the manager to make any contribution of money in aid of or in opposition to the election of any candidate for public utility commissioner or to advocate or oppose any such election. [1990 c 16 § 1; 1955 c 390 § 11. Prior: 1945 c 143 § 1(j), part; 1931 c 1 § 6(j), part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11610(j), part.]

**54.16.110 May sue and be sued—Claims.** A district may sue in any court of competent jurisdiction, and may be sued in the county in which its principal office is located or in which it owns or operates facilities. No suit for damages shall be maintained against a district except on a claim filed with the district complying in all respects with the terms and requirements for claims for damages set forth in chapter 4.96 RCW. [1993 c 449 § 11; 1979 ex.s. c 240 § 3; 1955 c 390 § 12. Prior: 1945 c 143 § 1(k); 1931 c 1 § 6(k); Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11610(k).]

**Purpose—Severability—1993 c 449:** See notes following RCW 4.96.010.

*Claims against cities of the second class:* RCW 35.31.040.

**54.16.120 Local utility districts authorized.** A district may, by resolution, establish and define the boundaries of local assessment districts to be known as local utility district No. . . . , for distribution, under the general supervision and control of the commission, of water for domestic use, irrigation, and electric energy, and for providing street lighting, or any of them, and in like manner provide for the purchasing, or otherwise acquiring, or constructing and equipping and maintaining and operating distribution systems for such purposes, and for extensions and betterments thereof, and may levy and collect in accordance with the special benefits conferred thereon, special assessments and reassessments on property specially benefited thereby, for paying the cost and expense thereof, or any portions thereof, as herein provided, and issue local improvement bonds or warrants or both to be repaid wholly or in part by collection of local improvement assessments. [1975 c 46 § 1; 1955 c 390 § 13. Prior: 1951 c 209 § 1; 1945 c 143 § 1(l), part; 1931 c 1 § 6(l), part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11610(l), part.]

*Assessments and charges against state lands:* Chapter 79.44 RCW.

*Local improvements, supplemental authority:* Chapter 35.51 RCW.

**54.16.125 Exemption of farm and agricultural land from special benefit assessments.** See RCW 84.34.300 through 84.34.380 and 84.34.922.

**54.16.130 Local districts—Procedure—Financing.** The commission shall by resolution establish the method of procedure in all matters relating to local utility districts. A public utility district may determine by resolution what work shall be done or improvements made at the expense, in whole or in part, of the property specially benefited thereby; and adopt and provide the manner, machinery and proceedings in any way relating to the making and collecting of assessments therefor in pursuance thereof. Except as herein otherwise provided or as may hereafter be set forth by resolution, all matters and proceedings relating to the local utility district, the levying and collection of assessments, the issuance and redemption of local improvement warrants and bonds, and the enforcement of local assessment liens hereunder, shall be governed, as nearly as may be, by the laws relating to local improvements for cities and towns: **PROVIDED,** That no protest against a local utility district improvement shall be received after twelve o'clock noon of the day set for hearing. Such bonds and warrants may be in any form, including bearer bonds or bearer warrants, or registered warrants or registered bonds as provided in RCW 39.46.030. Such bonds and warrants may also be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW.

The commission may determine to finance the project by bonds or warrants secured by assessments against the property within the local utility district. Or it may finance the project by revenue bonds, in which case no bonds or warrants shall be issued by the local utility district, but assessments shall be levied upon the taxable property therein on the basis of special benefits up to, but not exceeding the total cost of the improvement and in such cases the entire principal and interest of such assessments shall be paid into a revenue bond fund of the district, to be used for the sole purpose of the payment of revenue bonds. [1983 c 167 § 145; 1955 c 390 § 14. Prior: 1951 c 209 § 2; 1945 c 143 § 1(l), part; 1931 c 1 § 6(l), part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11610(l), part.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

*Local improvement*

*first class cities:* Chapters 35.43 through 35.56 RCW.

*guaranty fund:* RCW 54.24.200 through 54.24.260.

**54.16.140 Petition or resolution for local district—Hearing—Notice.** Any such improvement shall be ordered by resolution of the commission either upon petition or resolution therefor. When a petition, signed by ten percent of the owners of land in the district to be therein described, is filed with the commission, asking that the plan or improvement therein set forth be adopted and ordered, and defining the boundaries of a local improvement district to be assessed in whole or in part to pay the cost thereof, the commission shall fix the date of hearing thereon, and give not less than two weeks notice thereof by publication. The commission may deny the petition or order the improvement, unless a majority of the owners of lands in the district file prior to twelve o'clock noon of the day of the hearing, with the secretary a petition protesting against the improvement.

If the commission orders the improvement, it may alter the boundaries of the proposed local district and prepare and adopt detail plans of the local improvement, declare the estimated cost thereof, what proportion thereof shall be borne by the local improvement district, and what proportion, if any shall be borne by the entire public utility district. [1955 c 390 § 15. Prior: 1945 c 143 § 1(1), part; 1931 c 1 § 6(1), part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11610(1), part.]

**54.16.142 Local utility districts—Notice must contain statement that assessments may vary from estimates.** Any notice given to the public or to the owners of specific lots, tracts, or parcels of land relating to the formation of a local utility district shall contain a statement that actual assessments may vary from assessment estimates so long as they do not exceed a figure equal to the increased true and fair value the improvement, or street lighting, adds to the property. [1989 c 243 § 9.]

**54.16.145 Local utility districts—Sanitary sewer or potable water facilities—Notice to certain property owners.** Whenever it is proposed that a local utility district finance sanitary sewers or potable water facilities, additional notice of the public hearing on the proposed local utility district shall be mailed to the owners of any property located outside of the proposed local utility district that would be required as a condition of federal housing administration loan qualification, at the time of notice, to be connected to the specific sewer or water facilities installed by the local utility district. The notice shall include information about this restriction. [1987 c 315 § 4.]

**54.16.150 Procedure when petition is signed by majority of landowners.** When a petition signed by a majority of the landowners in a proposed local improvement district is filed with the commission, asking that the improvement therein described be ordered, the commission shall forthwith fix a date for hearing thereon after which it shall, by resolution, order the improvement, and may alter the boundaries of the proposed district; prepare and adopt the improvement; prepare and adopt detail plans thereof; declare the estimated cost thereof, what proportion of the cost shall be borne by the local district, and what proportion, if any, shall be borne by the entire public utility district, and provide the general funds thereof to be applied thereto, if any; acquire all lands and other properties therefor; pay all damages caused thereby; and commence in the name of the public utility district such eminent domain proceedings and supplemental assessment or reassessment proceedings to pay all eminent domain awards necessary to entitle the district to proceed with the work, and shall thereafter proceed with the work, and shall file with the county treasurer its roll levying special assessments in the amount to be paid by special assessment against the property in the local improvement district in proportion to the special benefits to be derived by the property in the local district from the improvement: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, No such improvement shall be ordered unless the same appears to the commission to be financially and economically feasible: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That the commission may require as a condition to ordering such improvement or to making its determination

as to the financial and economic feasibility, that all or a portion of such engineering, legal or other costs incurred or to be incurred by the commission in determining financial and economic feasibility shall be borne or guaranteed by the petitioners of the proposed local improvement district under such rules as the commission may adopt. No person shall withdraw his name from the petition after the same has been filed with the commission. [1959 c 142 § 3; 1955 c 390 § 16. Prior: 1945 c 143 § 1(1), part; 1931 c 1 § 6(1), part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11610(1), part.]

**54.16.160 Assessment roll—Hearing—Appellate review—Expenses.** Before approval of the roll, a notice shall be published once each week for two successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county, stating that the roll is on file and open to inspection in the office of the secretary, and fixing a time not less than fifteen nor more than thirty days from the date of the first publication of the notice, within which protests must be filed with the secretary against any assessments shown thereon, and fixing a time when a hearing shall be held by the commission on the protests. After the hearing the commission may alter any and all assessments shown on the roll and may, by resolution, approve it, but if an assessment is raised, a new notice, similar to the first, shall be given, and a hearing had thereon, after which final approval of the roll may be made. Any person aggrieved by the assessments shall perfect an appeal to the superior court of the county within ten days after the approval, in the manner provided for appeals from assessments levied by cities of the first class. In the event such an appeal shall be taken, the judgment of the court shall confirm the assessment insofar as it affects the property of the appellant unless the court shall find from the evidence that such assessment is founded upon a fundamentally wrong basis and/or the decision of the commission thereon was arbitrary or capricious; in which event the judgment of the court shall correct, change, modify, or annul the assessment insofar as it affects the property of the appellant. In the same manner as provided with reference to cities of the first class appellate review of the judgment of the superior court may be sought, as in other cases, within fifteen days after the date of the entry of the judgment in the superior court. Engineering, office, and other expenses necessary or incident to the improvement shall be borne by the public utility district: PROVIDED, That when a municipal corporation included in the public utility district already owns or operates a utility of a character like that for which the assessments are levied hereunder, all such engineering and other expenses shall be borne by the local assessment district. [1988 c 202 § 51; 1971 c 81 § 123; 1959 c 142 § 4; 1955 c 390 § 17. Prior: 1945 c 143 § 1(1), part; 1931 c 1 § 6(1), part; Rem. Supp. 1945 c 11610(1), part.]

**Severability—1988 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.24.050.

*Procedure on appeal from assessments levied by cities of the first class: RCW 35.44.200 through 35.44.270.*

**54.16.165 Segregation of assessments.** Whenever any land against which there has been levied any special assessment by any public utility district shall have been sold in part or subdivided, the board of commissioners of such

public utility district shall have the power to order a segregation of the assessment.

Any person owning any part of the land involved in a special assessment and desiring to have such special assessment against the tracts of land segregated to apply to smaller parts thereof shall apply in writing to the board of commissioners of the public utility district which levied the assessment. If the commissioners determine that a segregation should be made they shall do so as nearly as possible on the same basis as the original assessment was levied and the total of the segregated parts of the assessment shall equal the assessment before segregation.

The commission shall then send notice thereof by mail to the several owners interested in the tract, as shown on the general tax rolls. If no protest is filed within twenty days from date of mailing said notice, the commission shall then by resolution approve said segregation. If a protest is filed, the commission shall have a hearing thereon, after mailing to the several owners at least ten days notice of the time and place thereof. After the hearing, the commission may by resolution approve said segregation, with or without change. Within ten days after the approval, any person aggrieved by the segregation may perfect an appeal to the superior court of the county wherein the property is situated and thereafter seek appellate review, all as provided for appeals from assessments levied by cities of the first class. The resolution approving said segregation shall describe the original tract, the amount and date of the original assessment, and shall define the boundaries of the divided parts and the amount of the assessment chargeable to each part, and shall order the county treasurer to make segregation on the original assessment roll as directed in the resolution. A certified copy of the resolution shall be delivered to the county treasurer who shall proceed to make the segregation ordered. The board of commissioners may require as a condition to the order of segregation that the person seeking it pay the public utility district the reasonable engineering and clerical costs incident to making the segregation. Unless otherwise provided in said resolution, the county treasurer shall apportion amounts paid on the original assessment in the same proportion as the segregated assessments bear to the original assessment. Upon segregation being made by the county treasurer, as aforesaid, the lien of the special assessment shall apply to the segregated parcels only to the extent of the segregated part of such assessment. [1988 c 202 § 52; 1971 c 81 § 124; 1959 c 142 § 1.]

**Severability—1988 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.24.050.

#### **54.16.170 Apportionment of cost of improvement.**

When an improvement is ordered hereunder, payment for which shall be made in part from assessments against property specially benefited, not more than fifty percent of the cost thereof shall ever be borne by the entire public utility district, nor shall any sum be contributed by it to any improvement acquired or constructed with or by any other body, exceed such amount, unless a majority of the electors of the district consent to or ratify the making of such expenditure. [1955 c 390 § 18. Prior: 1945 c 143 § 1(1), part; 1931 c 1 § 6(1), part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11610(1), part.]

**54.16.180 Sale, lease, disposition of properties—Procedure—Acquisition, operation of sewage system by districts in certain counties.** A district may sell and convey, lease, or otherwise dispose of all or any part of its works, plants, systems, utilities and properties, after proceedings and approval by the voters of the district, as provided for the lease or disposition of like properties and facilities owned by cities and towns: **PROVIDED**, That the affirmative vote of three-fifths of the voters voting at an election on the question of approval of a proposed sale, shall be necessary to authorize such sale: **PROVIDED FURTHER**, That a district may sell, convey, lease or otherwise dispose of all or any part of the property owned by it, located outside its boundaries, to another public utility district, city, town or other municipal corporation without the approval of the voters; or may sell, convey, lease, or otherwise dispose of to any person or public body, any part, either within or without its boundaries, which has become unserviceable, inadequate, obsolete, worn out or unfit to be used in the operations of the system and which is no longer necessary, material to, and useful in such operations, without the approval of the voters: **PROVIDED FURTHER**, That a public utility district located within a county with a population of from one hundred twenty-five thousand to less than two hundred ten thousand may sell and convey to a city of the first class, which owns its own water system, all or any part of a water system owned by said public utility district where a portion of it is located within the boundaries of such city, without approval of the voters upon such terms and conditions as the district shall determine: **PROVIDED FURTHER**, That a public utility district located in a county with a population of from twelve thousand to less than eighteen thousand and bordered by the Columbia river may, separately or in connection with the operation of a water system, or as part of a plan for acquiring or constructing and operating a water system, or in connection with the creation of another or subsidiary local utility district, may provide for the acquisition or construction, additions or improvements to, or extensions of, and operation of a sewage system within the same service area as in the judgment of the district commission is necessary or advisable in order to eliminate or avoid any existing or potential danger to the public health by reason of the lack of sewerage facilities or by reason of the inadequacy of existing facilities: **AND PROVIDED FURTHER**, That a public utility district located within a county with a population of from one hundred twenty-five thousand to less than two hundred ten thousand bordering on Puget Sound may sell and convey to any city of or town [city or town] with a population of less than ten thousand all or any part of a water system owned by said public utility district without approval of the voters upon such terms and conditions as the district shall determine. Public utility districts are municipal corporations for the purposes of this section and the commission shall be held to be the legislative body and the president and secretary shall have the same powers and perform the same duties as the mayor and city clerk and the resolutions of the districts shall be held to be ordinances within the meaning of the statutes governing the sale, lease, or other disposal of public utilities owned by cities and towns. [1994 c 81 § 78; 1991 c 363 § 135; 1977 ex.s. c 31 § 1; 1963 c 196 § 1; 1959 c 275 § 1; 1955 c 390 § 19.]

Prior: 1945 c 143 § 1(m); 1931 c 1 § 6(m); Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11610(m).]

**Purpose**—Captions not law—1991 c 363: See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**54.16.190 General resolutions.** The commission of a district may adopt general resolutions to carry out the purposes, objects, and provisions of this title. [1955 c 390 § 20. Prior: 1945 c 143 § 1(n); 1931 c 1 § 6(n); Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11610(n).]

**54.16.200 Joint exercise of powers and joint acquisition of properties.** Any two or more public utility districts organized under the provisions of the laws of this state shall have the power, by mutual agreement, to exercise jointly all powers granted to each individual district, and in the exercise of such powers shall have the right and power to acquire jointly all or any part of any electric utility properties which, at the time of the passage of this act, constitutes an interconnected and physically integrated electric utility system, whether entirely within or partly within and partly without such districts: PROVIDED, That any two or more districts so acting jointly, by mutual agreement, shall not acquire any electric utility distribution properties in any other public utility district without the consent of such district, and shall not exercise jointly the power to condemn any privately owned utility property or any public utility owned by a municipality, to levy taxes or, to create subdistricts. [1949 c 227 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 10459-15.]

**\*Reviser's note:** As to "the time of the passage of this act," the legislative history of chapter 227, Laws of 1949 is as follows: Passed the house March 8, 1949; passed the senate March 7, 1949; approved by the governor March 22, 1949.

*Joint operating agency:* RCW 43.52.360.

**54.16.210 Joint acquisition, operation, etc., with city of electrical utility properties.** See chapter 35.92 RCW.

**54.16.220 Columbia river hydroelectric projects—Grant back of easements to former owners.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, every public utility district acquiring privately owned lands, real estate or property for reservoir purposes of a hydroelectric power project dam on the Columbia river, upon acquisition of title to said lands, whether acquired by purchase or condemnation, shall grant back to the former owners of the lands acquired upon their request therefor, whether prior to conveyance of title to the district or within sixty days thereafter, a perpetual easement appurtenant to the adjoining property for such occupancy and use and improvement of the acquired lands as will not be detrimental to the operation of the hydroelectric project and not be in violation of the required conditions of the district's Federal Power Commission license for the project: PROVIDED, That said former owners shall not thereafter erect any structure or make any extensive physical change thereon except under a permit issued by the public utility district: PROVIDED FURTHER, That said easement shall include a provision that any shorelands thereunder shall be open to the public, and shall be subject to cancellation upon sixty days notice to the owners by the district that such lands are to be conveyed to another public agency for game or game fish

purposes or public recreational use, in which event the owners shall remove any structures they may have erected thereon within a reasonable time without cost to the district. The provisions of this section shall not be applicable with respect to: (1) lands acquired from an owner who does not desire an easement for such occupancy and use; (2) lands acquired from an owner where the entire estate has been acquired; (3) lands acquired for, and reasonably necessary for, project structures (including borrow areas) or for relocation of roads, highways, railroads, other utilities or railroad industrial sites; and (4) lands heretofore acquired or disposed of by sale or lease by a public utility district for whatsoever purpose. [1965 ex.s. c 118 § 1.]

**54.16.230 Sewage system works—Acquire, construct, operate, etc.—Authorizing election—Procedure.** A public utility district may acquire, construct, operate, maintain, and add to sewage systems, subject to and in compliance with the county comprehensive plan, under the general powers of Title 54 RCW or through the formation of local utility districts as provided in RCW 54.16.120 through 54.16.170: PROVIDED, That prior to engaging in any sewage system works as authorized by this section, the voters of the public utility district shall first approve by majority vote a referendum proposition authorizing such district to exercise the powers set forth in this section, which proposition shall be presented at a general election. [1975 1st ex.s. c 57 § 1.]

**54.16.240 Sewage system works—Resolution or petition—Voter approval or rejection.** The commission of a public utility district, by resolution may, or on petition in the same manner as provided for the creation of a district under RCW 54.08.010 shall, submit to the voters for their approval or rejection the proposal that said public utility district be authorized to exercise the powers set forth in RCW 54.16.230. [1975 1st ex.s. c 57 § 2.]

**54.16.250 Sewage system works—Ballot proposition—Canvass.** The legislative authority of the county in which the public utility district is located, upon receipt of the resolution of the public utility district commission or petition as provided for in RCW 54.08.010, shall submit such proposal to the voters of the district at the next general election in substantially the following terms:

Shall Public Utility District No. . . . of . . . . County be authorized to acquire, construct, operate, maintain, and add to sewage systems?

- Yes
- No

Within ten days after such election, the election board of the county shall canvass the returns, and if at such election a majority of voters voting on the proposition shall vote in favor of such authority, the district shall have the powers set forth in RCW 54.16.230. [1975 1st ex.s. c 57 § 3.]

**54.16.260 Sewage system works—Accounts and funding.** Accounts and funding for any sewage system or

systems shall be kept as provided in RCW 43.09.210. [1975 1st ex.s. c 57 § 4.]

**54.16.270 Sewage system works—Existing authority not affected.** Nothing contained in RCW 54.16.230 through 54.16.260 shall change or alter the present authority of certain public utility districts as regards sewage systems and as provided in RCW 54.16.180. [1975 1st ex.s. c 57 § 5.]

**54.16.280 Energy conservation plan—Financing authorized for energy conservation projects in structures or equipment—Limitations.** Any district is hereby authorized, within limits established by the Constitution of the state of Washington, to assist the owners of structures or equipment in financing the acquisition and installation of materials and equipment, for compensation or otherwise, for the conservation or more efficient use of energy in such structures or equipment pursuant to an energy conservation plan adopted by the district if the cost per unit of energy saved or produced by the use of such materials and equipment is less than the cost per unit of energy produced by the next least costly new energy resource which the district could acquire to meet future demand. Any financing authorized under this chapter shall only be used for conservation purposes in existing structures, and such financing shall not be used for any purpose which results in a conversion from one energy source to another. Except where otherwise authorized, such assistance shall be limited to:

(1) Providing an inspection of the structure or equipment, either directly or through one or more inspectors under contract, to determine and inform the owner of the estimated cost of purchasing and installing conservation materials and equipment for which financial assistance will be approved and the estimated life cycle savings in energy costs that are likely to result from the installation of such materials or equipment;

(2) Providing a list of businesses who sell and install such materials and equipment within or in close proximity to the service area of the district, each of which businesses shall have requested to be included and shall have the ability to provide the products in a workmanlike manner and to utilize such materials in accordance with the prevailing national standards.

(3) Arranging to have approved conservation materials and equipment installed by a private contractor whose bid is acceptable to the owner of the residential structure and verifying such installation; and

(4) Arranging or providing financing for the purchase and installation of approved conservation materials and equipment. Such materials and equipment shall be purchased from a private business and shall be installed by a private business or the owner.

(5) Pay back shall be in the form of incremental additions to the utility bill, billed either together with use charge or separately. Loans shall not exceed one hundred twenty months in length. [1989 c 268 § 2; 1979 ex.s. c 239 § 3.]

**Legislative declaration—Effective date—Contingency—1979 ex.s. c 239:** See RCW 35.92.355 and note following RCW 35.92.360.

**54.16.285 Limitations on termination of utility service for residential heating.** (1) A district providing utility service for residential space heating shall not terminate such utility service between November 15 through March 15 if the customer:

(a) Notifies the utility of the inability to pay the bill, including a security deposit. This notice should be provided within five business days of receiving a payment overdue notice unless there are extenuating circumstances. If the customer fails to notify the utility within five business days and service is terminated, the customer can, by paying reconnection charges, if any, and fulfilling the requirements of this section, receive the protections of this chapter;

(b) Provides self-certification of household income for the prior twelve months to a grantee of the department of community, trade, and economic development which administers federally funded energy assistance programs. The grantee shall determine that the household income does not exceed the maximum allowed for eligibility under the state's plan for low-income energy assistance under 42 U.S.C. 8624 and shall provide a dollar figure that is seven percent of household income. The grantee may verify information provided in the self-certification;

(c) Has applied for home heating assistance from applicable government and private sector organizations and certifies that any assistance received will be applied to the current bill and future utility bills;

(d) Has applied for low-income weatherization assistance to the utility or other appropriate agency if such assistance is available for the dwelling;

(e) Agrees to a payment plan and agrees to maintain the payment plan. The plan will be designed both to pay the past due bill by the following October 15 and to pay for continued utility service. If the past due bill is not paid by the following October 15, the customer shall not be eligible for protections under this chapter until the past due bill is paid. The plan shall not require monthly payments in excess of seven percent of the customer's monthly income plus one-twelfth of any arrearage accrued from the date application is made and thereafter during November 15 through March 15. A customer may agree to pay a higher percentage during this period, but shall not be in default unless payment during this period is less than seven percent of monthly income plus one-twelfth of any arrearage accrued from the date application is made and thereafter. If assistance payments are received by the customer subsequent to implementation of the plan, the customer shall contact the utility to reformulate the plan; and

(f) Agrees to pay the moneys owed even if he or she moves.

(2) The utility shall:

(a) Include in any notice that an account is delinquent and that service may be subject to termination, a description of the customer's duties in this section;

(b) Assist the customer in fulfilling the requirements under this section;

(c) Be authorized to transfer an account to a new residence when a customer who has established a plan under this section moves from one residence to another within the same utility service area;

(d) Be permitted to disconnect service if the customer fails to honor the payment program. Utilities may continue

to disconnect service for those practices authorized by law other than for nonpayment as provided for in this section. Customers who qualify for payment plans under this section who default on their payment plans and are disconnected can be reconnected and maintain the protections afforded under this chapter by paying reconnection charges, if any, and by paying all amounts that would have been due and owing under the terms of the applicable payment plan, absent default, on the date on which service is reconnected; and

(e) Advise the customer in writing at the time it disconnects service that it will restore service if the customer contacts the utility and fulfills the other requirements of this section.

(3) All districts providing utility service for residential space heating shall offer residential customers the option of a budget billing or equal payment plan. The budget billing or equal payment plan shall be offered low-income customers eligible under the state's plan for low-income energy assistance prepared in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 8624(C)(1) without limiting availability to certain months of the year, without regard to the length of time the customer has occupied the premises, and without regard to whether the customer is the tenant or owner of the premises occupied.

(4) An agreement between the customer and the utility, whether oral or written, shall not waive the protections afforded under this chapter. [1995 c 399 § 144; 1991 c 165 § 3; 1990 1st ex.s. c 1 § 3; 1986 c 245 § 3; 1985 c 6 § 19; 1984 c 251 § 2.]

**Findings—1991 c 165:** See note following RCW 35.21.300.

**54.16.300 Combined utility functions.** A public utility district by resolution may combine two or more of its separate utility functions into a single utility and combine its related funds or accounts into a single fund or account. The separate utility functions include electrical energy systems, domestic water systems, irrigation systems, sanitary sewer systems, and storm sewer systems. All powers granted to public utility districts to acquire, construct, maintain, and operate such systems may be exercised in the joint acquisition, construction, maintenance, and operation of such combined systems. The establishment, maintenance, and operation of the combined system shall be governed by the public utility district statutes relating to one of the utility systems that is being combined, as specified in the resolution combining the utility systems. [1987 c 18 § 1.]

**54.16.310 Operation, maintenance, and inspection of sewage disposal facilities, septic tanks, and wastewater disposal facilities and systems—Maintenance costs.** A public utility district as authorized by a county board of health, may perform operation and maintenance, including inspections, of on-site sewage disposal facilities, alternate sewage disposal facilities, approved septic tanks or approved septic tank systems, other facilities and systems for the collection, interception, treatment, and disposal of wastewater, and for the control and protection, preservation, and rehabilitation of surface and underground waters. Those costs associated with the maintenance of private on-site sewage systems may be charged by the public utility district to the system owner. [1990 c 107 § 1.]

**54.16.320 Assumption of substandard water system—Limited immunity from liability.** A public utility district assuming responsibility for a water system that is not in compliance with state or federal requirements for public drinking water systems, and its agents and employees, are immune from lawsuits or causes of action, based on non-compliance with state or federal requirements for public drinking water systems, which predate the date of assuming responsibility and continue after the date of assuming responsibility, provided that the public utility district has submitted and is complying with a plan and schedule of improvements approved by the department of health. This immunity shall expire on the earlier of the date the plan of improvements is completed or four years from the date of assuming responsibility. This immunity does not apply to intentional injuries, fraud, or bad faith. [1994 c 292 § 10.]

**Findings—Intent—1994 c 292:** See note following RCW 57.04.050.

## Chapter 54.20

### CONDEMNATION PROCEEDINGS

#### Sections

54.20.010 Statement of operations—Decree of appropriation—Retirement of properties—Accounting—Limitation on new proceedings.

**54.20.010 Statement of operations—Decree of appropriation—Retirement of properties—Accounting—Limitation on new proceedings.** In any condemnation proceeding heretofore or hereafter instituted or conducted by a public utility district for the acquisition of properties, the district may serve upon the condemnee's attorneys of record and file with the court a notice of its intention to present a decree of appropriation together with a demand for a verified statement showing in reasonable detail the following information with respect to the operation of the properties since the date of verdict, if the case was tried by jury, or since the date of the judgment fixing compensation, if the case was tried by the court, namely: the cost of any improvements and betterments to the properties which were reasonably necessary and prudently made; the gross income received from the properties, betterments and improvements; the actual reasonable expense, exclusive of depreciation, incurred in the operation thereof. If the condemnee fails to serve and file the statement within fifteen days after service of the demand therefor, it may be compelled to do so by contempt proceedings, and the time during which such proceedings are pending shall not be considered in computing the time within which the district may exercise its right of appropriation. After the statement is filed, the district may pay the amount of the verdict or judgment plus (1) accrued interest thereon less the net income before allowance for depreciation, and (2) the cost of such improvements and betterments, all as shown by the sworn statement, and concurrently obtain its decree of appropriation. The condemnee may retire from use after the verdict or judgment such items of the properties as may be reasonably necessary in the ordinary and usual course of operation thereof, in which case it shall show in its statement the reasonable value of such items retired, and the district may deduct such value from the sum otherwise payable by it. If the condemnee fails to file the statement



within fifteen days after service of the demand therefor, the district at its option may pay the full amount of the judgment or verdict plus accrued interest thereon and concurrently obtain a decree of appropriation.

After payment has been made and the decree of appropriation entered as provided in this section, the district or the condemnee shall be entitled to an accounting in the condemnation proceedings to determine the true amount of each item required to be furnished in the above statement, and to payment of any balance found due in such accounting.

Whenever any such condemnation proceedings have been, or hereafter may be abandoned, no new proceedings for the acquisition of the same or substantially similar properties shall be instituted until the expiration of one year from the date of such abandonment, but such proceedings may be instituted at any time thereafter. [1945 c 130 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 10459-13. Formerly RCW 54.20.010 through 54.20.050.]

**Purpose—Severability—1945 c 130:** See notes following RCW 54.04.100.

**Chapter 54.24**

**FINANCES**

Sections

GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 54.24.010 Treasurer—Bond—Duties—Funds—Depositaries.
- 54.24.012 Destruction of canceled or paid revenue obligations and interest coupons.
- BONDS OR WARRANTS—1931 ACT
- 54.24.018 Acquisition of property—Adoption of plan—Bonds or warrants—Special funds.
- BONDS—REVENUE OBLIGATIONS—1941 ACT
- 54.24.020 General obligation bonds, revenue obligations for cost of utilities.
- 54.24.030 Revenue obligations—Special fund—Form, term, payment, etc.—Resolution of authority, contents—Contracts for future sale.
- 54.24.040 Considerations in creating special fund—Status of claims against fund—When lien attaches.
- 54.24.050 Covenants to secure owners of revenue obligations.
- 54.24.060 Sale, delivery of revenue obligations.
- 54.24.070 Prima facie validity of revenue obligations.
- 54.24.080 Rates and charges—Waiver of connection charges for low-income persons.
- 54.24.090 Funding, refunding revenue obligations.
- 54.24.100 Execution of revenue obligations—Signatures.
- 54.24.110 Laws and resolutions as contract.
- 54.24.120 Obligations as lawful securities and investments.
- LOCAL IMPROVEMENT GUARANTY FUND
- 54.24.200 Local improvement guaranty fund.
- 54.24.210 Local improvement guaranty fund—Duties of the district.
- 54.24.220 Local improvement guaranty fund—Warrants to meet liabilities.
- 54.24.230 Local improvement guaranty fund—Certificates of delinquency—Contents, purchase, payment, issuance, sale.
- 54.24.240 Local improvement guaranty fund—Certificates of delinquency—Redemption, foreclosure.
- 54.24.250 Local improvement guaranty fund—Subrogation of district as trustee of fund, effect on fund, disposition of proceeds.
- 54.24.260 Local improvement guaranty fund—Rights and remedies of bond or warrant holder which shall be printed on bond or warrant—Disposition of balance of fund.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

**54.24.010 Treasurer—Bond—Duties—Funds—Depositaries.** The treasurer of the county in which a utility district is located shall be ex officio treasurer of the district: PROVIDED, That the commission by resolution may designate some other person having experience in financial or fiscal matters as treasurer of the utility district. The commission may, and if the treasurer is not the county treasurer it shall, require a bond, with a surety company authorized to do business in the state of Washington, in an amount and under the terms and conditions which the commission by resolution from time to time finds will protect the district against loss. The premium on any such bond shall be paid by the district.

All district funds shall be paid to the treasurer and shall be disbursed by him only on warrants issued by an auditor appointed by the commission, upon orders or vouchers approved by it. The treasurer shall establish a public utility district fund, into which shall be paid all district funds, and he shall maintain such special funds as may be created by the commission, into which he shall place all money as the commission may, by resolution, direct.

If the treasurer of the district is the treasurer of the county all district funds shall be deposited with the county depositaries under the same restrictions, contracts, and security as provided for county depositaries; if the treasurer of the district is some other person, all funds shall be deposited in such bank or banks authorized to do business in this state as the commission by resolution shall designate, and with surety bond to the district or securities in lieu thereof of the kind, no less in amount, as provided in \*RCW 36.48.020 for deposit of county funds.

Such surety bond or securities in lieu thereof shall be filed or deposited with the treasurer of the district, and approved by resolution of the commission.

All interest collected on district funds shall belong to the district and be deposited to its credit in the proper district funds.

A district may provide and require a reasonable bond of any other person handling moneys or securities of the district: PROVIDED, That the district pays the premium thereon. [1959 c 218 § 2; 1957 c 140 § 1; 1955 c 124 § 7. Prior: (i) 1931 c 1 § 9; RRS § 11613. (ii) 1931 c 1 § 8, part; RRS § 11612, part.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 36.48.020 was repealed by 1984 c 177 § 21.

**54.24.012 Destruction of canceled or paid revenue obligations and interest coupons.** After any revenue obligations or interest coupons have been canceled or paid they may be destroyed as directed by the district, any provisions of chapter 40.14 RCW notwithstanding: PROVIDED, That a certificate of destruction giving full descriptive reference to the documents destroyed shall be made by the person or persons authorized to perform such destruction and one copy of the certificate shall be filed with the treasurer of the district. [1959 c 218 § 15.]

## BONDS OR WARRANTS—1931 ACT

**54.24.018 Acquisition of property—Adoption of plan—Bonds or warrants—Special funds.** (1) Whenever the commission shall deem it advisable that the public utility district purchase, purchase and condemn, acquire, or construct any such public utility, or make any additions or betterments thereto, or extensions thereof, the commission shall provide therefor by resolution, which shall specify and adopt the system or plan proposed, and declare the estimated cost thereof, as near as may be, and specify whether general or utility indebtedness is to be incurred, the amount of such indebtedness, the amount of interest and the time in which all general bonds (if any) shall be paid, not to exceed thirty years. In the event the proposed general indebtedness to be incurred will bring the nonvoter approved indebtedness of the public utility district to an amount exceeding three-fourths of one percent of the value of the taxable property of the public utility district, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in RCW 39.36.015, the proposition of incurring such indebtedness and the proposed plan or system shall be submitted to the qualified electors of said public utility district for their approval or rejection at the next general election held in such public utility district. Elections shall be held as provided in RCW 39.36.050.

Whenever the commission (or a majority of the qualified voters of such public utility district, voting at said election, when it is necessary to submit the same to said voters) shall have adopted a system or plan for any such public utility, as aforesaid, and shall have authorized indebtedness therefor by a three-fifths vote of the qualified voters of such district, voting at said election, general or public utility bonds may be used as hereinafter provided. The principal and interest of such general bonds shall be paid from the revenue of such public utility district after deducting costs of maintenance, operation, and expenses of the public utility district, and any deficit in the payment of principal and interest of said general bonds shall be paid by levying each year a tax upon the taxable property within said district sufficient to pay said interest and principal of said bonds, which tax shall be due and collectible as any other tax. Said bonds shall be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW.

(2) All bonds and warrants issued under the authority of this chapter shall be legal securities, which may be used by any bank or trust company for deposit with the state treasurer, or any county or city treasurer, as security for deposits, in lieu of a surety bond, under any law relating to deposits of public moneys.

(3) When the commission shall not desire to incur a general indebtedness in the purchase, condemnation and purchase, acquisition, or construction of any such public utility, or addition or betterment thereto, or extension thereof, it shall have the power to create a special fund or funds for the sole purpose of defraying the cost of such public utility, or addition or betterment thereto, or extension thereof, into which special fund or funds it may obligate and bind the district to set aside and pay a fixed proportion of the gross revenues of such public utility, or any fixed amount out of, and not exceeding a fixed proportion of, such revenues, or a fixed amount without regard to any fixed proportion, and

to issue and sell revenue bonds or warrants bearing interest at such rate or rates, payable semiannually, executed in such manner, and payable at such times and places as the commission shall determine, but such bonds or warrants and the interest thereon, shall be payable only out of such special fund or funds. In creating any such special fund or funds, the commission shall have due regard to the cost of operation and maintenance of the plant or system as constructed or added to, and to any proportion or part of the revenues previously pledged as a fund for the payment of bonds or warrants, and shall not set aside into such special fund or funds a greater amount or proportion of the revenues and proceeds than, in its judgment, will be available over and above such cost of maintenance and operation and the amount or proportion, if any, of the revenues so previously pledged. Any such bonds or warrants, and interest thereon, issued against any such fund, as herein provided, shall be a valid claim of the owner thereof only as against the said special fund and its fixed proportion or amount of the revenue pledged to such fund, and shall not constitute an indebtedness of such district within the meaning of the constitutional provisions and limitations. Each such bond or warrant shall state on its face that it is payable from a special fund, naming such fund and the resolution creating it. Said bonds and warrants shall be sold in such manner as the commission shall deem for the best interests of the district. The commission may provide in any contract for the construction and acquisition of a proposed improvement or utility that payment therefor shall be made only in such bonds or warrants at the par value thereof. In all other respects, the issuance of such utility bonds or warrants and payment therefor shall be governed by the public utility laws for cities and towns. The revenue or utility bonds or warrants may be in any form, including bearer bonds or bearer warrants, or registered bonds or registered warrants as provided in RCW 39.46.030.

(4) Notwithstanding subsection (3) of this section, any of such revenue bonds and revenue warrants may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1984 c 186 § 45; 1983 c 167 § 146; 1971 c 12 § 1. Prior: 1970 ex.s. c 56 § 77; 1970 ex.s. c 42 § 33; 1969 ex.s. c 232 § 14; 1931 c 1 § 7; RRS § 11611. Formerly RCW 54.24.130 through 54.24.160.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

**Validation—Saving—Severability—1969 ex.s. c 232:** See notes following RCW 39.52.020.

*Municipal utilities:* Chapter 35.92 RCW.

## BONDS—REVENUE OBLIGATIONS—1941 ACT

**54.24.020 General obligation bonds, revenue obligations for cost of utilities.** Whenever the commission of a public utility district, organized pursuant to \*chapter 1 of the Laws of 1931 (sections 11605 et seq. of Remington's Revised Statutes) shall deem it advisable that the district purchase, purchase and condemn, acquire or construct any public utility, or make any additions or betterments thereto or extensions thereof, the commission shall provide therefor

by resolution, which shall specify and adopt the system or plan proposed and declare the estimated cost thereof, as near as may be, including as part of such cost funds necessary for working capital for the operation of such public utility by the district and for the payment of the expenses incurred in the acquisition or construction thereof, and shall specify whether general obligation bonds or revenue obligations are to be issued to defray such cost and the amount of such general obligation bonds or revenue obligations.

The commissioners may provide in such resolution that any additional works, plants, or facilities subsequently acquired or constructed by the district for the same uses, whether or not physically connected therewith, shall be deemed additions or betterments to or extensions of such public utility. [1959 c 218 § 3; 1941 c 182 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11611-1.]

**\*Reviser's note:** For translation of "chapter 1 of the Laws of 1931," see note following RCW 54.04.020.

**Severability—1941 c 182:** "If any section or provision of this act shall be adjudged to be invalid such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the act as a whole or any section, provision or part thereof not adjudged to be invalid." [1941 c 182 § 12.]

*Revenue obligations defined:* RCW 54.04.010.

**54.24.030 Revenue obligations—Special fund—Form, term, payment, etc.—Resolution of authority, contents—Contracts for future sale.** (1) Whenever the commission shall deem it advisable to issue revenue obligations for the purpose of defraying the cost or part of the cost of such public utility or any additions or betterments thereto or extensions thereof, it shall have power as a part of such plan and system to create a special fund or funds for the purpose of defraying the cost of such public utility, or additions or betterments thereto or extensions thereof, into which special fund or funds it may obligate and bind the district to set aside and pay a fixed proportion of the gross revenues of such public utility, and all additions or betterments thereto or extensions thereof, or any fixed amount out of, and not exceeding a fixed proportion of such revenues, or a fixed amount without regard to any fixed proportion, or an amount of such revenues equal to a fixed percentage of the aggregate principal amount of revenue obligations at any time issued against the special fund or funds, and to issue and sell revenue obligations payable as to both principal and interest only out of such fund or funds.

Such revenue obligations shall bear such date or dates, mature at such time or times, be in such denominations, be in such form, either coupon or registered, as provided in RCW 39.46.030, or both, carry such registration privileges, be made transferable, exchangeable, and interchangeable, be payable in such medium of payment, at such place or places, and be subject to such terms of redemption as the commission shall by resolution determine.

Any resolution or resolutions authorizing the issuance of any revenue obligations maturing in not exceeding six years from the date thereof (hereinafter in this section referred to as "short term obligations") may contain, in addition to all other provisions authorized by this title, and as an alternate method for the payment thereof, provisions which shall be a part of the contract with the holders of the short term obligations thereby authorized as to:

(a) Refunding the short term obligations at or prior to maturity and, if so provided, outstanding bonds by the issuance of revenue bonds of the district either by the sale of bonds and application of the proceeds to the payment of the short term obligations and outstanding bonds or by the exchange of bonds for the short term obligations;

(b) Satisfying, paying, or discharging the short term obligations at the election of the district by the tender or delivery of revenue bonds of the district in exchange therefor: PROVIDED, That the aggregate principal amount of bonds shall not exceed by more than five percent the aggregate principal amount of the short term obligations, to satisfy, pay, or discharge said short term obligations for which the bonds are tendered or delivered;

(c) Exchanging or converting the short term obligations at the election of the owner thereof for or into the bonds of the district: PROVIDED, That the aggregate principal amount of the bonds shall not exceed by more than five percent the aggregate principal amount of the short term obligations to be exchanged for or converted into bonds;

(d) Pledging bonds of the district as collateral to secure payment of the short term obligations and providing for the terms and conditions of the pledge and the manner of enforcing the pledge, which terms and conditions may provide for the delivery of the bonds in satisfaction of the short term obligations: PROVIDED, That the aggregate principal amount of the bonds pledged shall not exceed by more than five percent the aggregate principal amount of the short term obligations to secure said short term obligations for which they are pledged;

(e) Depositing bonds in escrow or in trust with a trustee or fiscal agent or otherwise providing for the issuance and disposition of the bonds as security for carrying out any of the provisions in any resolution adopted pursuant to this section and providing for the powers and duties of the trustee, fiscal agent, or other depository and the terms and conditions upon which the bonds are to be issued, held and disposed of;

(f) Any other matters of like or different character which relate to any provision or provisions of any resolution adopted pursuant to this section.

A district shall have power to make contracts for the future sale from time to time of revenue obligations by which the purchasers shall be committed to purchase such revenue obligations from time to time on the terms and conditions stated in such contract; and a district shall have power to pay such consideration as it shall deem proper for such commitments.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such revenue obligations may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 § 147; 1959 c 218 § 4; 1941 c 182 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11611-2.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

*Alternative authority to issue revenue bonds:* RCW 39.46.150, 39.46.160.

*Funds for reserve purposes may be included in issue amount:* RCW 39.44.140.

**54.24.040 Considerations in creating special fund—Status of claims against fund—When lien attaches.** In creating any special fund for the payment of revenue obligations, the commission shall have due regard to the cost of

operation and maintenance of the plant or system constructed or added to, and to any proportion or amount of the revenues previously pledged as a fund for the payment of revenue obligations, and shall not set aside into such special fund or funds a greater amount or proportion of the revenues and proceeds than in its judgment will be available over and above such cost of maintenance and operation and the amount or proportion, if any, of the revenues so previously pledged. Any such revenue obligations and interest thereon issued against any such fund as herein provided shall be a valid claim of the owner thereof only as against such special fund and the proportion or amount of the revenues pledged to such fund, but shall constitute a prior charge over all other charges or claims whatsoever, including the charge or lien of any general obligation bonds against such fund and the proportion or amount of the revenues pledged thereto. Such revenue obligations shall not constitute an indebtedness of such district within the meaning of the constitutional provisions and limitations. Each revenue obligation shall state on its face that it is payable from a special fund, naming such fund and the resolution creating it, or shall describe such alternate method for the payment thereof as shall be provided by the resolution authorizing same.

It is the intention hereof that any pledge of the revenues or other moneys or obligations made by a district shall be valid and binding from the time that the pledge is made; that the revenues or other moneys or obligations so pledged and thereafter received by a district shall immediately be subject to the lien of such pledge without any physical delivery or further act, and that the lien of any such pledge shall be valid and binding as against any parties having claims of any kind in tort, contract, or otherwise against a district irrespective of whether such parties have notice thereof. Neither the resolution or other instrument by which a pledge is created need be recorded. [1983 c 167 § 148; 1959 c 218 § 5; 1941 c 182 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11611-5.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**54.24.050 Covenants to secure owners of revenue obligations.** Any resolution creating any such special fund or authorizing the issue of revenue obligations payable therefrom, or by such alternate method of payment as may be provided therein, shall specify the title of such revenue obligations as determined by the commission and may contain covenants by the district to protect and safeguard the security and the rights of the owners thereof, including covenants as to, among other things:

(1) The purpose or purposes to which the proceeds of sale of such obligations may be applied and the use and disposition thereof;

(2) The use and disposition of the gross revenues of the public utility, and any additions or betterments thereto or extensions thereof, the cost of which is to be defrayed with such proceeds, including the creation and maintenance of funds for working capital to be used in the operation of the public utility and for renewals and replacements to the public utility;

(3) The amount, if any, of additional revenue obligations payable from such fund which may be issued and the terms and conditions on which such additional revenue obligations may be issued;

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(4) The establishment and maintenance of adequate rates and charges for electric energy, water, and other services, facilities, and commodities sold, furnished, or supplied by the public utility;

(5) The operation, maintenance, management, accounting, and auditing of the public utility;

(6) The terms and prices upon which such revenue obligations or any of them may be redeemed at the election of the district;

(7) Limitations upon the right to dispose of such public utility or any part thereof without providing for the payment of the outstanding revenue obligations; and

(8) The appointment of trustees, depositaries, and paying agents to receive, hold, disburse, invest, and reinvest all or any part of the income, revenues, receipts, and profits derived by the district from the operation, ownership, and management of its public utility. [1983 c 167 § 149; 1959 c 218 § 6; 1945 c 143 § 2; 1941 c 182 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11611-3.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**54.24.060 Sale, delivery of revenue obligations.** (1) Such utility revenue obligations shall be sold and delivered in such manner, at such rate or rates of interest and for such price or prices and at such time or times as the commission shall deem for the best interests of the district. The commission may, if it deem it to be the best interest of the district, provide in any contract for the construction or acquisition of the public utility, or the additions or betterments thereto or extensions thereof, that payment therefor shall be made only in such revenue obligations at the par value thereof.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such obligations may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 § 150; 1970 ex.s. c 56 § 78; 1969 ex.s. c 232 § 83; 1959 c 218 § 7; 1941 c 182 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11611-4.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**Effective date—Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See notes following RCW 39.44.030.

**Validation—Saving—Severability—1969 ex.s. c 232:** See notes following RCW 39.44.030.

**54.24.070 Prima facie validity of revenue obligations.** The state auditor need not register, certify, nor sign revenue obligations after July 26, 1981. These obligations shall be held in every action, suit, or proceeding in which their validity is or may be brought into question prima facie valid and binding obligations of the districts in accordance with their terms, notwithstanding any defects or irregularities in the proceedings for the organization of the district and the election of the commissioners thereof or for the authorization and issuance of such revenue obligations or in the sale, execution, or delivery thereof. [1981 c 37 § 1; 1959 c 218 § 8; 1941 c 182 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11611-6.]

**54.24.080 Rates and charges—Waiver of connection charges for low-income persons.** (1) The commission of each district which shall have revenue obligations outstanding shall have the power and shall be required to establish, maintain, and collect rates or charges for electric energy and

water and other services, facilities, and commodities sold, furnished, or supplied by the district. The rates and charges shall be fair and, except as authorized by RCW 74.38.070 and by subsections (2) and (3) of this section, nondiscriminatory, and shall be adequate to provide revenues sufficient for the payment of the principal of and interest on such revenue obligations for which the payment has not otherwise been provided and all payments which the district is obligated to set aside in any special fund or funds created for such purpose, and for the proper operation and maintenance of the public utility and all necessary repairs, replacements, and renewals thereof.

(2) The commission of a district may waive connection charges for properties purchased by low-income persons from organizations exempt from tax under section 501(c)(3) of the federal internal revenue code as amended prior to the July 23, 1995. Waivers of connection charges for the same class of electric or gas utility service must be uniformly applied to all qualified property. Nothing in this subsection (2) authorizes the impairment of a contract.

(3) In establishing rates or charges for water service, commissioners may in their discretion consider the achievement of water conservation goals and the discouragement of wasteful water use practices. [1995 c 140 § 3; 1991 c 347 § 21; 1959 c 218 § 9; 1941 c 182 § 7; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11611-7.]

**Purposes—1991 c 347:** See note following RCW 90.42.005.

**Severability—1991 c 347:** See RCW 90.42.900.

#### **54.24.090 Funding, refunding revenue obligations.**

Whenever any district shall have outstanding any utility revenue obligations, the commission shall have power by resolution to provide for the issuance of funding or refunding revenue obligations with which to take up and refund such outstanding revenue obligations or any part thereof at the maturity thereof or before maturity if the same be by their terms or by other agreement subject to call for prior redemption, with the right in the commission to include various series and issues of such outstanding revenue obligations in a single issue of funding or refunding revenue obligations, and to issue refunding revenue obligations to pay any redemption premium payable on the outstanding revenue obligations being funded or refunded. Such funding or refunding revenue obligations shall be payable only out of a special fund created out of the gross revenues of such public utility, and shall only be a valid claim as against such special fund and the amount of the revenues of such utility pledged to such fund. Such funding or refunding revenue obligations shall in the discretion of the commission be exchanged at par for the revenue obligations which are being funded or refunded or shall be sold in such manner, at such price and at such rate or rates of interest as the commission shall deem for the best interest of the district. Said funding or refunding [revenue] obligations shall except as specifically provided in this section, be issued in accordance with the provisions with respect to revenue obligations in \*this act set forth. [1970 ex.s. c 56 § 79; 1969 ex.s. c 232 § 84; 1959 c 218 § 10; 1941 c 182 § 8; Rem. Supp. 1941 c 11611-8.]

**\*Reviser's note:** "This act" [1941 c 182] is codified as RCW 54.24.020 through 54.24.120.

**Effective date—Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See notes following RCW 39.44.030.

(1996 Ed.)

**Validation—Saving—Severability—1969 ex.s. c 232:** See notes following RCW 39.44.030.

**54.24.100 Execution of revenue obligations—Signatures.** (1) All revenue obligations, including funding and refunding revenue obligations, shall be executed in such manner as the commission may determine: PROVIDED, That warrants may be signed as provided in RCW 54.24.010. Any interest coupons attached to any revenue obligations may be executed with facsimile or lithographed signatures, or otherwise, as the commission may determine.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such obligations may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 § 151; 1981 c 37 § 2; 1959 c 218 § 11; 1941 c 182 § 9; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11611-9.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**Facsimile signatures:** RCW 39.44.100 through 39.44.102; chapter 39.62 RCW.

**54.24.110 Laws and resolutions as contract.** The provisions of \*this act and the provisions of \*\*chapter 1, Laws of 1931, not hereby superseded, and of any resolution or resolutions providing for the issuance of any revenue obligations as herein set forth shall constitute a contract with the holder or holders of such revenue obligations and the agreements and covenants of the district and its commission under said acts and any such resolution or resolutions shall be enforceable by any revenue obligation holder by mandamus or any other appropriate suit or action in any court of competent jurisdiction. [1959 c 218 § 12; 1941 c 182 § 10; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11611-10.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) For translation of "this act," see note following RCW 54.24.090.

\*\*\*(2) For translation of "chapter 1, Laws of 1931," see note following RCW 54.04.020.

**Mandamus:** RCW 7.16.150 through 7.16.280.

**54.24.120 Obligations as lawful securities and investments.** All bonds, warrants, and revenue obligations issued under the authority of \*chapter 1, Laws of 1931 and \*\*this act shall be legal securities, which may be used by any bank or trust company for deposit with the state treasurer, or any county, city, or town treasurer, as security for deposits in lieu of a surety bond under any law relating to deposits of public moneys and shall constitute legal investments for trustees and other fiduciaries other than corporations doing a trust business in this state and for savings and loan associations, banks, and insurance companies doing business in this state. All such bonds, warrants, and revenue obligations and all coupons appertaining thereto shall be negotiable instruments within the meaning of and for all purposes of the negotiable instruments law of this state. [1959 c 218 § 13; 1941 c 182 § 11; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11611-11.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) For translation of "chapter 1, Laws of 1931," see note following RCW 54.04.020.

\*\*\*(2) For translation of "this act," see note following RCW 54.24.090.

**Investment securities:** Article 62A.8 RCW.

## LOCAL IMPROVEMENT GUARANTY FUND

**54.24.200 Local improvement guaranty fund.** Every public utility district in the state is hereby authorized, by resolution, to create a fund for the purpose of guaranteeing, to the extent of such fund, and in the manner hereinafter provided, the payment of such of its local improvement bonds and/or warrants as the commission may determine issued to pay for any local improvement within any local utility district established within the boundaries of the public utility district. Such fund shall be designated "local improvement guaranty fund, public utility district No. . . .". For the purpose of maintaining such fund the public utility district shall set aside and pay into it such proportion as the commissioners may direct by resolution of the monthly gross revenues of its public utilities for which local improvement bonds and/or warrants have been issued and guaranteed by said fund: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That any obligation to make payments into said fund as herein provided shall be junior to any pledge of said gross revenues for the payment of any outstanding or future general obligation bonds or revenue bonds of the district. The proportion may be varied from time to time as the commissioners deem expedient: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That under the existence of the conditions set forth in subdivisions (1) and (2), hereunder, and when consistent with the covenants of a public utility district securing its bonds, the proportion shall be as therein specified, to wit:

(1) When bonds and/or warrants of a local utility district have been guaranteed and are outstanding and the guaranty fund does not have a cash balance equal to twenty percent of all bonds and/or warrants originally guaranteed hereunder, excluding bonds and/or warrants which have been retired in full, then twenty percent of the gross monthly revenues from each public utility for which such bonds and/or warrants have been issued and are outstanding but not necessarily from users in other parts of the public utility district as a whole, shall be set aside and paid into the guaranty fund: PROVIDED, That when, under the requirements of this subdivision, the cash balance accumulates so that it is equal to twenty percent of the total original guaranteed bonds and/or warrants, exclusive of any issue of bonds and/or warrants of a local utility district which issue has been paid and/or redeemed in full, or equal to the full amount of all bonds and/or warrants guaranteed, outstanding and unpaid, which amount might be less than twenty percent of the original total guaranteed, then no further revenue need be set aside and paid into the guaranty fund so long as such condition continues;

(2) When warrants issued against the guaranty fund remain outstanding and uncalled, for lack of funds, for six months from date of issuance, or when bonds, warrants, or any coupons or interest payments guaranteed hereunder have been matured for six months and have not been redeemed, then twenty percent of the gross monthly revenue, or such portion thereof as the commissioners determine will be sufficient to retire the warrants or redeem the coupons, interest payments, bonds and/or warrants in the ensuing six months, derived from all the users of the public utilities for which such bonds and/or warrants have been issued and are outstanding in whole or in part, shall be set aside and paid

into the guaranty fund: PROVIDED, That when under the requirements of this subdivision all warrants, coupons, bonds and/or warrants specified in this subdivision have been redeemed and interest payments made, no further income need be set aside and paid into the guaranty fund under the requirements of this subdivision unless other warrants remain outstanding and unpaid for six months or other coupons, bonds and/or warrants default or interest payments are not made: PROVIDED, FURTHER, HOWEVER, That no more than a total of twenty percent of the gross monthly revenue shall be required to be set aside and paid into the guaranty fund by these subdivisions (1) and (2). [1983 c 167 § 152; 1957 c 150 § 1.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

*Local utility districts:* RCW 54.16.120.

**54.24.210 Local improvement guaranty fund—Duties of the district.** To comply with the requirements of setting aside and paying into the local improvement guaranty fund a proportion of the monthly gross revenues of the public utilities of a district, for which guaranteed local improvement bonds and/or warrants have been issued and are outstanding, the district shall bind and obligate itself so long as economically feasible to maintain and operate the utilities and establish, maintain and collect such rates for water and/or electric energy, as the case may be, as will produce gross revenues sufficient to maintain and operate the utilities, and make necessary provision for the guaranty fund. The district shall alter its rates for water and/or electric energy, as the case may be, from time to time and shall vary them in different portions of its territory to comply with such requirements. [1957 c 150 § 2.]

**54.24.220 Local improvement guaranty fund—Warrants to meet liabilities.** When a bond, warrant, or any coupon or interest payment guaranteed by the guaranty fund matures and there are not sufficient funds in the local utility district bond redemption fund to pay it, the county treasurer shall pay it from the local improvement guaranty fund of the public utility district; if there are not sufficient funds in the guaranty fund to pay it, it may be paid by issuance and delivery of a warrant upon the local improvement guaranty fund.

When the cash balance in the local improvement guaranty fund is insufficient for the required purposes, warrants drawing interest at a rate determined by the commission may be issued by the district auditor, against the fund to meet any liability accrued against it and shall issue them upon demand of the owners of any matured coupons, bonds, interest payments, and/or warrants guaranteed hereby, or to pay for any certificate of delinquency for delinquent installments of assessments as provided hereinafter. Guaranty fund warrants shall be a first lien in their order of issuance upon the guaranty fund. [1983 c 167 § 153; 1981 c 156 § 19; 1957 c 150 § 3.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**54.24.230 Local improvement guaranty fund—Certificates of delinquency—Contents, purchase, pay-**

**ment, issuance, sale.** Within twenty days after the date of delinquency of any annual installment of assessments levied for the purpose of paying the local improvement bonds and/or warrants of a district guaranteed hereunder, the county treasurer shall compile a statement of all installments delinquent together with the amount of accrued interest and penalty appurtenant to each installment, and shall forthwith purchase, for the district, certificates of delinquency for all such delinquent installments. Payment for the certificates shall be made from the local improvement guaranty fund and if there is not sufficient money in that fund to pay for the certificates, the county treasurer shall accept the local improvement guaranty fund warrants in payment therefor. All certificates shall be issued in the name of the local improvement guaranty fund and all guaranty fund warrants issued in payment therefor shall be issued in the name of the appropriate local utility district fund. When a market is available and the commissioners direct, the county treasurer shall sell any certificates belonging to the local improvement guaranty fund, for not less than face value thereof plus accrued interest from date of issuance to date of sale.

The certificates shall be issued by the county treasurer, shall bear interest at the rate of ten percent per year, shall each be for the face value of the delinquent installment, plus accrued interest to date of issuance, plus a penalty of five percent of the face value, and shall set forth the:

- (1) Description of property assessed;
- (2) Date the installment of assessment became delinquent; and
- (3) Name of the owner or reputed owner, if known. [1957 c 150 § 4.]

**54.24.240 Local improvement guaranty fund—Certificates of delinquency—Redemption, foreclosure.** The certificates of delinquency may be redeemed by the owner of the property assessed at any time up to two years from the date of foreclosure of the certificate.

If a certificate is not redeemed on the second occurring first day of January, after its issuance, the county treasurer shall foreclose the certificate in the manner specified for the foreclosure of the lien of local improvement assessments in cities, and if no redemption is made within the succeeding two years, from date of the decree of foreclosure, shall execute and deliver unto the public utility district, as trustee for the fund, a deed conveying fee simple title to the property described in the foreclosed certificate. [1957 c 150 § 5.]

**54.24.250 Local improvement guaranty fund—Subrogation of district as trustee of fund, effect on fund, disposition of proceeds.** When there is paid out of a guaranty fund any sum on the principal or interest upon local improvement bonds, and/or warrants, or on the purchase of certificates of delinquency, the public utility district, as trustee, for the fund, shall be subrogated to all rights of the owner of the bonds, and/or warrants, any interest coupons, or delinquent assessment installments so paid; and the proceeds thereof, or of the assessment underlying them, shall become a part of the guaranty fund. There shall also be paid into the guaranty fund the interest received from the bank deposits of the fund, as well as any surplus remaining in the

local utility district funds guaranteed hereunder, after the payment of all outstanding bonds and/or warrants payable primarily out of such local utility district funds. As among the several issues of bonds and/or warrants guaranteed by the fund, no preference shall exist, but defaulted interest coupons and bonds and/or warrants shall be purchased out of the fund in the order of their presentation.

The commissioners shall prescribe, by resolution, appropriate rules for the guaranty fund consistent herewith. So much of the money of a guaranty fund as is necessary and not required for other purposes hereunder may be used to purchase property at county tax foreclosure sales or from the county after foreclosure in cases where the property is subject to unpaid local improvement assessments securing bonds and/or warrants guaranteed hereunder and such purchase is deemed necessary for the purpose of protecting the guaranty fund. In such cases the funds shall be subrogated to all rights of the district. After so acquiring title to real property, the district may lease or resell and convey it in the same manner that county property may be leased or resold and for such prices and on such terms as may be determined by resolution of the commissioners. All proceeds resulting from such resales shall belong to and be paid into the guaranty fund. [1983 c 167 § 154; 1957 c 150 § 6.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**54.24.260 Local improvement guaranty fund—Rights and remedies of bond or warrant holder which shall be printed on bond or warrant—Disposition of balance of fund.** Neither the holder nor the owner of local improvement bonds and/or warrants guaranteed hereunder shall have a claim therefor against the public utility district, except for payment from the special assessment made for the improvement for which the bonds and/or warrants were issued, and except as against the guaranty fund. The district shall not be liable to any holder or owner of such local improvement bonds and/or warrants for any loss to the guaranty fund occurring in the lawful operation thereof by the district. The remedy of the holder of a local improvement bond and/or warrant shall be confined to the enforcement of the assessment and to the guaranty fund. A copy of the foregoing part of this section shall be plainly written, printed, or engraved on each local improvement bond and/or warrant guaranteed hereby. The establishment of a guaranty fund shall not be deemed at variance from any comprehensive plan heretofore adopted by a district.

If a guaranty fund at any time has balance therein in cash, and the obligations guaranteed thereby have all been paid off, the balance may be transferred to such other fund of the district as the commissioners shall, by resolution, direct. [1957 c 150 § 7.]

## Chapter 54.28 PRIVILEGE TAXES

### Sections

- |           |   |
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 54.28.120 Amount of tax if district acquires electric utility property from public service company.

*Special benefit assessments—Property taxes—Exemptions: RCW 84.34.300 through 84.34.380.*

**54.28.010 Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

(1) "Operating property" means all of the property utilized by a public utility district in the operation of a plant or system for the generation, transmission, or distribution of electric energy for sale;

(2) "Taxing districts" means counties, cities, towns, school districts, and road districts;

(3) "Distributes to consumers" means the sale of electric energy to ultimate consumers thereof, and does not include sales of electric energy for resale by the purchaser;

(4) "Wholesale value" means all costs of a public utility district associated with the generation and transmission of energy from its own generation and transmission system to the point or points of inter-connection with a distribution system owned and used by a district to distribute such energy to consumers, or in the event a distribution system owned by a district is not used to distribute such energy, then the term means the gross revenues derived by a district from the sale of such energy to consumers;

(5) "Thermal electric generating facility" means a steam-powered electrical energy producing facility utilizing nuclear or fossil fuels;

(6) "Placed in operation" means delivery of energy into a transmission or distribution system for use or sale in such a manner as to establish a value accruing to the power plant operator, except operation incidental to testing or startup adjustments;

(7) "Impacted area" for a thermal electric generating facility on a federal reservation means that area in the state lying within thirty-five statute miles of the most commonly used entrance of the federal reservation and which is south of the southern boundary of township fifteen north. [1977 ex.s. c 366 § 1; 1967 ex.s. c 26 § 22; 1959 c 274 § 1; 1957 c 278 § 7. Prior: (i) 1941 c 245 § 1, part; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11616-1, part. (ii) 1949 c 227 § 1(f); Rem. Supp. 1949 § 11616-2(f).]

**Effective date—1967 ex.s. c 26:** See note following RCW 82.01.050.

**54.28.011 "Gross revenue" defined.** "Gross revenue" shall mean the amount received from the sale of electric energy excluding any tax levied by a municipal corporation upon the district pursuant to RCW 54.28.070. [1957 c 278 § 12.]

**54.28.020 Tax imposed—Rates—Additional tax imposed.** (1) There is hereby levied and there shall be

collected from every district a tax for the act or privilege of engaging within this state in the business of operating works, plants or facilities for the generation, distribution and sale of electric energy. With respect to each such district, except with respect to thermal electric generating facilities taxed under RCW 54.28.025, such tax shall be the sum of the following amounts: (a) Two percent of the gross revenues derived by the district from the sale of all electric energy which it distributes to consumers who are served by a distribution system owned by the district; (b) five percent of the first four mills per kilowatt-hour of wholesale value of self-generated energy distributed to consumers by a district; (c) five percent of the first four mills per kilowatt-hour of revenue obtained by the district from the sale of self-generated energy for resale.

(2) An additional tax is imposed equal to the rate specified in RCW 82.02.030 multiplied by the tax payable under subsection (1) of this section. [1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 8; 1982 1st ex.s. c 35 § 18; 1977 ex.s. c 366 § 2; 1959 c 274 § 2; 1957 c 278 § 2. Prior: 1949 c 227 § 1(a); 1947 c 259 § 1(a); 1941 c 245 § 2(a); Rem. Supp. 1949 § 11616-2(a).]

**Construction—Severability—Effective dates—1983 2nd ex.s. c 3:** See notes following RCW 82.04.255.

**Severability—Effective dates—1982 1st ex.s. c 35:** See notes following RCW 82.08.020.

**Severability—1947 c 259:** "If any section, subsection, clause, sentence or phrase of this act be for any reason adjudged unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not invalidate the remaining portions of this act, and the legislature hereby declares that it would have enacted this act notwithstanding the omission of the portion so adjudicated invalid." [1947 c 259 § 2.]

**54.28.025 Tax imposed with respect to thermal electric generating facilities—Rate—Additional tax imposed.** (1) There is hereby levied and there shall be collected from every district operating a thermal electric generating facility, as defined in RCW 54.28.010 as now or hereafter amended, having a design capacity of two hundred fifty thousand kilowatts or more, located on a federal reservation, which is placed in operation after September 21, 1977, a tax for the act or privilege of engaging within the state in the business of generating electricity for use or sale, equal to one and one-half percent of wholesale value of energy produced for use or sale, except energy used in the operation of component parts of the power plant and associated transmission facilities under control of the person operating the power plant.

(2) An additional tax is imposed equal to the rate specified in RCW 82.02.030 multiplied by the tax payable under subsection (1) of this section. [1983 2nd ex.s. c 3 § 9; 1982 1st ex.s. c 35 § 19; 1977 ex.s. c 366 § 6.]

**Construction—Severability—Effective dates—1983 2nd ex.s. c 3:** See notes following RCW 82.04.255.

**Severability—Effective dates—1982 1st ex.s. c 35:** See notes following RCW 82.08.020.

**54.28.030 Districts' report to department of revenue.** On or before the fifteenth day of March of each year, each district subject to this tax shall file with the department of revenue a report verified by the affidavit of its manager or secretary on forms prescribed by the department of revenue. Such report shall state (1) the gross revenues derived



by the district from the sale of all distributed energy to consumers and the respective amounts derived from such sales within each county; (2) the gross revenues derived by the district from the sale of self-generated energy for resale; (3) the amount of all generated energy distributed from each of the facilities subject to taxation by a district from its own generating facilities, the wholesale value thereof, and the basis on which the value is computed; (4) the total cost of all generating facilities and the cost of acquisition of land and land rights for such facilities or for reservoir purposes in each county; and (5) such other and further information as the department of revenue reasonably may require in order to administer the provisions of this chapter. In case of failure by a district to file such report, the department may proceed to determine the information, which determination shall be contestable by the district only for actual fraud. [1977 ex.s. c 366 § 3; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 30; 1959 c 274 § 3; 1957 c 278 § 3. Prior: 1949 c 227 § 1(b); 1947 c 259 § 1(b); 1941 c 245 § 2(b); Rem. Supp. 1949 § 11616-2(b).]

**Construction—Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 278:** See notes following RCW 11.08.160.

**54.28.040 Tax computed—Payment—Disposition.** (*Effective until January 1, 1997.*) Prior to May 1st, the department of revenue shall compute the tax imposed by this chapter for the last preceding calendar year and notify the district of the amount thereof, which shall be payable on or before the following June 1st. Upon receipt of the amount of each tax imposed the department of revenue shall deposit the same with the state treasurer, who shall deposit four percent of the revenues received under RCW 54.28.020(1) and 54.28.025(1) and all revenues received under RCW 54.28.020(2) and 54.28.025(2) in the general fund of the state and shall distribute the remainder in the manner hereinafter set forth. The state treasurer shall send a duplicate copy of each transmittal to the department of revenue. [1982 1st ex.s. c 35 § 20; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 31; 1957 c 278 § 4. Prior: 1949 c 227 § 1(c); 1947 c 259 § 1(c); 1941 c 245 § 2(c); Rem. Supp. 1949 § 11616-2(c).]

**Severability—Effective dates—1982 1st ex.s. c 35:** See notes following RCW 82.08.020.

**Construction—Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 278:** See notes following RCW 11.08.160.

**54.28.040 Tax computed—Payment—Penalties—Disposition.** (*Effective January 1, 1997.*) (1) Before May 1st, the department of revenue shall compute the tax imposed by this chapter for the last preceding calendar year and notify the district of the amount thereof, which shall be payable on or before the following June 1st.

(2) If payment of any tax is not received by the department on or before the due date, there shall be assessed a penalty of five percent of the amount of the tax; if the tax is not received within one month of the due date, there shall be assessed a total penalty of ten percent of the amount of the tax; and if the tax is not received within two months of the due date, there shall be assessed a total penalty of twenty percent of the amount of the tax.

(3) Upon receipt of the amount of each tax imposed the department of revenue shall deposit the same with the state treasurer, who shall deposit four percent of the revenues received under RCW 54.28.020(1) and 54.28.025(1) and all

revenues received under RCW 54.28.020(2) and 54.28.025(2) in the general fund of the state and shall distribute the remainder in the manner hereinafter set forth. The state treasurer shall send a duplicate copy of each transmittal to the department of revenue. [1996 c 149 § 16; 1982 1st ex.s. c 35 § 20; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 31; 1957 c 278 § 4. Prior: 1949 c 227 § 1(c); 1947 c 259 § 1(c); 1941 c 245 § 2(c); Rem. Supp. 1949 § 11616-2(c).]

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—1996 c 149:** See notes following RCW 82.32.050.

**Severability—Effective dates—1982 1st ex.s. c 35:** See notes following RCW 82.08.020.

**Construction—Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 278:** See notes following RCW 11.08.160.

**54.28.050 Distribution of tax.** After computing the tax imposed by RCW 54.28.020(1), the department of revenue shall instruct the state treasurer, after placing thirty-seven and six-tenths percent in the state general fund to be dedicated for the benefit of the public schools, to distribute the balance collected under RCW 54.28.020(1)(a) to each county in proportion to the gross revenue from sales made within each county; and to distribute the balance collected under RCW 54.28.020(1) (b) and (c) as follows: If the entire generating facility, including reservoir, if any, is in a single county then all of the balance to the county where such generating facility is located. If any reservoir is in more than one county, then to each county in which the reservoir or any portion thereof is located a percentage equal to the percentage determined by dividing the total cost of the generating facilities, including adjacent switching facilities, into twice the cost of land and land rights acquired for any reservoir within each county, land and land rights to be defined the same as used by the federal power commission. If the powerhouse and dam, if any, in connection with such reservoir are in more than one county, the balance shall be divided sixty percent to the county in which the owning district is located and forty percent to the other county or counties or if said powerhouse and dam, if any, are owned by a joint operating agency organized under chapter 43.52 RCW, or by more than one district or are outside the county of the owning district, then to be divided equally between the counties in which such facilities are located. If all of the powerhouse and dam, if any, are in one county, then the balance shall be distributed to the county in which the facilities are located.

The provisions of this section shall not apply to the distribution of taxes collected under RCW 54.28.025. [1982 1st ex.s. c 35 § 21; 1980 c 154 § 8; 1977 ex.s. c 366 § 4; 1975 1st ex.s. c 278 § 32; 1959 c 274 § 4; 1957 c 278 § 5. Prior: 1949 c 227 § 1(d); 1947 c 259 § 1(d); 1941 c 245 § 2(d); Rem. Supp. 1949 § 11616-2(d).]

**Severability—Effective dates—1982 1st ex.s. c 35:** See notes following RCW 82.08.020.

**Purpose—Effective dates—Savings—Disposition of certain funds—Severability—1980 c 154:** See notes following chapter 82.45 RCW digest.

**Construction—Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 278:** See notes following RCW 11.08.160.

**Effective date—1959 c 274:** "The effective date of section 4 of this 1959 amendatory act shall be January 1, 1960." [1959 c 274 § 6.]

**54.28.055 Distribution of tax proceeds from thermal electric generating facilities.** (1) After computing the tax imposed by RCW 54.28.025(1), the department of revenue shall instruct the state treasurer to distribute the amount collected as follows:

(a) Fifty percent to the state general fund for the support of schools; and

(b) Twenty-two percent to the counties, twenty-three percent to the cities, three percent to the fire protection districts, and two percent to the library districts.

(2) Each county, city, fire protection district and library district shall receive a percentage of the amount for distribution to counties, cities, fire protection districts and library districts, respectively, in the proportion that the population of such district residing within the impacted area bears to the total population of all such districts residing within the impacted area. For the purposes of this chapter, the term "library district" includes only regional libraries as defined in RCW 27.12.010(4), rural county library districts as defined in RCW 27.12.010(5), intercounty rural library districts as defined in RCW 27.12.010(6), and island library districts as defined in RCW 27.12.010(7). The population of a library district, for purposes of such a distribution, shall not include any population within the library district and the impact area that also is located within a city or town.

(3) If any distribution pursuant to subsection (1)(b) of this section cannot be made, then that share shall be prorated among the state and remaining local districts.

(4) All distributions directed by this section to be made on the basis of population shall be calculated in accordance with data to be provided by the office of financial management. [1986 c 189 § 1; 1982 1st ex.s. c 35 § 22; 1979 c 151 § 165; 1977 ex.s. c 366 § 7.]

**Severability—Effective dates—1982 1st ex.s. c 35:** See notes following RCW 82.08.020.

**54.28.060 Interest. (Effective until January 1, 1997.)** Interest at the rate of six percent per annum shall be added to the tax hereby imposed after the due date. The tax shall constitute a debt to the state and may be collected as such. [1957 c 278 § 6. Prior: 1949 c 227 § 1(e); 1947 c 259 § 1(e); 1941 c 245 § 2(e); Rem. Supp. 1949 § 11616-2(e).]

**54.28.060 Interest. (Effective January 1, 1997.)** Interest at the rate as computed under RCW 82.32.050(2) shall be added to the tax hereby imposed from the due date until the date of payment. The tax shall constitute a debt to the state and may be collected as such. [1996 c 149 § 12; 1957 c 278 § 6. Prior: 1949 c 227 § 1(e); 1947 c 259 § 1(e); 1941 c 245 § 2(e); Rem. Supp. 1949 § 11616-2(e).]

**Findings—Intent—Effective date—1996 c 149:** See notes following RCW 82.32.050.

**54.28.070 Municipal taxes—May be passed on.** Any city or town in which a public utility district operates works, plants or facilities for the distribution and sale of electricity shall have the power to levy and collect from such district a tax on the gross revenues derived by such district from the sale of electricity within the city or town, exclusive of the revenues derived from the sale of electricity for purposes of resale. Such tax when levied shall be a debt of the district,

and may be collected as such. Any such district shall have the power to add the amount of such tax to the rates or charges it makes for electricity so sold within the limits of such city or town. [1941 c 245 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11616-3.]

**54.28.080 Additional tax for payment on bonded indebtedness of school districts.** Whenever any district acquires an operating property from any private person, firm, or corporation and a portion of the operating property is situated within the boundaries of any school district and at the time of such acquisition there is an outstanding bonded indebtedness of the school district, then the public utility district shall, in addition to the tax imposed by this chapter, pay directly to the school district a proportion of all subsequent payments by the school district of principal and interest on said bonded indebtedness, said additional payments to be computed and paid as follows: The amount of principal and interest required to be paid by the school district shall be multiplied by the percentage which the assessed value of the property acquired bore to the assessed value of the total property in the school district at the time of such acquisition. Such additional amounts shall be paid by the public utility district to the school district not less than fifteen days prior to the date that such principal and interest payments are required to be paid by the school district. In addition, any public utility district which acquires from any private person, firm, or corporation an operating property situated within a school district, is authorized to make voluntary payments to such school district for the use and benefit of the school district. [1957 c 278 § 8. Prior: 1949 c 227 § 1(g); 1941 c 245 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 11616-2(g).]

**54.28.090 Deposit of funds to credit of certain taxing districts.** The county legislative authority of each county shall direct the county treasurer to deposit funds to the credit of each taxing district in the county, other than school districts, according to the manner they deem most equitable; except not less than an amount equal to three-fourths of one percent of the gross revenues obtained by a district from the sale of electric energy within any incorporated city or town shall be remitted to such city or town. Information furnished by the district to the county legislative authority shall be the basis for the determination of the amount to be paid to such cities or towns.

The provisions of this section shall not apply to the distribution of taxes collected under RCW 54.28.025. [1980 c 154 § 9; 1977 ex.s. c 366 § 5; 1957 c 278 § 10.]

**Purpose—Effective dates—Savings—Disposition of certain funds—Severability—1980 c 154:** See notes following chapter 82.45 RCW digest.

**54.28.100 Use of moneys received by taxing district.** All moneys received by any taxing district shall be used for purposes for which state taxes may be used under the provisions of the state constitution. [1957 c 278 § 11.]

*Revenue and taxation: State Constitution Art. 7.*

**54.28.110 Voluntary payments by district to taxing entity for removal of property from tax rolls.** Whenever, hereafter, property is removed from the tax rolls as a result

of the acquisition of operating property or the construction of a generating plant by a public utility district, such public utility district may make voluntary payments to any municipal corporation or other entity authorized to levy and collect taxes in an amount not to exceed the amount of tax revenues being received by such municipal corporation or other entity at the time of said acquisition or said construction and which are lost by such municipal corporation or other entity as a result of the acquisition of operating property or the construction of a generating plant by the public utility district: PROVIDED, That this section shall not apply to taxing districts as defined in RCW 54.28.010, and: PROVIDED FURTHER, That in the event any operating property so removed from the tax rolls is dismantled or partially dismantled the payment which may be paid hereunder shall be correspondingly reduced. [1957 c 278 § 13.]

**54.28.120 Amount of tax if district acquires electric utility property from public service company.** In the event any district hereafter purchases or otherwise acquires electric utility properties comprising all or a portion of an electric generation and/or distribution system from a public service company, as defined in RCW 80.04.010, the total amount of privilege taxes imposed under \*this act to be paid by the district annually on the combined operating property within each county where such utility property is located, irrespective of any other basis of levy contained in this chapter, will be not less than the combined total of the ad valorem taxes, based on regular levies, last levied against the electric utility property constituting the system so purchased or acquired plus the taxes paid by the district for the same year on the revenues of other operating property in the same county under terms of this chapter. If all or any portion of the property so acquired is subsequently sold, or if rates charged to purchasers of electric energy are reduced, the amount of privilege tax required under this section shall be proportionately reduced. [1957 c 278 § 14.]

\*Reviser's note: For codification of "this act" [1957 c 278], see Codification Tables, Volume 0.

**Chapter 54.32**

**CONSOLIDATION AND ANNEXATION**

Sections

- 54.32.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.
- 54.32.010 Consolidation of districts—Property taxed—Boundaries enlarged.
- 54.32.040 Right of county-wide utility district to acquire distribution properties.

*Annexation of territory: RCW 54.04.035.*

**54.32.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.** Actions taken under chapter 54.32 RCW may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1989 c 84 § 49.]

**54.32.010 Consolidation of districts—Property taxed—Boundaries enlarged.** Two or more contiguous public utility districts may become consolidated into one public utility district after proceedings had as required by \*sections 8909, 8910 and 8911, of Remington's Compiled

Statutes of Washington, PROVIDED, That a ten percent petition shall be sufficient; and public utility districts shall be held to be municipal corporations within the meaning of said sections, and the commission shall be held to be the legislative body of the public utility district as the term legislative body is used in said sections: PROVIDED, That any such consolidation shall in nowise affect or impair the title to any property owned or held by any such public utility district, or in trust therefor, or any debts, demands, liabilities or obligations existing in favor of or against either of the districts so consolidated, or any proceeding then pending: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That no property within either of the former public utility districts shall ever be taxed to pay any of the indebtedness of either of the other such former districts.

The boundaries of any public utility district may be enlarged and new territory included therein, after proceedings had as required by \*\*section 8894 of Remington's Compiled Statutes of Washington: PROVIDED, That a ten percent petition shall be sufficient; and public utility districts shall be held to be municipal corporations within the meaning of said section, and the commission shall be held to be the legislative body of the public utility district: PROVIDED, That no property within such territory so annexed shall ever be taxed to pay any portion of any indebtedness of such public utility district contracted prior to or existing at the date of such annexation.

In all cases wherein public utility districts of less area than an entire county desire to be consolidated with a public utility district including an entire county, and in all cases wherein it is desired to enlarge a public utility district including an entire county, by annexing a lesser area than an entire county, no election shall be required to be held in the district including an entire county. [1931 c 1 § 10; RRS § 11614. Formerly RCW 54.32.010 through 54.32.030.]

Reviser's note: \*(1) Rem. Comp. Stat. §§ 8909, 8910, and 8911 relating to the consolidation of municipal corporations had been repealed and reenacted by 1929 c 64 at the time the above section was enacted. 1929 c 64 was compiled as RRS § 8909-1 through 8909-12; see chapter 35.10 RCW.

\*\* (2) Rem. Comp. Stat. § 8894 became chapter 35.12 RCW. RCW 35.12.010, the only section in that chapter, was repealed by 1969 ex.s. c 89 § 18.

**54.32.040 Right of county-wide utility district to acquire distribution properties.** Upon the formation of a county-wide public utility district in any county such district shall have the right, in addition to any other right provided by law, to acquire by purchase or condemnation any electrical distribution properties in the county from any other public utility district or combination of public utility districts for a period of five years from the time of organization of said public utility district. [1951 c 272 § 2.]

*Acquisition of electrical distribution property from public utility district by cities and towns: RCW 35.92.054.*

## Chapter 54.36

## LIABILITY TO OTHER TAXING DISTRICTS

## Sections

54.36.010	Definitions.
54.36.020	Increased financial burden on school district—Determination of number of construction pupils.
54.36.030	Compensation of school district for construction pupils—Computation.
54.36.040	Compensation of school district for construction pupils—Amount to be paid.
54.36.050	Compensation of school district for construction pupils—How paid when more than one project in the same school district.
54.36.060	Power to make voluntary payments to school district for capital construction.
54.36.070	Increased financial burden on county or other taxing district—Power to make payments.
54.36.080	Funds received by school district—Equalization apportionment.

**54.36.010 Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

"Public utility district" means public utility district or districts or a joint operating agency or agencies.

"Construction project" means the construction of generating facilities by a public utility district. It includes the relocation of highways and railroads, by whomever done, to the extent that it is occasioned by the overflowing of their former locations, or by destruction or burying incident to the construction.

"Base-year enrollment" means the number of pupils enrolled in a school district on the first of May next preceding the date construction was commenced.

"Subsequent-year enrollment" means the number of pupils enrolled in a school district on any first of May after construction was commenced.

"Construction pupils" means pupils who have a parent who is a full time employee on the construction project and who moved into the school district subsequent to the first day of May next preceding the day the construction was commenced.

"Nonconstruction pupils" means other pupils. [1975 1st ex.s. c 10 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 154 § 99; 1957 c 137 § 1.]

**Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 154:** See note following RCW 2.12.030.

*Operating agencies: Chapter 43.52 RCW.*

**54.36.020 Increased financial burden on school district—Determination of number of construction pupils.**

When as the result of a public utility district construction project a school district considers it is suffering an increased financial burden in any year during the construction project, it shall determine the number of construction pupils enrolled in the school district on the first of May of such year. [1957 c 137 § 2.]

**54.36.030 Compensation of school district for construction pupils—Computation.**

If the subsequent-year enrollment exceeds one hundred and three percent of the base-year enrollment, the public utility district shall compensate the school district for a number of construction pupils computed as follows:

(1) If the subsequent-year enrollment of nonconstruction pupils is less than the base-year enrollment, compensation

shall be paid for the total number of all pupils minus one hundred and three percent of the base-year enrollment.

(2) If the subsequent-year enrollment of nonconstruction pupils is not less than the base-year enrollment, compensation shall be paid for the total number of construction pupils minus three percent of the base-year enrollment. [1957 c 137 § 3.]

**54.36.040 Compensation of school district for construction pupils—Amount to be paid.** The compensation to be paid per construction pupils as computed in RCW 54.36.030 shall be one-third of the average per-pupil cost of the local school district, for the school year then current. [1957 c 137 § 4.]

**54.36.050 Compensation of school district for construction pupils—How paid when more than one project in the same school district.** If more than one public utility district or joint operating agency is carrying on a construction project in the same school district, the number of construction pupils for whom the school district is to receive compensation shall be computed as if the projects were constructed by a single agency. The public utility districts or joint operating agencies involved shall divide the cost of such compensation between themselves in proportion to the number of construction pupils occasioned by the operations of each. [1957 c 137 § 5.]

**54.36.060 Power to make voluntary payments to school district for capital construction.** Public utility districts are hereby authorized to make voluntary payments to a school district for capital construction if their construction projects cause an increased financial burden for such purpose on the school district. [1957 c 137 § 6.]

**54.36.070 Increased financial burden on county or other taxing district—Power to make payments.** Public utilities are hereby authorized to make payments to a county or other taxing district in existence before the commencement of construction on the construction project which suffers an increased financial burden because of their construction projects, but such amount shall not be more than the amount by which the property taxes levied against the contractors engaged in the work on the construction project failed to meet said increased financial burden. [1957 c 137 § 7.]

**54.36.080 Funds received by school district—Equalization apportionment.** The funds paid by a public utility district to a school district under the provisions of this chapter shall not be considered a school district receipt by the superintendent of public instruction in determining equalization apportionments under \*RCW 28.41.080. [1957 c 137 § 8.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 28.41.080 was repealed by 1965 ex.s. c 154 § 12; as a part thereof said section concludes with the following proviso ". . . PROVIDED, That the provisions of such statutes herein repealed insofar as they are expressly or impliedly adopted by reference or otherwise referred to in or for the benefit of any other statutes, are hereby preserved for such purposes."

Chapter 54.40

FIVE COMMISSIONER DISTRICTS

(Formerly: First class districts)

Sections

- 54.40.010 Five commissioner districts—Requirements.
- 54.40.020 Existing districts—Qualifications—Voters' approval.
- 54.40.030 Transmittal of copies of federal hydroelectric license to county auditor.
- 54.40.040 Criteria, election to reclassify as a five commissioner district—Ballot form—Vote required.
- 54.40.050 Petition for reclassification—Certificate of sufficiency—Election.
- 54.40.060 Division of district.
- 54.40.070 Special election for commissioners from districts—Terms.

**54.40.010 Five commissioner districts—Requirements.** A five commissioner public utility district is a district that (1) either: (a) Has or had a license from the federal power commission to construct a hydroelectric project of an estimated cost of more than two hundred and fifty million dollars, including interest during construction; or (b) has a population of five hundred thousand or more; and (2) voters of the district approved a ballot proposition authorizing the district to become a five commissioner district as provided under RCW 54.40.040. All other public utility districts shall be known as three commissioner districts. [1994 c 223 § 57; 1977 ex.s. c 36 § 1; 1959 c 265 § 2.]

**54.40.020 Existing districts—Qualifications—Voters' approval.** Every public utility district which on September 21, 1977, shall be in existence and have such a license shall be qualified to become a five commissioner district upon approval of the voters of said district, and every public utility district which on September 21, 1977, shall have become a first class district as previously provided by chapter 265, Laws of 1959 shall be a five commissioner district. [1977 ex.s. c 36 § 2; 1959 c 265 § 3.]

**54.40.030 Transmittal of copies of federal hydroelectric license to county auditor.** Within five days after a public utility district shall receive a license from the federal power commission to construct a hydroelectric project of an estimated cost of more than two hundred and fifty million dollars, including interest during construction, or, in the case of a district which on September 21, 1977, is in existence and has such a license within five days of September 21, 1977, the district shall forward a true copy of said license, certified by the secretary of the district, to the county auditor of the county wherein said district is located. [1977 ex.s. c 36 § 3; 1959 c 265 § 4.]

**54.40.040 Criteria, election to reclassify as a five commissioner district—Ballot form—Vote required.** A public utility district that has or had a license from the federal power commission to construct a hydroelectric project of an estimated cost of more than two hundred fifty million dollars, including interest during construction, or has a population of five hundred thousand or more, shall be classified as a five commissioner district if voters of the district approve a ballot proposition authorizing the change. In submitting the question to the voters for their approval or

rejection, the proposition shall be expressed on the ballot in substantially the following terms:

Shall Public Utility District No. . . . be reclassified a Five Commissioner District for the purpose of increasing the number of commissioners to five . . . YES   
 NO

Should a majority of the voters voting on the question approve the proposition, the district shall be declared a five commissioner district upon the certification of the election returns. [1994 c 223 § 58; 1977 ex.s. c 36 § 4; 1959 c 265 § 5.]

**54.40.050 Petition for reclassification—Certificate of sufficiency—Election.** The question of reclassification of a public utility district that has or had a license from the federal power commission to construct a hydroelectric project of an estimated cost of more than two hundred fifty million dollars, including interest during construction, or has a population of five hundred thousand or more, as a five commissioner public utility district shall be submitted to the voters if a petition proposing the change is filed with the county auditor of the county in which the district is located, identifying the district by number and praying that an election be held to determine whether it shall become a five commissioner district. The petition must be signed by a number of registered voters of the district equal to at least ten percent of the number of registered voters in the district who voted at the last general election and include each signer's residence address.

The petition shall be filed with the county auditor for verification of the validity of the signatures. Within thirty days after receipt of the petition, the county auditor shall determine the sufficiency of the petition. If the petition is found insufficient, the person who filed the same shall be notified by mail and he shall have an additional fifteen days from the date of mailing such notice within which to submit additional signatures, and the county auditor shall have an additional thirty days after the submission of such additional signatures to determine the validity of the entire petition. No signature may be withdrawn after the petition has been filed.

If the petition, including these additional signatures if any, is found sufficient, the county auditor shall certify its sufficiency to the public utility district and if the commissioners of the public utility district had certified to the county auditor the eligibility of the district for reclassification as provided in this chapter, the county auditor shall submit to the voters of the district the question of whether the district shall become a five commissioner district. The election shall be held at the next state general election occurring sixty or more days after the petition was certified as having sufficient valid signatures. [1994 c 223 § 59; 1977 ex.s. c 36 § 5; 1959 c 265 § 6.]

**54.40.060 Division of district.** If the reclassification to a five commissioner district is approved by the voters, the public utility district commission within sixty days after the results of said election are certified shall divide the public utility district into two districts of as nearly equal population as possible, and shall designate the districts as District A and

District B. [1994 c 223 § 60; 1977 ex.s. c 36 § 6; 1959 c 265 § 7.]

**54.40.070 Special election for commissioners from districts—Terms.** Within thirty days after the public utility district commission divides the district into District A and District B, the county legislative authority shall call a special election, to be held at the next special election date provided for under RCW 29.13.010 that occurs sixty or more days after the call, at which time the initial commissioners for District A and District B shall be elected. No primary shall be held and a special filing period shall be opened as provided in RCW 29.15.170 and 29.15.180. The person receiving the greatest number of votes for each position shall be elected.

The person who is elected receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected to a four-year term of office, and the other person who is elected shall be elected to a two-year term of office, if the election is held in an even-numbered year, or the person who is elected receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected to a three-year term of office, and the other person who is elected shall be elected to a one-year term of office, if the election is held in an odd-numbered year. The length of these terms of office shall be calculated from the first day in January in the year following their elections.

The newly elected commissioners shall assume office immediately after being elected and qualified and shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified and assume office in accordance with RCW 29.04.170. Each successor shall be elected to a four-year term of office. [1994 c 223 § 61; 1977 ex.s. c 36 § 7; 1959 c 265 § 8.]

#### Chapter 54.44

### NUCLEAR, THERMAL, ELECTRIC GENERATING POWER FACILITIES—JOINT DEVELOPMENT

#### Sections

54.44.010	Declaration of public purpose.
54.44.020	Authority to participate in and enter into agreements for operation of common facilities—Percentage of ownership—Expenses—Taxes—Payments.
54.44.030	Liability of city, joint operating agency, or public utility district—Extent—Limitations.
54.44.040	Authority to provide money and/or property, issue revenue bonds—Declaration of public purpose.
54.44.050	Depositories—Disbursement of funds.
54.44.060	Agreements to conform to applicable laws.
54.44.900	Liberal construction—Not to affect existing acts.
54.44.901	Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 7.
54.44.910	Severability—1967 c 159.

**54.44.010 Declaration of public purpose.** It is declared to be in the public interest and for a public purpose that cities of the first class, public utility districts, joint operating agencies organized under chapter 43.52 RCW, regulated electrical companies and, rural electrical cooperatives including generation and transmission cooperatives be permitted to participate together in the development of nuclear and other thermal power facilities and transmission facilities as hereinafter provided as one means of achieving economies of scale and thereby promoting the economic development of the state and its natural resources to meet the

future power needs of the state and all its inhabitants. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 72 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 7 § 1; 1967 c 159 § 1.]

**Severability—1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 72:** "If any provision of this 1976 amendatory act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 72 § 3.]

**Legislative finding—Emergency—1973 1st ex.s. c 7:** "The legislature finds that the immediate planning, financing, acquisition and construction of electric generating and transmission facilities as provided in sections 1 through 6 of this 1973 amendatory act is a public necessity to meet the power requirements of the public utility districts, cities, joint operating agencies and regulated utilities referred to in sections 1 through 6 of this 1973 amendatory act and the inhabitants of this state; further that such public utility districts, cities, joint operating agencies and regulated utilities are ready, willing and able to undertake such planning, financing, acquisition and construction of said electric generating and transmission facilities immediately upon the passage of sections 1 through 6 of this 1973 amendatory act. This 1973 amendatory 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." [1973 1st ex.s. c 7 § 7.] This applies to the amendments to RCW 54.44.010 through 54.44.060 by 1973 1st ex.s. c 7.

*Energy facilities, site locations: Chapter 80.50 RCW.*

*Nuclear energy and radiation: Chapter 70.98 RCW.*

**54.44.020 Authority to participate in and enter into agreements for operation of common facilities—Percentage of ownership—Expenses—Taxes—Payments.** In addition to the powers heretofore conferred upon cities of the first class, public utility districts organized under chapter 54.08 RCW, and joint operating agencies organized under chapter 43.52 RCW, any such cities and public utility districts which operate electric generating facilities or distribution systems and any joint operating agency shall have power and authority to participate and enter into agreements with each other and with electrical companies which are subject to the jurisdiction of the Washington utilities and transportation commission or the public utility commissioner of Oregon, hereinafter called "regulated utilities", and with rural electric cooperatives, including generation and transmission cooperatives for the undivided ownership of any type of electric generating plants and facilities, including, but not limited to nuclear and other thermal power generating plants and facilities and transmission facilities including, but not limited to, related transmission facilities, hereinafter called "common facilities", and for the planning, financing, acquisition, construction, operation and maintenance thereof. It shall be provided in such agreements that each city, public utility district, or joint operating agency shall own a percentage of any common facility equal to the percentage of the money furnished or the value of property supplied by it for the acquisition and construction thereof and shall own and control a like percentage of the electrical output thereof.

Each participant shall defray its own interest and other payments required to be made or deposited in connection with any financing undertaken by it to pay its percentage of the money furnished or value of property supplied by it for the planning, acquisition and construction of any common facility, or any additions or betterments thereto. The agreement shall provide a uniform method of determining and allocating operation and maintenance expenses of the common facility.

Each city, public utility district, joint operating agency, regulated utility, and cooperatives participating in the ownership or operation of a common facility shall pay all taxes chargeable to its share of the common facility and the electric energy generated thereby under applicable statutes as now or hereafter in effect, and may make payments during preliminary work and construction for any increased financial burden suffered by any county or other existing taxing district in the county in which the common facility is located, pursuant to agreement with such county or taxing district. [1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 72 § 2; 1974 ex.s. c 72 § 1; 1973 1st ex.s. c 7 § 2; 1967 c 159 § 2.]

**Severability—1975-'76 2nd ex.s. c 72:** See note following RCW 54.44.010.

**54.44.030 Liability of city, joint operating agency, or public utility district—Extent—Limitations.** In carrying out the powers granted in this chapter, each such city, public utility district, or joint operating agency shall be severally liable only for its own acts and not jointly or severally liable for the acts, omissions or obligations of others. No money or property supplied by any such city, public utility district, or joint operating agency for the planning, financing, acquisition, construction, operation or maintenance of any common facility shall be credited or otherwise applied to the account of any other participant therein, nor shall the undivided share of any city, public utility district, or joint operating agency in any common facility be charged, directly or indirectly, with any debt or obligation of any other participant or be subject to any lien as a result thereof. No action in connection with a common facility shall be binding upon any public utility district, city, or joint operating agency unless authorized or approved by resolution or ordinance of its governing body. [1973 1st ex.s. c 7 § 3; 1967 c 159 § 3.]

**54.44.040 Authority to provide money and/or property, issue revenue bonds—Declaration of public purpose.** Any such city, public utility district, or joint operating agency participating in common facilities under this chapter, without an election, may furnish money and provide property, both real and personal, issue and sell revenue bonds pledging revenues of its electric system and its interest or share of the revenues derived from the common facilities and any additions and betterments thereto in order to pay its respective share of the costs of the planning, financing, acquisition and construction thereof. Such bonds shall be issued under the provisions of applicable laws authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the acquisition and construction of electric public utility properties by cities, public utility districts, or joint operating agencies as the case may be. All moneys paid or property supplied by any such city, public utility district, or joint operating agency for the purpose of carrying out the powers conferred herein are declared to be for a public purpose. [1973 1st ex.s. c 7 § 4; 1967 c 159 § 4.]

**54.44.050 Depositories—Disbursement of funds.** All moneys belonging to cities, public utility districts, and joint operating agencies in connection with common facilities shall be deposited in such depositories as qualify for the

deposit of public funds and shall be accounted for and disbursed in accordance with applicable law. [1973 1st ex.s. c 7 § 5; 1967 c 159 § 5.]

**54.44.060 Agreements to conform to applicable laws.** Any agreement with respect to work to be done or material furnished by any such city, public utility district, or joint operating agency in connection with the construction, maintenance and operation of the common facilities, and any additions and betterments thereto shall be in conformity, as near as may be, with applicable laws now or hereafter in effect relating to public utility districts or cities of the first class. [1973 1st ex.s. c 7 § 6; 1967 c 159 § 6.]

**54.44.900 Liberal construction—Not to affect existing acts.** The provisions of this chapter shall be liberally construed to effectuate the purposes thereof. This chapter shall not be construed to affect any existing act or part thereof relating to the construction, operation or maintenance of any public utility. [1967 c 159 § 7.]

**54.44.901 Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 7.** If any provision of this 1973 amendatory act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1973 1st ex.s. c 7 § 8.]

**54.44.910 Severability—1967 c 159.** If any provisions of this act or its application to any person or circumstance shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of this act or its application to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected. [1967 c 159 § 8.]

## Chapter 54.48

### AGREEMENTS BETWEEN ELECTRICAL PUBLIC UTILITIES AND COOPERATIVES

#### Sections

- 54.48.010 Definitions.
- 54.48.020 Legislative declaration of policy.
- 54.48.030 Agreements between public utilities and cooperatives authorized—Boundaries—Extension procedures—Purchase or sale—Approval.
- 54.48.040 Cooperatives not to be classified as public utilities or under authority of utilities and transportation commission.

#### **54.48.010 Definitions.** When used in this chapter:

- (1) "Public utility" means any privately owned public utility company engaged in rendering electric service to the public for hire, any public utility district engaged in rendering service to residential customers and any city or town engaged in the electric business.
- (2) "Cooperative" means any cooperative having authority to engage in the electric business. [1969 c 102 § 1.]

**54.48.020 Legislative declaration of policy.** The legislature hereby declares that the duplication of the electric lines and service of public utilities and cooperatives is uneconomical, may create unnecessary hazards to the public safety, discourages investment in permanent underground fa-

ilities, and is unattractive, and thus is contrary to the public interest and further declares that it is in the public interest for public utilities and cooperatives to enter into agreements for the purpose of avoiding or eliminating such duplication. [1969 c 102 § 2.]

**54.48.030 Agreements between public utilities and cooperatives authorized—Boundaries—Extension procedures—Purchase or sale—Approval.** In aid of the foregoing declaration of policy, any public utility and any cooperative is hereby authorized to enter into agreements with any one or more other public utility or one or more other cooperative for the designation of the boundaries of adjoining service areas which each such public utility or each such cooperative shall observe, for the establishment of procedures for orderly extension of service in adjoining areas not currently served by any such public utility or any such cooperative and for the acquisition or disposal by purchase or sale by any such public utility or any such cooperative of duplicating utility facilities, which agreements shall be for a reasonable period of time not in excess of twenty-five years: PROVIDED, That the participation in such agreement of any public utility which is an electrical company under RCW 80.04.010, excepting cities and towns, shall be approved by the Washington utilities and transportation commission. [1969 c 102 § 3.]

**54.48.040 Cooperatives not to be classified as public utilities or under authority of utilities and transportation commission.** Nothing herein shall be construed to classify a cooperative having authority to engage in the electric business as a public utility or to include cooperatives under the authority of the Washington utilities and transportation commission. [1969 c 102 § 4.]

## Chapter 54.52

### VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO ASSIST LOW-INCOME CUSTOMERS

#### Sections

- 54.52.010 Voluntary contributions to assist low-income residential customers—Administration.
- 54.52.020 Disbursal of contributions—Quarterly report.
- 54.52.030 Contributions not considered commingling of funds.

**54.52.010 Voluntary contributions to assist low-income residential customers—Administration.** A public utility district may include along with, or as part of its regular customer billings, a request for voluntary contributions to assist qualified low-income residential customers of the district in paying their electricity bills. All funds received by the district in response to such requests shall be transmitted to the grantee of the department of community, trade, and economic development which administers federally funded energy assistance programs for the state in the district's service area or to a charitable organization within the district's service area. All such funds shall be used solely to supplement assistance to low-income residential customers of the district in paying their electricity bills. The grantee or charitable organization shall be responsible to determine which of the district's customers are qualified for

low-income assistance and the amount of assistance to be provided to those who are qualified. [1995 c 399 § 145; 1985 c 6 § 20; 1984 c 59 § 1.]

**54.52.020 Disbursal of contributions—Quarterly report.** All assistance provided under this chapter shall be disbursed by the grantee or charitable organization. Where possible the public utility district will be paid on behalf of the customer by the grantee or the charitable organization. When direct vendor payment is not feasible, a check will be issued jointly payable to the customer and the public utility district. The availability of funds for assistance to a district's low-income customers as a result of voluntary contributions shall not reduce the amount of assistance for which the district's customers are eligible under the federally funded energy assistance programs administered by the grantee of the department of community, trade, and economic development within the district's service area. The grantee or charitable organization shall provide the district with a quarterly report on January 15th, April 15th, July 15th, and October 15th which includes information concerning the total amount of funds received from the district, the names of all recipients of assistance from these funds, the amount received by each recipient, and the amount of funds received from the district currently on hand and available for future low-income assistance. [1995 c 399 § 146; 1985 c 6 § 21; 1984 c 59 § 2.]

**54.52.030 Contributions not considered commingling of funds.** Contributions received under a program implemented by a public utility district in compliance with this chapter shall not be considered a commingling of funds. [1984 c 59 § 3.]



# Title 55

## SANITARY DISTRICTS

### Chapters

#### **55.04 Formation and dissolution.**

*Conveyance of real property by public bodies—Recording: RCW 65.08.095.*

*Credit card use by local governments: RCW 43.09.2855.*

*Dissolution of inactive special purpose districts: Chapter 36.96 RCW.*

*Hospitalization and medical aid for public employees and dependents—Premiums, governmental contributions authorized: RCW 41.04.180, 41.04.190.*

*Local governmental organizations, actions affecting boundaries, etc., review by boundary review board: Chapter 36.93 RCW.*

*Municipal corporation may authorize investment of funds which are in custody of county treasurer or other municipal corporation treasurer: RCW 36.29.020.*

*Public bodies may retain collection agencies to collect public debts: RCW 19.16.500.*

### Chapter 55.04

#### FORMATION AND DISSOLUTION

##### Sections

55.04.050 Dissolution.

55.04.060 Disincorporation of district located in county with a population of two hundred ten thousand or more and inactive for five years.

*Elections: Title 29 RCW.*

**55.04.050 Dissolution.** See port districts, chapter 53.48 RCW.

**55.04.060 Disincorporation of district located in county with a population of two hundred ten thousand or more and inactive for five years.** See chapter 57.90 RCW.



# Title 56

## SEWER DISTRICTS

### Chapters

- 56.02**    **General provisions.**
- 56.04**    **Formation and dissolution.**
- 56.08**    **Powers—Comprehensive plan.**
- 56.12**    **Commissioners.**
- 56.16**    **Finances.**
- 56.20**    **Utility local improvement districts.**
- 56.22**    **Contracts for sewer extensions.**
- 56.24**    **Annexation of territory.**
- 56.28**    **Withdrawal of territory.**
- 56.32**    **Consolidation or merger of districts—  
          Transfer of part of district.**
- 56.36**    **Merger of water districts and sewer districts.**
- 56.40**    **Voluntary contributions to assist low-income  
          customers.**

*Annexation of district territory to cities and towns: Chapter 35.13A RCW.*

*Aquifer protection areas: Chapter 36.36 RCW.*

*Assumption of jurisdiction over district or territory by city or town:  
Chapter 35.13A RCW.*

*Boundary review board, extension of permanent sewer service outside  
corporate boundaries to go before: RCW 36.93.090.*

*City and town sewerage systems, authority, elections: Chapter 35.67 RCW.*

*City sewerage, drainage, and water supply: RCW 35.21.210.*

*Conveyance of real property by public bodies—Recording: RCW  
65.08.095.*

*County sewerage systems, authority, procedure: Chapter 36.94 RCW.*

*Credit card use by local governments: RCW 43.09.2855.*

*Hospitalization and medical aid for public employees and dependents—  
Premiums, governmental contributions authorized: RCW 41.04.180,  
41.04.190.*

*Local governmental organizations, actions affecting boundaries, etc., review  
by boundary review board: Chapter 36.93 RCW.*

*Metropolitan municipal corporations: Chapter 35.58 RCW.*

*Municipal corporation may authorize investment of funds which are in  
custody of county treasurer or other municipal corporation treasurer:  
RCW 36.29.020.*

*Port district may provide sewer and water utilities in adjacent areas: RCW  
53.08.040.*

*Public bodies may retain collection agencies to collect public debts: RCW  
19.16.500.*

*Sewerage improvement districts: Title 85 RCW.*

*Water district may establish and operate sewer systems: RCW 57.08.065.*

### Chapter 56.02

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS

##### Sections

- 56.02.010    Petition signatures of property owners—Rules governing.
- 56.02.030    Validation—1959 c 103.
- 56.02.040    Title to be liberally construed.
- 56.02.050    Jurisdiction of elections in joint sewer districts—Filing of  
          declarations of candidacy—Joint sewer district defined.
- 56.02.055    Districts comprising territory in more than one county—  
          Delegation of duties—Exceptions.

- 56.02.060    Sewer district activities to be approved—Criteria for approval  
          by county legislative authority.
- 56.02.070    Approval by county legislative authority final, when—  
          Boundary review board approval.
- 56.02.080    Formation of districts validated.
- 56.02.100    Sewer districts desiring to merge into irrigation districts—  
          Procedure.
- 56.02.110    Board of commissioners may notify property owners about  
          petitions under chapter 56.20 or 56.24 RCW—Review  
          of petitions—Information.
- 56.02.120    Ratification of actions for the formation, annexation, consol-  
          idation, or merger of sewer districts prior to July 10,  
          1982.

**56.02.010**    **Petition signatures of property owners—  
Rules governing.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Wherever  
in Title 56 RCW petitions are required to be signed by the  
owners of property, the following rules shall govern the  
sufficiency thereof:

(1) The signature of a record owner, as determined by  
the records of the county auditor, shall be sufficient without  
the signature of his or her spouse.

(2) In the case of mortgaged property, the signature of  
the mortgagor shall be sufficient.

(3) In the case of property purchased on contract, the  
signature of the contract purchaser, as shown by the records  
of the county auditor, shall be deemed sufficient.

(4) Any officer of a corporation owning land in the  
district duly authorized to execute deeds or encumbrances on  
behalf of the corporation may sign on behalf of such  
corporation, provided that there shall be attached to the  
petition a certified excerpt from the bylaws showing such  
authority.

(5) If any property in the district stands in the name of  
a deceased person or any person for whom a guardian has  
been appointed the signature of the executor, administrator  
or guardian, as the case may be, shall be equivalent to the  
signature of the owner of the property. [1953 c 250 § 26.]

**56.02.030**    **Validation—1959 c 103.** (*Effective until  
July 1, 1997.*) All debts, contracts and obligations hereto-  
fore made or incurred by or in favor of any sewer district,  
all bonds, warrants, or other obligations issued by such  
districts, any connection or service charges made by such  
districts, any and all assessments heretofore levied in any  
utility local improvement districts of any sewer districts, and  
all other things and proceedings relating thereto done or  
taken by such sewer districts or by their respective officers  
are hereby declared to be legal and valid and of full force  
and effect from the date thereof: PROVIDED, That nothing  
in this section shall apply to ultra vires acts or acts of fraud  
committed by the officers or agents of said district. [1959  
c 103 § 17.]

**Severability—1959 c 103:** See note following RCW 56.08.010.

**56.02.040 Title to be liberally construed.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The rule of strict construction shall have no application to this title, but the same shall be liberally construed to carry out the purposes and objects for which this title is intended. [1959 c 103 § 18.]

**Severability—1959 c 103:** See note following RCW 56.08.010.

**56.02.050 Jurisdiction of elections in joint sewer districts—Filing of declarations of candidacy—Joint sewer district defined.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) (1) Jurisdiction of any general election or special election held on the same date as a general election in a joint sewer district shall rest with the county auditor of each of the counties in which the joint sewer district is located. Election returns of such elections shall be canvassed by the canvassing board of each county and the official results certified to the county auditor of the county in which fifty-one percent or more of the area of the joint sewer district is located. Such county auditor shall then combine the official results from each county in which the joint sewer district is located into a single official result.

(2) Jurisdiction of any special election held on a different date than a general election in a joint sewer district shall rest with the county auditor of the county in which fifty-one percent or more of the area of the joint sewer district is located. Election returns of such elections shall be canvassed by the canvassing board of such county and certified to the county auditor of such county as required by law.

(3) Elections referred to in subsections (1) and (2) of this section shall be conducted as provided by such subsections and by the general election laws not inconsistent therewith.

(4) Candidates for the office of sewer commissioner in a joint sewer district shall file declarations of candidacy with the county auditor of the county in which fifty-one percent or more of the area of the joint sewer district is located and their election shall be conducted as provided by this section and by the general election laws not inconsistent herewith. The candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each sewer commissioner position shall be declared elected.

For the purposes of this section, "joint sewer district" means any sewer district composed of territory lying in more than one county. [1971 ex.s. c 272 § 12.]

**56.02.055 Districts comprising territory in more than one county—Delegation of duties—Exceptions.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Whenever the boundaries or proposed boundaries of a sewer district include or are proposed to include by means of formation, annexation, consolidation, or merger (including merger with a water district) territory in more than one county, all duties delegated by Title 56 RCW to officers of the county in which the district is located shall be delegated to the officers of the county in which the largest land area of the district is located, except that elections shall be conducted pursuant to RCW 56.02.050, actions subject to review and approval under RCW 56.02.060 and 56.02.070 shall be reviewed and approved by only the officers or boards in the county in which such actions are proposed to occur, verification of electors' signatures shall be conducted by the county election officer of the county in which such signators reside, and

comprehensive plan review and approval or rejection by the respective county legislative authorities under RCW 56.08.020 shall be limited to that part of such plans within the respective counties. [1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 1.]

**56.02.060 Sewer district activities to be approved—Criteria for approval by county legislative authority.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, no sewer district shall be formed or reorganized under chapter 56.04 RCW, nor shall any sewer district annex territory under chapter 56.24 RCW, nor shall any sewer district withdraw territory under chapter 56.28 RCW, nor shall any sewer district consolidate or be merged under chapter 56.32 RCW, nor shall any water district be merged into a sewer district under chapter 56.36 RCW, unless such proposed action shall be approved as provided for in RCW 56.02.070.

The county legislative authority shall within thirty days after receiving notice of the proposed action, approve such action or hold a hearing on such action. In addition, a copy of such proposed action shall be mailed to the state department of ecology and to the state department of social and health services.

The county legislative authority shall decide within sixty days of a hearing whether to approve or not approve such proposed action. In approving or not approving the proposed action, the county legislative authority shall consider the following criteria:

(1) Whether the proposed action in the area under consideration is in compliance with the development program which is outlined in the county comprehensive plan and its supporting documents; and/or

(2) Whether the proposed action in the area under consideration is in compliance with the basinwide water and/or sewage plan as approved by the state department of ecology and the state department of social and health services; and/or

(3) Whether the proposed action is in compliance with the policies expressed in the county plan for water and/or sewage facilities.

If the proposed action is inconsistent with subsections (1), (2), or (3) of this section, the county legislative authority shall not approve it. If such action is consistent with all such subsections, the county legislative authority shall approve it unless it finds that utility service in the area under consideration will be most appropriately served by the county itself under the provisions of chapter 36.94 RCW, by a city, town, or municipality, or by another existing special purpose district rather than by the proposed action under consideration. If there has not been adopted for the area under consideration a plan under any one of subsections (1), (2) or (3) of this section, the proposed action shall not be found inconsistent with such subsection.

Where a sewer district is proposed to be formed, and where no boundary review board has been established, the petition described in RCW 56.04.030 shall serve as the notice of proposed action under this section, and the hearing provided for in RCW 56.04.040 shall serve as the hearing provided for in this section and in RCW 56.02.070. [1988 c 162 § 5; 1971 ex.s. c 139 § 1.]

**56.02.070 Approval by county legislative authority final, when—Boundary review board approval.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) In any county where a boundary review board, as provided in chapter 36.93 RCW, has not been established, the approval of the proposed action shall be by the county legislative authority pursuant to RCW 56.02.060 and 57.02.040, and shall be final and the procedures required to adopt such proposed action shall be followed as provided by law.

In any county where a boundary review board, as provided in chapter 36.93 RCW, has been established, notice of intention of the proposed action shall be filed with the board as required by RCW 36.93.090 and a copy thereof with the legislative authority. The latter shall transmit to the board a report of its approval or disapproval of the proposed action together with its findings and recommendations thereon under the provisions of RCW 56.02.060 and 57.02.040. If the county legislative authority has approved of the proposed action, such approval shall be final and the procedures required to adopt such proposal shall be followed as provided by law, unless the board reviews the action under the provisions of RCW 36.93.100 through 36.93.180. If the county legislative authority has not approved the proposed action, the board shall review the action under the provisions of RCW 36.93.150 through 36.93.180. Action of the board after review of the proposed action shall supersede approval or disapproval by the county legislative authority.

Where a water or sewer district is proposed to be formed, and where no boundary review board has been established, the hearings provided for in RCW 56.04.040 and 57.04.030 shall serve as the hearing provided for in this section, in RCW 56.02.060, and in RCW 57.02.040. [1988 c 162 § 6; 1971 ex.s. c 139 § 3.]

*1988 validation: RCW 57.06.180.*

**56.02.080 Formation of districts validated.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The existence of all sewer districts formed in counties without a boundary review board in compliance with the requirements of chapter 56.04 RCW, whether or not the requirements of RCW 56.02.060 and 56.02.070 were satisfied, is validated and such districts shall be deemed to be legally formed. [1988 c 162 § 8.]

**56.02.100 Sewer districts desiring to merge into irrigation districts—Procedure.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The procedure and provisions of RCW 85.08.830 through 85.08.890, which are applicable to drainage improvement districts, joint drainage improvement districts, or consolidated drainage improvement districts which desire to merge into an irrigation district, shall also apply to sewer districts organized, or reorganized, under this title which desire to merge into irrigation districts.

The authority granted by this section shall be cumulative and in addition to any other power or authority granted by law to any sewer district. [1977 ex.s. c 208 § 3.]

*Merger of irrigation district with drainage, joint drainage, consolidated drainage improvement, or sewer district: RCW 87.03.720, 87.03.725.*

**56.02.110 Board of commissioners may notify property owners about petitions under chapter 56.20 or 56.24 RCW—Review of petitions—Information.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) (1) The board of commissioners of a sewer district may notify the owner or reputed owner of any tract, parcel of land, or other property located within the area included in a petition for a local improvement district being circulated under chapter 56.20 RCW or in a petition for annexation being circulated under chapter 56.24 RCW.

(2) Upon the request of any person, the board of commissioners of a sewer district may:

(a) Review a proposed petition to check if the petition is properly drafted; and

(b) Provide information regarding the effects of the adoption of any proposed petition. [1979 c 35 § 3.]

**56.02.120 Ratification of actions for the formation, annexation, consolidation, or merger of sewer districts prior to July 10, 1982.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) All actions taken in regard to the formation, annexation, consolidation, or merger of sewer districts prior to July 10, 1982, but consistent with this title, as amended, are hereby approved and ratified and shall be legal for all purposes. [1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 2.]

## Chapter 56.04

### FORMATION AND DISSOLUTION

#### Sections

56.04.001	Actions subject to review by boundary review board.
56.04.020	Districts authorized—System of sewers defined.
56.04.030	Petition or resolution—Notice of hearing.
56.04.040	Hearing—Boundaries.
56.04.050	Election—Time—Notice—Ballots—Excess tax levy.
56.04.060	Canvass—District created—Name.
56.04.065	Alternative method of formation.
56.04.070	When two or more petitions are filed.
56.04.080	County election board to conduct elections—Expenses.
56.04.090	Dissolution.
56.04.120	Sewerage improvement districts located in counties with populations of from forty thousand to less than seventy thousand become sewer districts.
56.04.130	Sewerage improvement districts operating as sewer districts become sewer districts—Procedure.

*Elections: Title 29 RCW.*

**56.04.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Actions taken under chapter 56.04 RCW may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1989 c 84 § 50.]

**56.04.020 Districts authorized—System of sewers defined.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Sewer districts for the acquirement, construction, maintenance, operation, development, reorganization, and regulation of a system of sewers, including treatment and disposal plants and all necessary appurtenances and providing for additions and betterments thereto, are hereby authorized to be established or reorganized in the various counties of this state. A system of sewers means and includes: Sanitary sewage disposal sewers, combined sanitary sewage disposal and storm or surface water sewers, storm or surface water sewers, outfalls for storm or sanitary sewage, and works, plants, and facilities for sanitary sewage treatment and disposal, or any combination of or part of any or all of such

facilities. Such districts may include within their boundaries portions or all of one or more counties, incorporated cities, or towns or other political subdivisions: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, No portion or all of any incorporated city or town may be included without the consent by resolution of the city or town legislative authority: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That such reorganization of any existing sewer district shall not affect the outstanding bonds, warrants or other indebtedness incurred by such district prior to its reorganization. [1974 ex.s. c 58 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 272 § 1; 1945 c 140 § 1; 1943 c 74 § 1; 1941 c 210 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9425-10.]

**Severability—1941 c 210:** "If any section or provision of this act shall be adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the act as a whole or any section, provision, or part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional." [1941 c 210 § 49.]

*City sewerage, drainage, and water supply:* RCW 35.21.210.

*Power to regulate sanitary conditions:* State Constitution Art. 11 § 11.

*Sewerage system, operation, construction, by municipality:* Chapter 35.67 RCW.

**56.04.030 Petition or resolution—Notice of hearing.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) For the purpose of formation or reorganization of sewer districts, a petition shall be presented to the county legislative authority of the county in which the proposed sewer district is located, which petition shall set forth the object for the creation or reorganization of the district, shall designate the boundaries thereof and set forth the further fact that the establishment or reorganization of the district will be conducive to the public health, convenience and welfare and will be of benefit to the property included therein. The petition shall specify the proposed property tax levy assessment, if any, which shall not exceed one dollar and twenty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value, for general preliminary expenses of the district. The petition shall be signed by at least ten percent of the registered voters residing within the district described in the petition who voted in the last general municipal election: PROVIDED, If in the opinion of the county health officer the existing sewerage disposal facilities are inadequate in the district to be created only, and it is for the public welfare, then the county legislative authority of the county may declare a sewerage disposal district a necessity, and the district shall be organized under the provisions of this title, and all amendments thereto. The petition or resolution shall be filed with the county auditor, who shall, within ten days examine the signatures thereof and certify to the sufficiency or insufficiency. For such purpose the county auditor shall have access to all registration books in the possession of the officers of any political subdivision in such proposed district. No person having signed such a petition shall be allowed to withdraw his or her name therefrom after the filing of the same with the county auditor. If the petition shall be found to contain a sufficient number of signatures, the county auditor shall transmit the same, together with his certificate of sufficiency attached thereto to the county legislative authority. If the petition or resolution is certified to contain a sufficient number of signatures, or if in the opinion of the county health officer the existing sewerage disposal facilities are a menace to the health and convenience of the public, the county legislative authority may, by resolution, and not otherwise, declare a sewerage

district a necessity, then at a regular or special meeting of the county legislative authority of such county, the county legislative authority shall cause to be published for at least once a week for two successive weeks in some newspaper of general circulation in the county, giving notice that such a petition has been presented, stating the time of the meeting at which the same shall be presented, and setting forth the boundaries of the proposed district. [1990 c 259 § 21; 1987 c 33 § 1; 1945 c 140 § 2; 1941 c 210 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9425-11.]

*Rules governing petition signatures of property owners:* RCW 56.02.010.

**56.04.040 Hearing—Boundaries.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) When such a petition or resolution is presented for hearing, the board of county commissioners shall hear the same or may adjourn said hearing from time to time not exceeding one month in all. Any person, firm or corporation may appear before the said board of county commissioners and make objections to the establishment or reorganization of the said district or the proposed boundary lines thereof. Upon a final hearing said board of county commissioners shall make such changes in the proposed or reorganized boundary lines as they deem to be proper and shall establish and define such boundaries and shall find whether the proposed sewer district will be conducive to the public health, welfare and convenience and be of special benefit to the land included within the said boundaries of said proposed district so established by the said board of county commissioners. No lands which will not, in the judgment of said board, be benefited by inclusion therein, shall be included within the boundaries of said district as so established and defined, and no change shall be made by the said board of county commissioners in said boundary lines to include any territory outside of the boundaries described in the said petition, except that the boundaries of any proposed district may be extended by the board of county commissioners at such hearing to include other lands in said county upon a petition signed by the owners of all of the land within the proposed extension. [1945 c 140 § 3; 1941 c 210 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9425-12.]

**56.04.050 Election—Time—Notice—Ballots—Excess tax levy.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Upon entry of the findings of the final hearing on the petition, if the commissioners find the proposed sewer system will be conducive to the public health, welfare, and convenience and be of special benefit to the land within the boundaries of the proposed or reorganized district, they shall call a special election by presenting a resolution to the county auditor at least forty-five days prior to the proposed election date. A special election will be held on a date decided by the commissioners in accordance with RCW 29.13.010 and 29.13.020. The commissioners shall cause to be published a notice of such election at least once a week for four successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county, setting forth the hours during which the polls will be open, the boundaries of the proposed or reorganized district as finally adopted, and the object of the election, and the notice shall also be posted for ten days in ten public places in the proposed or reorganized district. The proposition shall be expressed on the ballots in the following terms:

- Sewer District . . . . . YES
- Sewer District . . . . . NO

or in the reorganization of a district, the proposition shall be expressed on the ballot in the following terms:

- Sewer District Reorganization . . . . . YES
- Sewer District Reorganization . . . . . NO

giving in each instance the name of the district as decided by the board.

At the same election the county legislative authority shall submit a proposition to the voters, for their approval or rejection, authorizing the sewer district, if formed, to levy at the earliest time permitted by law on all property located in the district a general tax for one year, in excess of the tax limitations provided by law, in the amount specified in the petition to create the district, not to exceed one dollar and twenty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value, for general preliminary expenses of the district, the proposition to be expressed on the ballots in the following terms:

- One year . . . . dollars and . . . . cents per thousand dollars of assessed value tax . YES
- One year . . . . dollars and . . . . cents per thousand dollars of assessed value tax . NO

Such proposition to be effective must be approved by a majority of at least three-fifths of the registered voters thereof voting on the proposition in the manner set forth in Article VII, section 2(a) of the Constitution of this state, as amended by Amendment 59 and as thereafter amended. [1990 c 259 § 22; 1987 c 33 § 2; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 61; 1953 c 250 § 1; 1945 c 140 § 4; 1941 c 210 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9425-13.]

**Severability—Effective dates and termination dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043.  
*Levy of taxes: Chapter 84.52 RCW.*

**56.04.060 Canvass—District created—Name.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) If at such election a majority of the voters in each district voting upon such proposition shall vote in favor of the formation or reorganization of such district and/or districts, the county election board shall so declare in its canvass of the returns of such election, and such sewer district shall then be and become a municipal corporation of the state of Washington and the name of such sewer district shall be ". . . . Sewer District" (inserting the name appearing on the ballot). [1945 c 140 § 5; 1941 c 210 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9425-15.]

**56.04.065 Alternative method of formation.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) (1) As an alternative to the methods of formation under RCW 56.04.030 through 56.04.060, a sewer district may be formed by a petition signed by the owners of at least sixty percent of the property to be included in the proposed district. The petition shall propose the formation of the district, designate the boundaries thereof, and indicate the name of the district. The petition shall be filed with the county auditor, who shall within ten days examine the signatures thereof and certify to the sufficiency or insufficiency. For this purpose, the county auditor shall have access to all registration books in the possession of the officers of any political subdivision in the

proposed district. No person having signed such a petition shall be allowed to withdraw his name therefrom after the filing of the petition with the county auditor. If the petition is found to contain a sufficient number of signatures, the county auditor shall forward the petition to the county legislative authority who shall hold a hearing pursuant to RCW 56.02.060. Approval or disapproval of the proposed district shall be as provided in RCW 56.02.070.

(2) The initial commissioners for a district formed under this section shall be elected pursuant to RCW 56.12.020 at the next election held under RCW 29.13.010 following by more than ninety days a determination by the county auditor that three or more registered voters reside within the boundaries of the district. [1983 c 88 § 1.]

**56.04.070 When two or more petitions are filed.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Whenever two or more petitions for the formation of a sewer district shall be filed as provided in this chapter, the petition describing the greater area shall supersede all others, and an election shall first be held thereunder, and no lesser sewer district shall ever be created within the limits in whole or in part of any other sewer district, except as provided in RCW 56.36.060 and 36.94.420, as now or hereafter amended. [1985 c 141 § 2; 1981 c 45 § 3; 1941 c 210 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 9425-14.]

**Legislative declaration—"District" defined—Severability—1981 c 45:** See notes following RCW 56.36.060.

**56.04.080 County election board to conduct elections—Expenses.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) All elections held pursuant to this title, whether general or special, shall be conducted by the county election board of the county in which the district is located. The expense of all such elections shall be paid for out of the funds of such sewer district. [1941 c 210 § 40; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 9425-49.]

**56.04.090 Dissolution.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Any sewer district organized, or reorganized, under this title may be disincorporated in the same manner (insofar as the same is applicable) as is provided in RCW 35.07.010 through 35.07.220, for the disincorporation of the cities and towns, except that the petition for disincorporation shall be signed by not less than twenty-five percent of the voters in the sewer district. [1994 c 81 § 79; 1945 c 140 § 16; 1941 c 210 § 47; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9425-56.]

*Dissolution: Chapter 53.48 RCW.*

*Dissolution of inactive special purpose districts: Chapter 36.96 RCW.*

**56.04.120 Sewerage improvement districts located in counties with populations of from forty thousand to less than seventy thousand become sewer districts.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) (1) On and after March 16, 1979, any sewerage improvement districts created under Title 85 RCW and located in a county with a population of from forty thousand to less than seventy thousand shall become sewer districts and shall be operated, maintained, and have the same powers as sewer districts created under Title 56 RCW, upon being so ordered by the county legislative authority of the county in which such district is located

after a hearing of which notice is given by publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the district and mailed to any known creditors, holders of contracts and obligees at least thirty days prior to such hearing. After such hearing if the county legislative authority finds the converting of such district to be in the best interest of that district, it shall order that such sewer improvement district shall become a sewer district and fix the date of such conversion. All debts, contracts and obligations created while attempting to organize or operate a sewerage improvement district and all other financial obligations and powers of the district to satisfy such obligations established under Title 85 RCW are legal and valid until they are fully satisfied or discharged under Title 85 RCW.

(2) The board of supervisors of a sewerage improvement district in a county with a population of from forty thousand to less than seventy thousand shall act as the board of commissioners of the sewer district created under subsection (1) of this section until other members of the board of commissioners of the sewer district are elected and qualified. There shall be an election on the same date as the 1979 state general election and the seats of all three members of the governing authority of every entity which was previously known as a sewerage improvement district in a county with a population of from forty thousand to less than seventy thousand shall be up for election. The election shall be held in the manner provided for in RCW 56.12.020 for the election of the first board of commissioners of a sewer district. Thereafter, the terms of office of the members of the governing body shall be determined under RCW 56.12.020. [1991 c 363 § 136; 1979 c 35 § 1.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**56.04.130 Sewerage improvement districts operating as sewer districts become sewer districts—Procedure. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Any sewerage improvement district which has been operating as a sewer district shall be a sewer district under this title as of March 16, 1979 upon being so ordered by the board of county commissioners of the county in which such district is located after a hearing of which notice is given by publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the district and mailed to any known creditors, holders of contracts and obligees at least thirty days prior to such hearing. After such hearing if the board of county commissioners finds that the sewerage improvement district was operating as a sewer district and that the converting of such district will be in the best interest of that district, it shall order that such sewer improvement district shall become a sewer district immediately upon the passage of the resolution containing such order. The debts, contracts and obligations of any sewerage improvement district which has been erroneously operating as a sewer district are recognized as legal and binding. The members of the government authority of any sewerage improvement district which has been operating as a sewer district and who were erroneously elected as sewer district commissioners shall be recognized as the governing authority of a sewer district. The members of the governing authority shall continue in office for the term for which they were elected. [1979 c 35 § 2.]

## Chapter 56.08

### POWERS—COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

#### Sections

- 56.08.010 Power to acquire property and rights—Eminent domain—Construction and operation of system—Generation of electricity—Rates and charges.
- 56.08.012 Public property subject to rates and charges for storm water control facilities.
- 56.08.013 Authority to reduce pollutants in lakes, streams, ground water, and waterways.
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- 56.08.092 Application of sections to certain service provider agreements under chapter 70.150 RCW.
- 56.08.100 Health care, group, life, and social security insurance contracts for employees', commissioners' benefit—Joint action with water district.
- 56.08.105 Liability insurance for officials and employees.
- 56.08.110 Association of district commissioners—Purpose—Expenses—Personnel—Limitation on district's contribution—Audit by state auditor.
- 56.08.120 Lease of property not necessary for use of district—When.
- 56.08.130 Proposed lease—Notice, contents, publication—Hearing.
- 56.08.140 Performance bond—Conditions and terms—Duration of leases.
- 56.08.150 Performance bond—Leases of more than five years.
- 56.08.160 Performance bond—Surety—Security in lieu of bond—Additional bond security.
- 56.08.170 Use of property not immediately necessary to district for park or recreational purposes.
- 56.08.180 Excess sewer capacity not grounds for zoning decision challenge.
- 56.08.190 Extensions by private party—Preparation of plans—Review by district.
- 56.08.200 Sewer and water connections without district permission—Penalties.

*Certain powers of cities and water districts granted to sewer districts: RCW 56.20.015.*

*Lien for labor and materials on public works: Chapter 60.28 RCW.*

*Special purpose districts, expenditures to recruit job candidates: RCW 42.24.170.*

**56.08.010 Power to acquire property and rights—Eminent domain—Construction and operation of system—Generation of electricity—Rates and charges. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** A sewer district may acquire by purchase or by condemnation and purchase all lands, property rights, water, and water rights, both within and without the district, necessary for its purposes. A sewer district may lease real or personal property necessary for its purposes for a term of years for which such leased property may reasonably be needed where in the opinion of the board of sewer commissioners such property may not be needed



permanently or substantial savings to the district can be effected thereby. The right of eminent domain shall be exercised in the same manner and by the same procedure as provided for cities and towns, insofar as consistent with the provisions of this title, except that all assessments or reassessment rolls required to be filed by eminent domain commissioners or commissioners appointed by the court shall be prepared and filed by the district, and the duties devolving upon the city treasurer shall be imposed upon the county treasurer for the purposes hereof. A sewer district may construct, condemn and purchase, add to, maintain, and operate systems of sewers for the purpose of furnishing the district and inhabitants thereof with an adequate system of sewers for all uses and purposes, public and private, including but not limited to on-site sewage disposal facilities, approved septic tanks or approved septic tank systems, other facilities and systems for the collection, interception, treatment, and disposal of wastewater, and for the control of pollution from wastewater and for the protection, preservation, and rehabilitation of surface and underground waters, facilities for the drainage of storm or surface waters, public highways, streets, and roads with full authority to regulate the use and operation thereof and the service rates to be charged and may construct, acquire, or own buildings and other necessary district facilities. Such sewage facilities may include facilities which result in combined sewage disposal, treatment, or drainage and electric generation, provided that the electricity generated thereby is a byproduct of the system of sewers. Such electricity may be used by the sewer district or sold to any entity authorized by law to distribute electricity. Such electricity is a byproduct when the electrical generation is subordinate to the primary purpose of sewage disposal, treatment, or drainage. For such purposes a district may conduct sewage throughout the district and throughout other political subdivisions within the district, and construct and lay sewer pipe along and upon public highways, roads, and streets, within and without the district, and condemn and purchase or acquire land and rights of way necessary for such sewer pipe. A district may erect sewage treatment plants, within or without the district, and may acquire by purchase or condemnation, properties or privileges necessary to be had to protect any lakes, rivers, or watercourses and also other areas of land from pollution, from its sewers or its sewage treatment plant. For the purposes of sewage facilities which include facilities which result in combined sewage disposal, treatment, or drainage and electric generation where the electric generation is a byproduct, nothing in this section may be construed to authorize a district to condemn electric generating, transmission, or distribution rights or facilities of entities authorized by law to distribute electricity, or to acquire such rights or facilities without the consent of the owner. A district may charge property owners seeking to connect to the district system of sewers, as a condition to granting the right to so connect, in addition to the cost of such connection, such reasonable connection charge as the board of commissioners shall determine to be proper in order that such property owners shall bear their equitable share of the cost of such system. For purposes of calculating a connection charge, the board of commissioners shall determine the pro rata share of the cost of existing facilities and facilities planned for construction within the next ten years and contained in an adopted comprehensive plan and other

costs borne by the district which are directly attributable to the improvements required by property owners seeking to connect to the system. The cost of existing facilities shall not include those portions of the system which have been donated or which have been paid for by grants.

The connection charge may include interest charges applied from the date of construction of the sewer system until the connection, or for a period not to exceed ten years, whichever is shorter, at a rate commensurate with the rate of interest applicable to the district at the time of construction or major rehabilitation of the sewer system, or at the time of installation of the sewer lines to which the property owner is seeking to connect.

A district may permit payment of the cost of connection and the reasonable connection charge to be paid with interest in installments over a period not exceeding fifteen years. The county treasurer may charge and collect a fee of three dollars per parcel for each year for the treasurer's services. Such fees shall be a charge to be included as part of each annual installment, and shall be credited to the county current expense fund by the county treasurer. A district may compel all property owners within the sewer district located within an area served by the district system of sewers to connect their private drain and sewer systems with the district system under such penalty as the sewer commissioners shall prescribe by resolution. The district may for such purpose enter upon private property and connect the private drains or sewers with the district system and the cost thereof shall be charged against the property owner and shall be a lien upon property served.

Revenues from connection charges excluding permit fees are to be considered payments in aid of construction as defined by department of revenue rule. [1989 c 389 § 2; 1989 c 308 § 1; 1987 c 449 § 1. Prior: 1985 c 444 § 5; 1985 c 250 § 1; 1981 c 190 § 4; 1974 ex.s. c 58 § 2; 1959 c 103 § 1; 1953 c 250 § 3; 1945 c 140 § 9; 1941 c 210 § 10; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9425-19.]

**Reviser's note:** This section was amended by 1989 c 308 § 1 and by 1989 c 389 § 2, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section pursuant to RCW 1.12.025(2). For rule of construction, see RCW 1.12.025(1).

**Intent—Construction—Severability—1985 c 444:** See notes following RCW 35.92.010.

**Severability—1959 c 103:** "If any provision of this act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1959 c 103 § 19.]

*Eminent domain*

*cities: Chapter 8.12 RCW.*

*second class cities: RCW 35.23.311.*

*Evaluation of application to appropriate water for electric generation facility: RCW 90.54.170.*

**56.08.012 Public property subject to rates and charges for storm water control facilities. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Except as otherwise provided in RCW 90.03.525, any public entity and public property, including the state of Washington and state property, shall be subject to rates and charges for storm water control facilities to the same extent private persons and private property are subject to such rates and charges that are imposed by sewer districts pursuant to RCW 56.08.010 or 56.16.090. In setting these rates and charges, consideration may be made of in-kind

services, such as stream improvements or donation of property. [1986 c 278 § 59; 1983 c 315 § 5.]

**Severability—1986 c 278:** See note following RCW 36.01.010.

**Severability—1983 c 315:** See note following RCW 90.03.500.

*Flood control zone districts—Storm water control improvements: Chapter 86.15 RCW.*

*Rates and charges for storm water control facilities—Limitations—Definitions: RCW 90.03.500 through 90.03.525. See also RCW 35.67.025, 35.92.021, 36.89.085, and 36.94.145.*

**56.08.013 Authority to reduce pollutants in lakes, streams, ground water, and waterways. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Where a sewer district contains within its borders, abuts, or is located adjacent to any lake, stream, ground water as defined by RCW 90.44.035, or other waterway within the state of Washington, by resolution the board of commissioners may provide for the reduction, minimization, or elimination of pollutants from these waters in accordance with the district's comprehensive plan as provided in RCW 56.08.020, and may authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds within the limits prescribed by RCW 56.16.010, revenue bonds, local improvement district bonds, or utility local improvement bonds for the purpose of paying all or any part of the cost of reducing, minimizing, or eliminating the pollutants from these waters. [1985 c 98 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 146 § 1.]

**56.08.014 Authority to adjust or delay rates and charges for low-income persons—Notice. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** In addition to the authority of a sewer district to establish classifications for rates and charges and impose such rates and charges, as provided in RCW 56.08.010 and 56.16.090, a sewer district may adjust, or delay such rates and charges for low-income persons or classes of low-income persons, including but not limited to, poor handicapped persons and poor senior citizens. Other financial assistance available to poor persons shall be considered in determining charges and rates under this section. Notification of special rates or charges established under this section shall be provided to all persons served by the district annually and upon initiating service. Information on cost shifts caused by establishment of the special rates or charges shall be included in the notification. Any reduction in charges and rates granted to poor persons in one part of a service area shall be uniformly extended to poor persons in all other parts of the service area. [1983 c 198 § 1.]

**Severability—1983 c 198:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1983 c 198 § 3.]

**56.08.015 Change of name—Authorized—Procedure—Validation. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Any sewer district heretofore or hereafter organized and existing may apply to change its name by filing with the county legislative authority in which was filed the original petition for the organization of the district, a certified copy of a resolution of its board of commissioners adopted by the majority vote of all the members of said board at a regular meeting thereof providing for such change of name. After approval of the new name by the county legislative authority, all proceedings of such district shall be had under such

changed name, but all existing obligations and contracts of the district entered into under its former name shall remain outstanding without change and with the validity thereof unimpaired and unaffected by such change of name, and a change of name heretofore made by any existing sewer district in this state, substantially in the manner above provided is hereby ratified, confirmed and validated. [1984 c 147 § 6; 1969 c 119 § 1.]

**56.08.020 General comprehensive plan—Approval of engineer, director of health, and city, town, or county—Amendments. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** The sewer commissioners before ordering any improvements hereunder or submitting to vote any proposition for incurring indebtedness shall adopt a general comprehensive plan for a system of sewers for the district. They shall investigate all portions and sections of the district and select a general comprehensive plan for a system of sewers for the district suitable and adequate for present and reasonably foreseeable future needs thereof. The general comprehensive plan shall provide for treatment plants and other methods for the disposal of sewage and industrial and other liquid wastes now produced or which may reasonably be expected to be produced within the district and shall, for such portions of the district as may then reasonably be served, provide for the acquisition or construction and installation of laterals, trunk sewers, intercepting sewers, syphons, pumping stations, or other sewage collection facilities. The general comprehensive plan shall provide the method of distributing the cost and expense of the sewer system provided therein against the district and against utility local improvement districts within the district, including any utility local improvement district lying wholly or partially within any other political subdivision included in the district; and provide whether the whole or some part of the cost and expenses shall be paid from sewer revenue bonds. The commissioners may employ such engineering and legal services as they deem necessary in carrying out the purposes hereof.

The general comprehensive plan shall be adopted by resolution and submitted to an engineer designated by the legislative authority of the county in which fifty-one percent or more of the area of the district is located, and to the director of health of the county in which the district or any portion thereof is located, and must be approved in writing by the engineer and director of health. The general comprehensive plan shall be approved, conditionally approved, or rejected by the director of health within sixty days of the plan's receipt and by the designated engineer within sixty days of the plan's receipt. However, this sixty-day time limitation may be extended by the director of health or engineer for up to an additional sixty days if sufficient time is not available to review adequately the general comprehensive plans.

Before becoming effective, the general comprehensive plan shall also be submitted to, and approved by resolution of, the legislative authority of every county within whose boundaries all or a portion of the sewer district lies. The general comprehensive plan shall be approved, conditionally approved, or rejected by each of these county legislative authorities pursuant to the criteria in RCW 56.02.060 for approving the formation, reorganization, annexation, consoli-

dation, or merger of sewer districts, and the resolution, ordinance, or motion of the legislative body which rejects the comprehensive plan or a part thereof shall specifically state in what particular the comprehensive plan or part thereof rejected fails to meet these criteria. The general comprehensive plan shall not provide for the extension or location of facilities that are inconsistent with the requirements of RCW 36.70A.110. Nothing in this chapter shall preclude a county from rejecting a proposed plan because it is in conflict with the criteria in RCW 56.02.060. Each general comprehensive plan shall be deemed approved if the county legislative authority fails to reject or conditionally approve the plan within ninety days of submission to the county legislative authority or within thirty days of a hearing on the plan when the hearing is held within ninety days of the plan's submission to the county legislative authority. However, a county legislative authority may extend this ninety-day time limitation by up to an additional ninety days where a finding is made that ninety days is insufficient to review adequately the general comprehensive plan. In addition, the sewer commissioners and the county legislative authority may mutually agree to an extension of the deadlines in this section.

If the district includes portions or all of one or more cities or towns, the general comprehensive plan shall be submitted also to, and approved by resolution of, the governing body of such cities and towns before becoming effective. The general comprehensive plan shall be deemed approved by the city or town governing body if the city or town governing body fails to reject or conditionally approve the plan within ninety days of the plan's submission to the city or town or within thirty days of a hearing on the plan when the hearing is held within ninety days of submission to the county legislative authority. However, a city or town governing body may extend this time limitation by up to an additional ninety days where a finding is made that insufficient time exists to adequately review the general comprehensive plan within these time limitations. In addition, the sewer commissioners and the city or town governing body may mutually agree to an extension of the deadlines in this section.

Before becoming effective, any amendment to, alteration of, or addition to, a general comprehensive plan shall also be subject to such approval as if it were a new general comprehensive plan: PROVIDED, That only if the amendment, alteration, or addition, affects a particular city or town, shall the amendment, alteration, or addition be subject to approval by such particular city or town governing body. [1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 34; 1982 c 213 § 1; 1979 c 23 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 300 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 272 § 2; 1959 c 103 § 2; 1953 c 250 § 4; 1947 c 212 § 2; 1945 c 140 § 10; 1943 c 74 § 2; 1941 c 210 § 11; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 9425-20.]

**Severability—Part, section headings not law—1990 1st ex.s. c 17:** See RCW 36.70A.900 and 36.70A.901.

**Severability—1959 c 103:** See note following RCW 56.08.010.

*Additions and betterments to original comprehensive plan:* RCW 56.16.030.

*Construction of sewerage system for municipality:* Chapter 35.67 RCW.

**56.08.030 Expenditures before plan adopted and approved. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** No expenditure for carrying on any part of such plan shall be made other than the necessary salaries of engineers, clerical, and office

expenses of the district, and the cost of engineering, surveying, preparation, and collection of data necessary for making and adopting a general plan of improvements in the district, until the general plan of improvements has been adopted by the commissioners and approved as provided in RCW 56.08.020. [1953 c 250 § 5; 1941 c 210 § 12; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 9425-21.]

**56.08.040 Additions and betterments to plan, for area annexed. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Whenever an area has been annexed to a district after the adoption of the comprehensive plan, the commissioners shall have the right and duty to adopt by resolution a plan for additions and betterments to the original comprehensive plan to provide for the needs of the area annexed. [1953 c 250 § 6; 1951 c 129 § 1; 1943 c 74 § 3; 1941 c 210 § 13; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 9425-22.]

**56.08.050 Commissioners to carry out plan. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** When the electors of a district have authorized the issuance of general obligation bonds of the district to carry out the general comprehensive plan, the commissioners may proceed with the improvement to the extent specified or referred to in the proposition or propositions to incur the indebtedness and issue the bonds. In the event no general obligation bonds are authorized to be issued to carry out the general comprehensive plan, the commissioners may proceed with the improvement authorized in the general comprehensive plan after they have authorized, by resolution, the issuance of revenue bonds for the construction of such improvement. The amount of the revenue bonds to be issued shall be included in the resolution submitted. [1977 ex.s. c 300 § 2; 1953 c 250 § 7; 1941 c 210 § 15; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 9425-24.]

**56.08.060 Contracts for acquisition, use, operation, etc., authorized—Service to areas in other districts. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** A sewer district may enter into contracts with any county, city, town, sewer district, water district, or any other municipal corporation, or with any private person, firm or corporation, for the acquisition, ownership, use, and operation of any property, facilities, or services, within or without the sewer district and necessary or desirable to carry out the purposes of the sewer district, and a sewer district or a water district duly authorized to exercise sewer district powers may provide sewer service to property owners in areas within or without the limits of the district: PROVIDED, That if any such area is located within another existing district duly authorized to exercise sewer district powers in such area, then sewer service may not be so provided by contract or otherwise without the consent by resolution of the board of commissioners of such other district. [1981 c 45 § 4; 1959 c 103 § 3; 1953 c 250 § 8; 1941 c 210 § 48; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 9425-57.]

**Legislative declaration—"District" defined—Severability—1981 c 45:** See notes following RCW 56.36.060.

**Severability—1959 c 103:** See note following RCW 56.08.010.

*Sewer districts and municipalities, joint agreements:* RCW 35.67.300.

**56.08.065 Provision of sewer service beyond district subject to review by boundary review board. (Effective**

*until July 1, 1997.*) The provision of sewer service beyond the boundaries of a sewer district may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1989 c 84 § 51.]

**56.08.070 Contracts for labor and materials—Call for bids—Small works roster—Award of contract—Requirements waived, when.** (1) All materials purchased and work ordered, the estimated cost of which is in excess of five thousand dollars shall be let by contract. All contract projects, the estimated cost of which is less than fifty thousand dollars, may be awarded to a contractor using the small works roster process provided in RCW 39.04.155 or the process provided in RCW 39.04.190 for purchases. The board of sewer commissioners may set up uniform procedures to prequalify contractors for inclusion on the small works roster. All contract projects equal to or in excess of fifty thousand dollars shall be let by competitive bidding. Before awarding any competitive contract the board of sewer commissioners shall publish a notice in a newspaper of general circulation where the district is located at least once, thirteen days before the last date upon which bids will be received, inviting sealed proposals for such work, plans and specifications which must at the time of publication of such notice be on file in the office of the board of sewer commissioners subject to public inspection. Such notice shall state generally the work to be done and shall call for proposals for doing the same to be sealed and filed with the board of sewer commissioners on or before the day and hour named therein.

(2) Each bid shall be accompanied by a bid proposal deposit in the form of a certified check, cashier's check, postal money order, or surety bond payable to the order of the county treasurer for a sum not less than five percent of the amount of the bid and no bid shall be considered unless accompanied by such bid proposal deposit. At the time and place named such bids shall be publicly opened and read and the board of sewer commissioners shall proceed to canvass the bids and may let such contract to the lowest responsible bidder upon plans and specifications: PROVIDED, That no contract shall be let in excess of the cost of the materials or work. The board of sewer commissioners may reject all bids for good cause and readvertise and in such case all checks, cash or bid bonds shall be returned to the bidders. If such contract be let, then all checks, cash or bid bonds shall be returned to the bidders, except that of the successful bidder, which shall be retained until a contract shall be entered into for the purchase of such materials or doing such work, and a bond to perform such work furnished with sureties satisfactory to the board of sewer commissioners in the full amount of the contract price between the bidder and the commission in accordance with bid. If the bidder fails to enter into the contract in accordance with the bid and furnish such bond within ten days from the date at which the bidder is notified that he or she is the successful bidder, the check, cash, or bid bonds and the amount thereof shall be forfeited to the sewer district. A low bidder who claims error and fails to enter into a contract is prohibited from bidding on the same project if a second or subsequent call for bids is made for the project.

(3) In the event of an emergency when the public interest or property of the sewer district would suffer material injury or damage by delay, upon resolution of the board of sewer commissioners, or proclamation of an official designated by the board to act for the board during such emergencies, declaring the existence of such emergency and reciting the facts constituting the same, the board, or the official acting for the board, may waive the requirements of this chapter with reference to any purchase or contract. In addition, these requirements may be waived for purchases which are clearly and legitimately limited to a single source of supply and purchases involving special facilities, services, or market conditions, in which instances the purchase price may be best established by direct negotiation. [1996 c 18 § 13; 1994 c 31 § 1. Prior: 1993 c 198 § 16; 1993 c 45 § 4; 1989 c 105 § 1; 1987 c 309 § 1; 1985 c 154 § 1; 1983 c 38 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 137 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 64 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 272 § 3; 1965 c 71 § 1; 1941 c 210 § 44; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 9425-53.]

**Reviser's note:** RCW 56.08.070 was also repealed by 1996 c 230 § 1702, effective July 1, 1997, without cognizance of its amendment by 1996 c 18 § 13. For rule of construction concerning sections amended and repealed in the same legislative session, see RCW 1.12.025.

**56.08.070 Contracts for labor and materials—Call for bids—Small works roster—Award of contract—Requirements waived, when.** [1994 c 31 § 1. Prior: 1993 c 198 § 16; 1993 c 45 § 4; 1989 c 105 § 1; 1987 c 309 § 1; 1985 c 154 § 1; 1983 c 38 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 137 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 64 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 272 § 3; 1965 c 71 § 1; 1941 c 210 § 44;

Rem. Supp. 1941 § 9425-53.] Repealed by 1996 c 230 § 1702, effective July 1, 1997.

**Reviser's note:** This section was also amended by 1996 c 18 § 13 without cognizance of its repeal. For rule of construction concerning sections amended and repealed in the same legislative session, see RCW 1.12.025.

**56.08.075 Powers as to street lighting systems—Establishment.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) (1) In addition to the powers given sewer districts by law, they also have power to acquire, construct, maintain, operate, and develop street lighting systems.

(2) To establish a street lighting system, the board of sewer commissioners shall adopt a resolution proposing a street lighting system and delineating the boundaries of the area to be served by the proposed street lighting system. The board shall conduct a public hearing on the resolution to create a street lighting system. Notice of the hearing shall be published at least once each week for two consecutive weeks in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the area to be served by the proposed street lighting system. Following the hearing, the board may by resolution establish the street lighting system.

(3) A street lighting system shall not be established if, within thirty days following the decision of the board, a petition opposing the street lighting system is filed with the board and contains the signatures of at least forty percent of the voters registered in the area to be served by the proposed system.

(4) The sewer district has the same powers of collection for delinquent street lighting charges as the sewer district has for collection of delinquent sewer service charges.

(5) Any street lighting system established by a sewer district prior to March 31, 1982, is declared to be legal and valid. [1987 c 449 § 2; 1982 c 105 § 2.]

**56.08.080 Sale of unnecessary property authorized—Notice.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The board of commissioners of a sewer district may sell, at public or private sale, property belonging to the district if the board determines that the property is not and will not be needed for district purposes and if the board gives notice of intention to sell as in this section provided: PROVIDED, That no notice of intention is required to sell personal property of less than two thousand five hundred dollars in value.

The notice of intention to sell shall be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the district. The notice shall describe the property and state the time and place at which it will be sold or offered for sale, the terms of sale, whether the property is to be sold at public or private sale, and if at public sale the notice shall call for bids, fix the conditions thereof and shall reserve the right to reject any and all bids. [1993 c 198 § 17; 1989 c 308 § 5; 1984 c 172 § 1; 1953 c 51 § 1.]

**56.08.090 Sale of unnecessary property authorized—Additional requirements for sale of realty.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) (1) Subject to the provisions of subsection (2) of this section, no real property valued at two thousand five hundred dollars or more of the district shall be sold for less than ninety percent of the value thereof as established by a written appraisal made not more than six

months prior to the date of sale by three disinterested real estate brokers licensed under the laws of the state or professionally designated real estate appraisers as defined in RCW 74.46.020. The appraisal shall be signed by the appraisers and filed with the secretary of the board of commissioners of the district, who shall keep it at the office of the district open to public inspection. Any notice of intention to sell real property of the district shall recite the appraised value thereof: PROVIDED, That there shall be no private sale of real property where the appraised value exceeds the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars.

(2) If no purchasers can be obtained for the property at ninety percent or more of its appraised value after one hundred twenty days of offering the property for sale, the board of commissioners of the sewer district may adopt a resolution stating that the district has been unable to sell the property at the ninety percent amount. The sewer district then may sell the property at the highest price it can obtain at public auction. A notice of intention to sell at public auction shall be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the sewer district. The notice shall describe the property, state the time and place at which it will be offered for sale and the terms of sale, and shall call for bids, fix the conditions thereof, and reserve the right to reject any and all bids. [1993 c 198 § 18; 1989 c 308 § 6; 1988 c 162 § 1; 1984 c 103 § 2; 1953 c 51 § 2.]

**56.08.092 Application of sections to certain service provider agreements under chapter 70.150 RCW.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) RCW 56.08.070, 56.08.080 through 56.08.090, and 56.08.120 through 56.08.160 shall not apply to an agreement entered into under authority of chapter 70.150 RCW provided there is compliance with the procurement procedure under RCW 70.150.040. [1986 c 244 § 15.]

*Severability—1986 c 244:* See RCW 70.150.905.

**56.08.100 Health care, group, life, and social security insurance contracts for employees', commissioners' benefit—Joint action with water district.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Subject to chapter 48.62 RCW, a sewer district, by a majority vote of its board of commissioners, may enter into contracts to provide health care services and/or group insurance and/or term life insurance and/or social security insurance for the benefit of its employees and may pay all or any part of the cost thereof. Any two or more sewer districts or one or more sewer districts and one or more water districts, by a majority vote of their respective boards of commissioners, may, if deemed expedient, join in the procuring of such health care services and/or group insurance and/or term life insurance, and the board of commissioners of each participating sewer and/or water district may by appropriate resolution authorize their respective district to pay all or any portion of the cost thereof.

A sewer district with five thousand or more customers providing health, group, or life insurance to its employees may provide its commissioners with the same coverage: PROVIDED, That the per person amounts for such insurance paid by the district shall not exceed the per person amounts

paid by the district for its employees. [1991 sp.s. c 30 § 24; 1991 c 82 § 1; 1981 c 190 § 5; 1973 c 24 § 1; 1961 c 261 § 1.]

*Effective date, implementation, application—Severability—1991 sp.s. c 30:* See RCW 48.62.900 and 48.62.901.

*Hospitalization and medical insurance authorized:* RCW 41.04.180.

*Hospitalization and medical insurance not deemed additional compensation:* RCW 41.04.190.

*Water districts: Joint health care, group insurance contracts with sewer districts:* RCW 57.08.100.

**56.08.105 Liability insurance for officials and employees.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The board of commissioners of each sewer district may purchase liability insurance with such limits as they may deem reasonable for the purpose of protecting their officials and employees against liability for personal or bodily injuries and property damage arising from their acts or omissions while performing or in good faith purporting to perform their official duties. [1973 c 125 § 6.]

**56.08.110 Association of district commissioners—Purpose—Expenses—Personnel—Limitation on district's contribution—Audit by state auditor.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) To improve the organization and operation of sewer districts, the commissioners of two or more such districts may form an association thereof, for the purpose of securing and disseminating information of value to the members of the association and for the purpose of promoting the more economical and efficient operation of the comprehensive plans of sewer systems in their respective districts. The commissioners of sewer districts so associated shall adopt articles of association, select such officers as they may determine, and employ and discharge such agents and employees as shall be deemed convenient to carry out the purposes of the association. Sewer district commissioners and their employees are authorized to attend meetings of the association. The expense of the association may be paid from the maintenance or general funds of the associated districts in such manner as shall be provided in the articles of association: PROVIDED, That the aggregate contributions made to the association by the district in any calendar year shall not exceed the amount which would be raised by a levy of two and one-half cents per thousand dollars of assessed value against the taxable property of the district. The financial records of such association shall be subject to audit by the state auditor. [1995 c 301 § 75; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 62; 1970 ex.s. c 47 § 4; 1961 c 267 § 1.]

*Severability—Effective dates and termination dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:* See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

**56.08.120 Lease of property not necessary for use of district—When.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Within the limitations prescribed by RCW 56.08.130 through 56.08.160, a sewer district may lease out any real property held by it which is not necessary for its immediate use and purposes, and upon such terms and conditions as the board of sewer district commissioners deems proper, when and only after:

In the case of real property, the board has by resolution declared the property, to be property for which there is a

future need by the district and for which provision is made in the comprehensive plan of the sewer system of the district as it exists or may from time to time be revised, altered or amended. [1967 c 178 § 1.]

**56.08.130 Proposed lease—Notice, contents, publication—Hearing.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) No lease shall be made until the sewer district has first caused notice thereof, with full description by name of the proposed lessees, the purpose for which the property is to be leased, the street address and location of the property, and a full legal description thereof as described in the records of the county auditor of the county wherein the property is located or situated, and the term for which the property is proposed to be leased, twice in a newspaper of general circulation within the sewer district. Such notice shall also include a date and place of hearing on the proposed lease, for the presentation by any and all persons interested therein of any legal objections thereto; and the first notice shall be published at least fifteen days prior to the execution of the lease, and the second at least seven days prior thereto. [1967 c 178 § 2.]

**56.08.140 Performance bond—Conditions and terms—Duration of leases.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) No such lease shall be made unless secured by a bond conditioned on the performance of the terms of the lease, with surety satisfactory to the commissioners, in a penalty of not less than one-sixth of the term of the lease or for one year's rental, whichever is greater; and no such lease shall be made for a term longer than twenty-five years. However, the board of commissioners may require a reasonable security deposit in lieu of a bond on leased real property owned by the water or sewer district. [1991 c 82 § 2; 1967 c 178 § 3.]

**56.08.150 Performance bond—Leases of more than five years.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) In cases involving leases of more than five years, the commissioners may in their discretion provide for and stipulate to acceptance of a bond conditioned on the performance of a part of the term for five years or more whenever it is further provided that the lessee must procure and deliver to the board of commissioners renewal bonds with like terms and conditions no more than two years prior nor less than one year prior to the expiration of each such bond during the entire term of the lease: PROVIDED, That no such bond shall be construed to secure the furnishing of any other bond by the same surety or indemnity company. [1967 c 178 § 4.]

**56.08.160 Performance bond—Surety—Security in lieu of bond—Additional bond security.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The commissioners may accept as surety on any bond required by RCW 56.08.140 and 56.08.150 an approved surety company, or may accept in lieu thereof a secured interest in property of a value at least twice the amount of the bond required, conditioned further that in the event the commissioners determine that the value of the bond security has become or is about to become impaired, additional security shall be required from the lessee. [1967 c 178 § 5.]

**56.08.170 Use of property not immediately necessary to district for park or recreational purposes.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) A district may operate and maintain a park or recreational facilities on real property that it owns or in which it has an interest that is not immediately necessary for its purposes.

If such park or recreational facilities are operated by a person other than the district, including a corporation, partnership, or other business enterprise, the person shall indemnify and hold harmless the district for any injury or damage caused by the action of the person. [1991 c 82 § 3.]

**56.08.180 Excess sewer capacity not grounds for zoning decision challenge.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The construction of or existence of sewer capacity in excess of the needs of the density allowed by zoning shall not be grounds for any legal challenge to any zoning decision by the county. [1982 c 213 § 3.]

**56.08.190 Extensions by private party—Preparation of plans—Review by district.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) A sewer district may not require that a specified engineer prepare plans or designs for extensions to its systems if the extensions are to be financed and constructed by a private party, but may review, and approve or reject, the plans or designs which have been prepared for such a private party based upon standards and requirements established by the sewer district. [1987 c 309 § 3.]

**56.08.200 Sewer and water connections without district permission—Penalties.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) It is unlawful and a misdemeanor to make, or cause to be made, or to maintain any connection with any sewer or water system of any sewer district, or with any sewer or water system which is connected directly or indirectly with any sewer or water system of any sewer district without having permission from the sewer district. [1995 c 376 § 14; 1991 c 190 § 1.]

**Findings—1995 c 376:** See note following RCW 70.116.060.

## Chapter 56.12 COMMISSIONERS

### Sections

- 56.12.010 Number—Officers—Compensation—Waiver of compensation—Business, proceedings, etc.
- 56.12.015 Increase in number of commissioners.
- 56.12.020 Elections—Terms.
- 56.12.030 Commissioner districts.
- 56.12.040 Unexcused absences—When position declared vacant—Procedure.
- 56.12.050 Conformity with election laws—Vacancies.

*Elections: Title 29 RCW.*

*Jurisdiction of elections in joint sewer districts—Filing of declarations of candidacy—Joint sewer district defined: RCW 56.02.050.*

**56.12.010 Number—Officers—Compensation—Waiver of compensation—Business, proceedings, etc.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The governing body of a sewer district shall be a board of commissioners consisting of three members. The commissioners shall annually elect

one of their number as president and another as secretary of the board.

A district shall provide by resolution for the payment of compensation to each of its commissioners at a rate of fifty dollars for each day or portion thereof devoted to the business of the district: PROVIDED, That the compensation for each commissioner shall not exceed four thousand eight hundred dollars per year. In addition, the secretary may be paid a reasonable sum for clerical services.

Any commissioner may waive all or any portion of his or her compensation payable under this section as to any month or months during his or her term of office, by a written waiver filed with the district as provided in this section. The waiver, to be effective, must be filed any time after the commissioner's election and prior to the date on which the compensation would otherwise be paid. The waiver shall specify the month or period of months for which it is made.

No commissioner shall be employed full time by the district.

The board shall by resolution adopt rules governing the transaction of its business and shall adopt an official seal. All proceedings shall be by resolution recorded in a book kept for that purpose, which shall be a public record. [1985 c 330 § 5; 1980 c 92 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 148 § 7; 1959 c 103 § 4; 1955 c 373 § 1; 1945 c 140 § 8; 1941 c 210 § 9; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9425-18.]

**Severability—1969 ex.s. c 148:** See note following RCW 56.36.010.

**Severability—1959 c 103:** See note following RCW 56.08.010.

**56.12.015 Increase in number of commissioners.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) If a three-member board of commissioners of any sewer district with any number of customers determines by resolution that it would be in the best interest of the district to increase the number of commissioners from three to five, or if the board of a sewer district with any number of customers is presented with a petition signed by ten percent of the registered voters resident within the district who voted in the last general municipal election calling for an increase in the number of commissioners of the district, the board shall submit a resolution to the county auditor requesting that an election be held. Upon receipt of the resolution, the county auditor shall call a special election to be held within the sewer district in accordance with RCW 29.13.010 and 29.13.020, at which election a proposition in substantially the following language shall be submitted to the voters:

Shall the Board of Commissioners of           (Name and/or No. of sewer district)           be increased from three to five members?

Yes . . . .

No . . . .

If the proposition receives a majority approval at the election the board of commissioners of the sewer district shall be increased to five members. In any sewer district with more than ten thousand customers, if a three-member board of commissioners determines by resolution that it would be in the best interest of the district to increase the number of commissioners from three to five, the number of commissioners shall be so increased without an election, unless

within ninety days of adoption of that resolution, a petition requesting an election and signed by at least ten percent of the registered voters who voted in the last general municipal election is filed with the board. If such a petition is received, the board shall submit the resolution and the petition to the county auditor, who shall call a special election in the manner described in this section and in accordance with the provisions of RCW 29.13.010 and 29.13.020.

The two positions created on boards of sewer commissioners by this section shall be filled initially either as for a vacancy or by nomination under RCW 56.12.030, except that the appointees or newly elected commissioners shall draw lots, one appointee to serve until the next general sewer district election after the appointment, at which two commissioners shall be elected for six-year terms, and the other appointee to serve until the second general sewer district election after the appointment, at which two commissioners shall be elected for six-year terms. [1994 c 223 § 62; 1991 c 190 § 2; 1990 c 259 § 23; 1987 c 449 § 3.]

**56.12.020 Elections—Terms.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) At the election held to form or reorganize a sewer district, three sewer district commissioners shall be elected. The election of sewer district commissioners shall be null and void if the ballot proposition to form or reorganize the sewer district is not approved. Candidates shall run for one of three separate commissioner positions. A special filing period shall be opened as provided in RCW 29.15.170 and 29.15.180. The person receiving the greatest number of votes for each position shall be elected to that position.

The newly elected sewer district commissioners shall assume office immediately when they are elected and qualified. Staggering of the terms of office for the new sewer district commissioners shall be accomplished as follows: (1) The person who is elected receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected to a six-year term of office if the election is held in an odd-numbered year or a five-year term of office if the election is held in an even-numbered year; (2) the person who is elected receiving the next greatest number of votes shall be elected to a four-year term of office if the election is held in an odd-numbered year or a three-year term of office if the election is held in an even-numbered year; and (3) the other person who is elected shall be elected to a two-year term of office if the election is held in an odd-numbered year or a one-year term of office if the election is held in an even-numbered year. The terms of office shall be calculated from the first day of January in the year following the election.

Thereafter commissioners shall be elected to six-year terms of office. Commissioners shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified and assume office in accordance with RCW 29.04.170. [1994 c 223 § 63; 1979 ex.s. c 126 § 38; 1963 c 200 § 17; 1955 c 55 § 12; 1953 c 110 § 1. Prior: 1945 c 140 § 6; 1941 c 210 § 7; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9425-16.]

**Purpose—1979 ex.s. c 126:** See RCW 29.04.170(1).

*Terms of district officers: State Constitution Art. 11 § 5.*

**56.12.030 Commissioner districts.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The board of commissioners of any sewer district may adopt a resolution providing that each subse-

quent commissioner be elected as a commissioner of a commissioner district within the district. If the board exercises this option, it shall divide the district into a number of commissioner districts equal in number to the number of commissioners on the board, each with approximately equal population following current precinct and district boundaries as far as practicable. Commissioner districts shall be used as follows: (1) Only a registered voter who resides in a commissioner district may be a candidate for, or serve as, a commissioner of the commissioner district; and (2) only voters of a commissioner district may vote at a primary to nominate candidates for a commissioner of the commissioner district. Voters of the entire sewer district may vote at a general election to elect a person as a commissioner of the commissioner district. Commissioner districts shall be redrawn as provided in chapter 29.70 RCW. [1994 c 223 § 64; 1990 c 259 § 24; 1986 c 41 § 1; 1985 c 141 § 3; 1981 c 169 § 2; 1953 c 250 § 9; 1947 c 212 § 1; 1945 c 140 § 7; 1941 c 210 § 8; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 9425-17.]

**56.12.040 Unexcused absences—When position declared vacant—Procedure.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) If a sewer commissioner is absent from three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings unless by permission of the board, the office may be declared vacant by the board of commissioners and the vacancy shall then be filled as provided for in this chapter. However, such an action shall not be taken unless the commissioner is notified by mail after two consecutive unexcused absences that the position will be declared vacant if the commissioner is absent without being excused from the next regularly scheduled meeting. [1987 c 449 § 4.]

**56.12.050 Conformity with election laws—Vacancies.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Sewer district elections shall conform with general election laws.

Vacancies on a board of sewer commissioners shall occur and shall be filled as provided in chapter 42.12 RCW. [1994 c 223 § 65.]

## Chapter 56.16 FINANCES

### Sections

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*Limitation on levies: State Constitution Art. 7 § 2.*

*Public contracts and indebtedness: Title 39 RCW.*

**56.16.010 General indebtedness.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The sewer commissioners may submit to the sewer district voters a ballot proposition authorizing the sewer district to incur a general indebtedness payable from annual tax levies to be made in excess of the constitutional and/or statutory tax limitations for the construction of any part or all of the comprehensive plan for the district. Elections shall be held as provided in RCW 39.36.050. The proposition authorizing both the bond issue and bond retirement levies must be approved by three-fifths of the qualified voters of the said sewer district voting on said proposition, at which election the total number of persons voting on the proposition shall constitute not less than forty percent of the total number of votes cast in the sewer district at the last preceding general election. Such bonds shall be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1984 c 186 § 46; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 63; 1953 c 250 § 10; 1951 2nd ex.s. c 26 § 1; 1941 c 210 § 14; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 9425-23.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

**Severability—Effective dates and termination dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043.  
*Limitations on municipal corporation indebtedness: State Constitution Art. 8 § 6; RCW 35.30.040, 35.37.040.*

**56.16.020 Revenue bonds authorized.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The sewer commissioners may, by resolution, issue revenue bonds for the construction costs, interest during the period of construction and six months thereafter, working capital, or other costs of any part or all of the general comprehensive plan or for other purposes or functions of a sewer district authorized by statute without submitting a proposition therefor to the voters. The resolution shall include the amount of the bonds to be issued. [1987 c 449 § 5; 1977 ex.s. c 300 § 3; 1959 c 103 § 5; 1953 c 250 § 11; 1951 c 129 § 2; 1941 c 210 § 16; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 9425-25.]

**Severability—1959 c 103:** See note following RCW 56.08.010.

*Special assessments and taxation for local improvements: State Constitution Art. 7 § 9.*

**56.16.030 Additions and betterments—Financing plan.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) (1) In the same manner as herein provided for the adoption of the general comprehensive plan, and after the adoption of the general comprehensive plan, a plan providing for additions and betterments to the general comprehensive plan, or reorga-



nized district may be adopted. Without limiting its generality "additions and betterments" shall include any necessary change in, amendment of, or addition to the general comprehensive plan. The sewer district may incur a general indebtedness payable from annual tax levies to be made in excess of the constitutional and/or statutory tax limitations for the construction of the additions and betterments in the same way the general indebtedness may be incurred for the construction of the general comprehensive plan as provided in RCW 56.16.010. Upon ratification by the voters of the entire district, of the proposition to incur such indebtedness, the additions and betterments may be carried out by the sewer commissioners to the extent specified or referred to in the proposition to incur such general indebtedness. The sewer district may issue revenue bonds to pay for the construction of the additions and betterments by resolution of the board of sewer commissioners.

(2) After July 23, 1989, when the district adopts a general comprehensive plan or plans for an area annexed as provided for in RCW 56.08.020, the district shall include a long-term plan for financing the planned projects. [1989 c 389 § 3; 1984 c 186 § 47; 1977 ex.s. c 300 § 4; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 64; 1959 c 103 § 6; 1953 c 250 § 12; 1951 2nd ex.s. c 26 § 2; 1951 c 129 § 3; 1945 c 140 § 11; 1941 c 210 § 17; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9425-26.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

**Severability—Effective dates and termination dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

**Severability—1959 c 103:** See note following RCW 56.08.010.

*Adoption of general comprehensive plan:* RCW 56.08.020.

**56.16.035 Additional revenue bonds for increased cost of improvements. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Whenever a sewer district shall have adopted a general comprehensive plan, and bonds to defray the cost thereof shall have been authorized by the board of commissioners, and if before completion of the improvements the board of commissioners shall by resolution find that the authorized bonds are not sufficient to defray the cost of such improvements due to the increase of costs of construction subsequent to the adoption of said plan, the board of commissioners may, by resolution, authorize the issuance and sale of additional sewer revenue bonds for such purpose in excess of those previously issued. [1977 ex.s. c 300 § 5; 1959 c 103 § 7.]

**Severability—1959 c 103:** See note following RCW 56.08.010.

**56.16.040 General obligation bonds—Bond retirement property tax levies. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Whenever any such sewer district shall hereafter adopt a plan for a sewer system as herein provided, or any additions and betterments thereto, or whenever any reorganized sewer district shall hereafter adopt a plan for any additions or betterments thereto, and the qualified voters of any such sewer district or reorganized sewer district shall hereafter authorize both bond retirement property tax levies and a general indebtedness for all the said plan, or any part thereof, or any additions and betterments thereto or for refunding in whole or in part bonds theretofore issued, general obligation bonds for the payment thereof may be issued.

The general obligation bonds shall never be issued to run for a longer period than thirty years from the date of the issue and shall as nearly as practicable be issued for a period which will not exceed the life of the improvement to be acquired by the issue of the bonds.

Such bonds shall be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1984 c 186 § 48; (1983 c 167 § 272 repealed by 1984 c 186 § 70); 1983 c 167 § 155; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 65; 1970 ex.s. c 56 § 80; 1969 ex.s. c 232 § 85; 1953 c 250 § 13; 1951 2nd ex.s. c 26 § 3; 1945 c 140 § 12; 1941 c 210 § 18; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9425-27.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

**Effective dates—1983 c 167:** See note following RCW 36.68.520.

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**Severability—Effective dates and termination dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

**Validation—Saving—Severability—1969 ex.s. c 232:** See notes following RCW 39.52.020.

**56.16.050 Limitation of indebtedness. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Each and every sewer district hereafter to be organized pursuant to this title, or reorganized under chapter 140, Laws of 1945, may contract indebtedness pursuant to the provisions of RCW 56.16.040, but not exceeding in amount, together with existing indebtedness two and one-half percent of the value of the taxable property in said district, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in RCW 39.36.015, whenever three-fifths of the voters voting at said election in such sewer district assent thereto, at which election the total number of persons voting on the proposition shall constitute not less than forty percent of the total number of votes cast at the last preceding general election. The election shall be held as provided in RCW 39.36.050. All bonds so to be issued shall be subject to the provisions regarding bonds as set out in RCW 56.16.040. [1984 c 186 § 49; 1970 ex.s. c 42 § 34; 1945 c 140 § 15; 1941 c 210 § 42; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 9425-51.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

**Severability—Effective date—1970 ex.s. c 42:** See notes following RCW 39.36.015.

**56.16.060 Revenue bonds—Issuance, form, payment, etc. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** (1) When sewer revenue bonds are issued for authorized purposes, said bonds shall be in bearer form or registered as to principal or interest or both, as provided in RCW 39.46.030, and may provide for conversion between registered and coupon bonds; shall be in such denominations, shall be numbered, shall bear such date, shall be payable at such time or times up to a maximum period of not to exceed thirty years and at such place or places one of which must be the office of the treasurer of the county in which the district is located, or of the county in which fifty-one percent or more of the area of the district is located such place or places to be determined by the board of commissioners of the district; shall bear interest at such rate or rates payable at such time or times as authorized by the board of sewer commissioners; shall be executed by the president of the board of commissioners and attested by the secretary thereof, one of which signatures may, with the written permission of the signator whose

facsimile signature is being used, be a facsimile and have the seal of the district impressed thereon; and may have facsimile signatures of the president and secretary imprinted on any interest coupons in lieu of original signatures.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds may be issued in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 § 156; 1975 1st ex.s. c 25 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 272 § 4; 1970 ex.s. c 56 § 81; 1969 ex.s. c 232 § 86; 1959 c 103 § 8; 1941 c 210 § 19; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 9425-28.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

**Validation—Saving—Severability—1969 ex.s. c 232:** See notes following RCW 39.52.020.

**Severability—1959 c 103:** See note following RCW 56.08.010.

*Alternative authority to issue revenue bonds:* RCW 39.46.150, 39.46.160.

*Facsimile signature on bonds and coupons:* RCW 39.44.100 through 39.44.102.

*Funds for reserve purposes may be included in issue amount:* RCW 39.44.140.

#### **56.16.065 Revenue warrants and revenue bond anticipation warrants. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)**

Sewer districts may also issue revenue warrants and revenue bond anticipation warrants for the same purposes for which such districts may issue revenue bonds. The provisions of this chapter relating to the authorization, terms, conditions, covenants, issuance and sale of revenue bonds (exclusive of provisions relating to refunding) shall be applicable to such warrants. Sewer districts issuing revenue bond anticipation warrants may make covenants relative to the issuance of revenue bonds to provide funds for the redemption of part or all of such warrants and may contract for the sale of such bonds and warrants. [1975 1st ex.s. c 25 § 4.]

#### **56.16.070 Special fund to pay revenue bonds. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)**

The sewer commissioners shall have power and are required to create a special fund, or funds, for the sole purpose of paying the interest and principal of sewer revenue bonds, as herein provided into which special fund or funds the said sewer commissioners shall obligate and bind the sewer district to set aside and pay a fixed proportion of the gross revenues of the system of sewers, or any fixed amount out of and not exceeding a fixed proportion of such revenues, or a fixed amount or amounts without regard to any fixed proportion, and such bonds and the interest thereof shall be payable only out of such special fund or funds, and shall be a lien and charge against all revenues of the district and payments received from any utility local improvement district or districts pledged to secure such bonds, subject only to operating and maintenance expenses. [1959 c 103 § 9; 1941 c 210 § 20; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 9425-29.]

**Severability—1959 c 103:** See note following RCW 56.08.010.

#### **56.16.080 Special fund, considerations in creating—Rights of bond owner. (Effective until July 1, 1997.) (1)**

In creating any special fund or funds the sewer commissioners of such sewer district shall have due regard to the cost of operation and maintenance of the plant or system as con-

structed or added to, and to any proportion or part of the revenue previously pledged as a fund for the payment of bonds, warrants or other indebtedness, and shall not set aside into such special fund a greater amount or proportion of the revenue and proceeds than in their judgment will be available over and above such cost of maintenance and operation and the amount or proportion, if any, of the revenue so previously pledged. Any such bonds, and the interest thereon, issued against any such fund as herein provided, shall be a valid claim of the owner thereof only as against the said special fund and its fixed proportion or amount of the revenue pledged to such fund, and shall not constitute an indebtedness of such sewer district within the meaning of the constitutional provisions and limitations. Each such bond or warrant shall state upon its face that it is payable from a special fund, naming the said fund and the resolution creating it. Said bonds shall be sold in such manner, at such prices and at such rate or rates of interest as the sewer commissioners shall deem for the best interests of the sewer district, either at public or private sale, and the said commissioners may provide in any contract for the construction and acquirement of the proposed improvement that payment therefor shall be made in such bonds at par value thereof.

When any such special fund shall have been heretofore or shall be created and any such bonds shall have been heretofore or shall hereafter be issued against the same, a fixed proportion or a fixed amount out of and not to exceed such fixed proportion, or a fixed amount without regard to any fixed proportion, of revenue shall be set aside and paid into said special fund as provided in the resolution creating such fund or authorizing such bonds. In case any sewer district shall fail thus to set aside and pay said fixed proportion or amount as aforesaid, the owner of any bond payable from such special fund may bring suit or action against the sewer district and compel such setting aside and payment.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 § 157; 1975 1st ex.s. c 25 § 2; 1970 ex.s. c 56 § 82; 1941 c 210 § 21; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 9425-30.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

#### **56.16.085 Covenants to guarantee payment of revenue bonds—Bonds payable from same source may be issued on parity. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)**

The board of commissioners may make such covenants as it may deem necessary to secure and guarantee the payment of the principal of and interest on sewer revenue bonds of the district, including but not being limited to covenants for the establishment and maintenance of adequate reserves to secure or guarantee the payment of such principal and interest; the protection and disposition of the proceeds of sale of such bonds; the use and disposition of the gross revenues of the sewer system of the district and any additions or betterments thereto or extensions thereof; the use and disposition of any utility local improvement district assessments; the creation and maintenance of funds for renewals and replacements of the system; the establishment and maintenance of rates and charges adequate to pay

principal and interest of such bonds and to maintain adequate coverage over debt service; the maintenance, operation and management of the system and the accounting, insuring and auditing of the business in connection therewith; the terms upon which such bonds or any of them may be redeemed at the election of the district; limitations upon the right of the district to dispose of its system or any part thereof; the appointment of trustees, depositaries and paying agents to receive, hold, disburse, invest and reinvest all or any part of the proceeds of sale of the bonds and all or any part of the income, revenue and receipts of the district, and the board of commissioners may make such other covenants as it may deem necessary to accomplish the most advantageous sale of such bonds. The board of commissioners may also provide that revenue bonds payable out of the same source or sources may later be issued on a parity with any revenue bonds being issued and sold. [1959 c 103 § 10.]

**Severability—1959 c 103:** See note following RCW 56.08.010.

**56.16.090 Rates and charges—Classification of services.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The sewer commissioners of any sewer district, in the event that such sewer revenue bonds are issued, shall provide for revenues by fixing rates and charges for the furnishing of sewerage disposal service to those to whom such service is available. Such rates and charges may be combined for the furnishing of more than one type of sewer service such as but not limited to storm or surface water and sanitary. Such rates and charges are to be fixed as deemed necessary by such sewer commissioners, so that uniform charges will be made for the same class of customer or service.

In classifying customers served or service furnished by such system of sewerage, the board of commissioners may in its discretion consider any or all of the following factors: The difference in cost of service to the various customers; the location of the various customers within and without the district; the difference in cost of maintenance, operation, repair, and replacement of the various parts of the system; the different character of the service furnished various customers; the quantity and quality of the sewage delivered and the time of its delivery; the achievement of water conservation goals and the discouragement of wasteful water use practices; capital contributions made to the system including but not limited to assessments; and any other matters which present a reasonable difference as a ground for distinction. Such rates are to be made on a monthly basis and shall produce revenues sufficient to take care of the costs of maintenance and operation, revenue bond and warrant interest and principal amortization requirements, and all other charges necessary for efficient and proper operation of the system. [1991 c 347 § 19; 1974 ex.s. c 58 § 3; 1959 c 103 § 11; 1941 c 210 § 22; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 9425-31.]

**Purposes—1991 c 347:** See note following RCW 90.42.005.

**Severability—1991 c 347:** See RCW 90.42.900.

**Severability—1959 c 103:** See note following RCW 56.08.010.

*Authority to adjust or delay rates and charges for low-income persons:* RCW 56.08.014.

*Public property subject to rates and charges for storm water control facilities:* RCW 56.08.012.

**56.16.100 Collection of charges—Lien.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The commissioners shall enforce collection of the sewer connection charges and sewerage disposal service charges against property to which and its owners to whom the service is available, such charges being deemed charges against the property to which the service is available, by addition of penalties of not more than ten percent thereof in case of failure to pay the charges at times fixed by resolution. The commissioners may provide by resolution that where either sewer connection charges or sewer service charges are delinquent for any specified period of time, the district shall certify the delinquencies to the treasurer of the county in which the real property is located, and the charges and any penalties added thereto and interest thereon at the rate fixed by resolution, shall be a lien against the property to which the service was available, subject only to the lien for general taxes. [1977 ex.s. c 300 § 6; 1971 ex.s. c 272 § 5; 1953 c 250 § 14; 1941 c 210 § 23; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 9425-32.]

**56.16.110 Foreclosure of lien for charges.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The district may, at any time after the sewer connection charges or sewerage disposal service charges and penalties provided for in RCW 56.16.100, as now or hereafter amended, are delinquent for a period of sixty days, bring suit in foreclosure by civil action in the superior court of the county in which the real property is situated. The court may allow, in addition to the costs and disbursements provided by statute, such an attorney's fee as it may adjudge reasonable. The action shall be in rem against the property, and in addition may be brought in the name of the district against an individual, or against all of those who are delinquent in one action, and the laws and rules of the court shall control as in other civil actions. [1977 ex.s. c 300 § 7; 1971 ex.s. c 272 § 6; 1953 c 250 § 15; 1941 c 210 § 24; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 9425-33.]

**56.16.115 Refunding bonds.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The board of sewer commissioners may by resolution, without submitting the matter to the voters of the district, authorize the issuance of refunding general obligation bonds to refund any outstanding general obligation bonds, or any part thereof, at maturity thereof, or before the maturity thereof, if they are subject to call for prior redemption, or if all of the holders thereof consent thereto. The total cost to the district over the life of the refunding bonds shall not exceed the total cost, which the district would have incurred but for such refunding, over the remainder of the life of the bonds being refunded. The provisions of RCW 56.16.040 specifying the issuance and sale of general obligation bonds and providing for annual tax levies in excess of the constitutional and/or statutory tax limitations shall apply to the refunding general obligation bonds issued under this title.

The board of sewer commissioners may by resolution provide for the issuance of refunding revenue bonds to refund outstanding general obligation bonds and/or revenue bonds, or any part thereof, at maturity thereof, or before maturity thereof, if they are subject to call for prior redemption, or if all of the holders thereof consent thereto. The total cost to the district over the life of said refunding

revenue bonds shall not exceed the total cost, which the district would have incurred but for such refunding, over the remainder of the life of the bonds being refunded. Uncollected assessments originally payable into the revenue bond fund of a refunded revenue bond issue shall be paid into the revenue bond fund of the refunding issue. The provisions of RCW 56.16.060 specifying the form and maturities of revenue bonds shall apply to the refunding revenue bonds issued under this title.

Refunding general obligation bonds or refunding revenue bonds may be exchanged for the bonds being refunded or may be sold in such manner as the sewer commissioners shall deem for the best interest of the sewer district. [1984 c 186 § 50; 1977 ex.s. c 300 § 8; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 66; 1959 c 103 § 12; 1953 c 250 § 16.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

**Severability—Effective dates and termination dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

**Severability—1959 c 103:** See note following RCW 56.08.010.

**56.16.130 Interest payments. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Any coupons for the payment of interest on bonds of any sewer district shall be considered for all purposes as warrants drawn upon the general fund of the said sewer district issuing such bonds, and when presented to the treasurer of the county having custody of the funds of such sewer district at maturity, or thereafter, and when so presented, if there are not funds in the treasury to pay the said coupons, it shall be the duty of the county treasurer to endorse said coupons as presented for payment, in the same manner as county warrants are indorsed, and thereafter said coupons shall bear interest at the same rate as the bonds to which they were attached. When there are no funds in the treasury to make interest payments on bonds not having coupons, the overdue interest payment shall continue bearing interest at the bond rate until it is paid, unless otherwise provided in the proceedings authorizing the sale of the bonds. [1983 c 167 § 158; 1941 c 210 § 45; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 9425-54.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**56.16.135 Treasurer—Designation—Approval—Powers and duties—Bond. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Upon obtaining the approval of the county treasurer, the board of commissioners of a sewer district with more than twenty-five hundred customers may designate by resolution some other person having experience in financial or fiscal matters as the treasurer of the district. Such a treasurer shall possess all of the powers, responsibilities, and duties of, and shall be subject to the same restrictions as provided by law for, the county treasurer with regard to a sewer district, and the county auditor with regard to sewer district financial matters. Such treasurer shall be bonded for not less than twenty-five thousand dollars. Approval by the county treasurer authorizing such a sewer district to designate its treasurer shall not be arbitrarily or capriciously withheld. [1988 c 162 § 10; 1983 c 57 § 2.]

**Ratification—1988 c 162 §§ 10, 11:** "Any action taken by a sewer district treasurer or water district treasurer prior to March 21, 1988, and consistent with sections 10 and 11 of this act is ratified and confirmed." [1988 c 162 § 12.]

**56.16.140 Maintenance or general fund and special funds. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Unless the board of commissioners of a sewer district designates a treasurer under RCW 56.16.135, the county treasurer of the county in which the district is located or the county in which fifty-one percent or more of the area of the district is located shall create and maintain a separate fund designated as the maintenance fund or general fund of the sewer district into which shall be paid all money received by him from the collection of taxes levied by such district other than taxes levied for the payment of general obligation bonds thereof, and into which shall be paid all revenues of the district other than assessments levied in utility local improvement districts, and no money shall be disbursed therefrom except upon warrants of the county auditor issued by authority of the commissioners or upon a resolution of the commissioners ordering a transfer to any other fund of the district. The county treasurer of each county in which the district or a portion thereof is located shall also maintain such other special funds as may be prescribed by the sewer district, into which shall be placed such moneys as the board of sewer commissioners may by its resolution direct, and from which disbursements shall be made upon proper warrants of the county auditor issued against the same by authority of the board of sewer commissioners. [1983 c 57 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 272 § 7; 1959 c 103 § 13; 1941 c 210 § 46; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 9425-55.]

**Severability—1959 c 103:** See note following RCW 56.08.010.

**56.16.150 Maintenance or general fund and special funds—Use of surplus in maintenance or general fund. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Whenever a sewer district has accumulated moneys in the maintenance fund or general fund of the district in excess of the requirements of such fund, the board of commissioners may in its discretion use any of such surplus moneys for any of the following purposes: (1) Redemption or servicing of outstanding obligations of the district; (2) maintenance expenses of the district; (3) construction or acquisition of any facilities necessary to carry out the purpose of the district. [1959 c 103 § 14.]

**Severability—1959 c 103:** See note following RCW 56.08.010.

**56.16.160 Maintenance or general fund and special funds—Deposits and investments. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Whenever there shall have accumulated in any general or special fund of a sewer district moneys, the disbursement of which is not yet due, the board of commissioners may, by resolution, authorize the county treasurer to deposit or invest such moneys in qualified public depositories, or to invest such moneys in any investment permitted at any time by RCW 36.29.020: PROVIDED, That the county treasurer may refuse to invest any district moneys the disbursement of which will be required during the period of investment to meet outstanding obligations of the district. [1986 c 294 § 12; 1983 c 66 § 21; 1981 c 24 § 3; 1973 1st ex.s. c 140 § 2; 1959 c 103 § 15.]

**Severability—1983 c 66:** See note following RCW 39.58.010.

**Severability—1959 c 103:** See note following RCW 56.08.010.

*Public depositories: Chapter 39.58 RCW.*

**56.16.165 Deposit account requirements.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Sewer district moneys shall be deposited by the district in an account, which may be interest-bearing, subject to such requirements and conditions as may be prescribed by the state auditor. The account shall be in the name of the district except, upon request by the treasurer, the accounts shall be in the name of the "(name of county) county treasurer." The treasurer may instruct the financial institutions holding the deposits to transfer them to the treasurer at such times as the treasurer may deem appropriate, consistent with regulations governing and policies of the financial institution. [1981 c 24 § 1.]

**56.16.170 Maintenance or general fund and special funds—Loans from maintenance or general funds to construction funds.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The board of commissioners of any sewer district may, by resolution, authorize and direct a loan or loans from maintenance funds or general funds of the district to construction funds of the district: PROVIDED, That such loan does not, in the opinion of the board of commissioners, impair the ability of the district to operate and maintain its system of sewers. [1959 c 103 § 16.]

**Severability—1959 c 103:** See note following RCW 56.08.010.

**Chapter 56.20**

**UTILITY LOCAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS**

Sections

- 56.20.010 Local districts authorized—Special assessments.
- 56.20.015 Certain powers of cities and water districts granted to sewer districts—General obligation bonds for water system purposes—Election.
- 56.20.020 Petition or resolution to form local district—Procedure—Written protest.
- 56.20.030 Hearing—Improvement ordered—Divestment of power to order—Notice—Appeal—Assessment roll.
- 56.20.032 Notice must contain statement that assessments may vary from estimates.
- 56.20.033 Sanitary sewer facilities—Notice to certain property owners.
- 56.20.040 Notice of filing roll.
- 56.20.050 Hearing on protests—Order.
- 56.20.060 Enlarged local district may be formed.
- 56.20.070 Conclusiveness of roll when approved—Exceptions.
- 56.20.080 Review.
- 56.20.090 Segregation of special assessment—Fee—Costs.
- 56.20.120 Foreclosure of assessments—Attorneys' fees.

*Deferral of special assessments: Chapter 84.38 RCW.*

*Local improvements, supplemental authority: Chapter 35.51 RCW.*

**56.20.010 Local districts authorized—Special assessments.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Any sewer district shall have the power to establish utility local improvement districts within its territory as hereinafter provided, and to levy special assessments under a mode of annual installments extending over a period not exceeding twenty years on all property specially benefited by any local improvement, on the basis of the special benefits to pay in whole or in part the damages or costs of any improvements ordered in such sewer district. The levying, collection and enforcement of all special assessments hereby authorized shall be in the manner now and hereafter provided by law for the levying, collection and enforcement of special

assessments by cities and towns, insofar as the same shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of this title. The duties devolving upon the city or town treasurer under said laws are imposed upon the county treasurer of each county in which the real property is located for the purposes of this title. The mode of assessment shall be in the manner to be determined by the sewer commissioners by resolution. It must be specified in any petition for the establishment of a utility local improvement district and in the approved general comprehensive plan or approved amendment thereto, that, except as provided in this section, the special assessments shall be for the sole purpose of payment into the revenue bond fund for the payment of revenue bonds. Special assessments in any utility local improvement district may be made on the basis of special benefits up to but not in excess of the total cost of any comprehensive scheme or plan payable by issuance of revenue bonds. No warrants or bonds shall be issued in any such utility local improvement district, but the collection of interest and principal on all special assessments in such utility local improvement district, when collected, shall be paid into the revenue bond fund, except that special assessments paid before the issuance and sale of bonds may be deposited in a fund for the payment of costs of improvements in the utility local improvement district. [1987 c 169 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 272 § 8; 1941 c 210 § 26; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 9425-35.]

*Local improvements, collection of assessments: Chapter 35.49 RCW.*

**56.20.015 Certain powers of cities and water districts granted to sewer districts—General obligation bonds for water system purposes—Election.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) In addition to all of the powers and authorities set forth in Title 56 RCW, any sewer district shall have all of the powers of cities as set forth in chapter 35.44 RCW. Sewer districts may also exercise all of the powers permitted to a water district under Title 57 RCW, except that a sewer district may not exercise water district powers in any area within its boundaries which is part of an existing district which previously shall have been duly authorized to exercise water district powers in such area without the consent by resolution of the board of commissioners of such district.

A sewer district shall have the power to issue general obligation bonds for water system purposes: PROVIDED, That a proposition to authorize general obligation bonds payable from excess tax levies for water system purposes pursuant to chapters 57.16 and 57.20 RCW shall be submitted to all of the qualified voters within that part of the sewer district which is not contained within another existing district duly authorized to exercise water district powers, and the taxes to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds approved by such voters shall be levied only upon all of the taxable property within such part of the sewer district. Such bonds may also be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 § 159; 1981 c 45 § 5; 1980 c 12 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 300 § 9; 1974 ex.s. c 58 § 4.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**Legislative declaration—"District" defined—Severability—1981 c 45:** See notes following RCW 56.36.060.

**56.20.020 Petition or resolution to form local district—Procedure—Written protest.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Utility local improvement districts to carry out all or any portion of the comprehensive plan, or additions and betterments thereof, adopted for the sewer district may be initiated either by resolution of the board of sewer commissioners or by petition signed by the owners according to the records of the office of the county auditor of at least fifty-one percent of the area of the land within the limits of the utility local improvement district to be created.

In case the board of sewer commissioners desires to initiate the formation of a utility local improvement district by resolution, it shall first pass a resolution declaring its intention to order such improvement, setting forth the nature and territorial extent of such proposed improvement, designating the number of the proposed utility local improvement district, describing the boundaries thereof, stating the estimated cost and expense of the improvement and the proportionate amount thereof which will be borne by the property within the proposed district, and fixing a date, time, and place for a public hearing on the formation of the proposed local district, which date shall, unless there is an emergency, be no less than thirty days and no more than ninety days from the day the resolution of intention was adopted.

In case any such utility local improvement district is initiated by petition, such petition shall set forth the nature and territorial extent of such proposed improvement and the fact that the signers thereof are the owners according to the records of the county auditor of at least fifty-one percent of the area of land within the limits of the utility local improvement district to be created. Upon the filing of such petition with the secretary of the board of sewer commissioners, the board shall determine whether the petition is sufficient, and the board's determination thereof shall be conclusive upon all persons. No person may withdraw his name from the petition after the filing thereof with the secretary of the board of sewer commissioners. If the board finds the petition to be sufficient, it shall proceed to adopt a resolution declaring its intention to order the improvement petitioned for, setting forth the nature and territorial extent of the improvement, designating the number of the proposed local district, describing the boundaries thereof, stating the estimated cost and expense of the improvement and the proportionate amount thereof which will be borne by the property within the proposed local district, and fixing a date, time, and place for a public hearing on the formation of the proposed local district.

Notice of the adoption of the resolution of intention, whether the resolution was adopted on the initiative of the board or pursuant to a petition of the property owners, shall be published in at least two consecutive issues of a newspaper of general circulation in the proposed local district, the date of the first publication to be at least fifteen days prior to the date fixed by such resolution for hearing before the board of sewer commissioners. Notice of the adoption of the resolution of intention shall also be given each owner or reputed owner of any lot, tract, parcel of land, or other property within the proposed improvement district by mailing the notice at least fifteen days before the date fixed for the public hearing to the owner or reputed owner of the property as shown on the tax rolls of the county treasurer at

the address shown thereon. Whenever such notices are mailed, the sewer commissioners shall maintain a list of such reputed property owners, which list shall be kept on file at a location within the sewer district and shall be made available for public perusal. The notices shall refer to the resolution of intention and designate the proposed improvement district by number. The notices shall also set forth the nature of the proposed improvement, the total estimated cost, the proportion of total cost to be borne by assessments, the date, time, and place of the hearing before the board of sewer commissioners. In the case of improvements initiated by resolution, the notice shall also: (1) State that all persons desiring to object to the formation of the proposed district must file their written protests with the secretary of the board of sewer commissioners no later than ten days after the public hearing; (2) state that if owners of at least forty percent of the area of land within the proposed district file written protests with the secretary of the board, the power of the sewer commissioners to proceed with the creation of the proposed district shall be divested; (3) provide the name and address of the secretary of the board; and (4) state the hours and location within the sewer district where the names of the property owners within the proposed district are kept available for public perusal. In the case of the notice given each owner or reputed owner by mail, the notice shall set forth the estimated amount of the cost and expense of such improvement to be borne by the particular lot, tract, parcel of land, or other property. [1986 c 256 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 300 § 10; 1974 ex.s. c 58 § 5; 1965 ex.s. c 40 § 1; 1953 c 250 § 17; 1941 c 210 § 27; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 9425-36.]

**56.20.030 Hearing—Improvement ordered—Divestment of power to order—Notice—Appeal—Assessment roll.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Whether the improvement is initiated by petition or resolution, the board shall conduct a public hearing at the time and place designated in the notice to property owners. At this hearing the board shall hear objections from any person affected by the formation of the local district and may make such changes in the boundaries of the district or such modifications in plans for the proposed improvement as shall be deemed necessary. The board may not change the boundaries of the district to include property not previously included in it without first passing a new resolution of intention and giving a new notice to property owners in the manner and form and within the time provided in this chapter for the original notice.

After the hearing and the expiration of the ten-day period for filing written protests, the commissioners shall have jurisdiction to overrule protests and proceed with any such improvement initiated by petition or resolution. The jurisdiction of the commissioners to proceed with any improvement initiated by resolution shall be divested: (a) By protests filed with the secretary of the board no later than ten days after the hearing, signed by the owners, according to the records of the county auditor, of at least forty percent of the area of land within the proposed local district or (b) by the commissioners not adopting a resolution ordering the improvement at a public hearing held not more than ninety days from the day the resolution of intention was adopted, unless the commissioners file with the county auditor a copy

of the notice required by RCW 56.20.020, and in no event at a hearing held more than two years from the day the resolution of intention was adopted.

If the commissioners find that the district should be formed, they shall by resolution form the district and order the improvement. After execution of the resolution forming the district, the secretary of the board of commissioners shall publish, in a legal publication that serves the area subject to the district, a notice setting forth that a resolution has been passed forming the district and that a lawsuit challenging the jurisdiction or authority of the sewer district to proceed with the improvement and creating the district must be filed, and notice to the sewer district served, within thirty days of the publication of the notice. The notice shall set forth the nature of the appeal. Property owners bringing the appeal shall follow the procedures as set forth under appeal under RCW 56.20.080. Whenever a resolution forming a district has been adopted, the formation is conclusive in all things upon all parties, and cannot be contested or questioned in any manner in any proceeding whatsoever by any person not commencing a lawsuit in the manner and within the time provided in this section, except for lawsuits made under RCW 56.20.080.

Following an appeal, if it is unsuccessful or if no appeal is made under RCW 56.20.080, the commissioners may proceed with the improvement and provide the general funds of the sewer district to be applied thereto, adopt detailed plans of the utility local improvement district and declare the estimated cost thereof, acquire all necessary land therefor, pay all damages caused thereby, and commence in the name of the sewer district such eminent domain proceedings and supplemental assessment or reassessment proceedings to pay all eminent domain awards as may be necessary to entitle the district to proceed with the work. The board of sewer commissioners shall proceed with the work and file with the county treasurer of each county in which the real property is to be assessed its roll levying special assessments in the amount to be paid by special assessment against the property situated within the local improvement district in proportion to the special benefits to be derived by the property therein from the improvement. [1991 c 190 § 3; 1986 c 256 § 2; 1974 ex.s. c 58 § 6; 1971 ex.s. c 272 § 9; 1953 c 250 § 18; 1941 c 210 § 28; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 9425-37.]

**56.20.032 Notice must contain statement that assessments may vary from estimates.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Any notice given to the public or to the owners of specific lots, tracts, or parcels of land relating to the formation of a utility local improvement district shall contain a statement that actual assessments may vary from assessment estimates so long as they do not exceed a figure equal to the increased true and fair value the improvement adds to the property. [1989 c 243 § 10.]

**56.20.033 Sanitary sewer facilities—Notice to certain property owners.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Whenever it is proposed that a utility local improvement district finance sanitary sewers facilities, additional notice of the public hearing on the proposed improvement district shall be mailed to the owners of any property located outside of the proposed utility local improvement district that would be

required as a condition of federal housing administration loan qualification, at the time of notice, to be connected to the specific sewer facilities installed by the utility local improvement district. The notice shall include information about this restriction. [1987 c 315 § 5.]

**56.20.040 Notice of filing roll.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Before the approval of the roll a notice shall be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the local district, stating that the roll is on file and open to inspection in the office of the secretary, and fixing the time, not less than fifteen or more than thirty days from the date of the first publication of the notice, within which protests must be filed with the secretary against any assessments shown thereon, and fixing a time when a hearing will be held by the commission on the protests. The notice shall also be given by mailing at least fifteen days before the hearing, a similar notice to the owners or reputed owners of the land in the local district as they appear on the books of the treasurer of the county in which the sewer district is located. [1953 c 250 § 19; 1941 c 210 § 29; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 9425-38.]

**56.20.050 Hearing on protests—Order.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) At such hearing on a protest to an assessment, or any adjournment thereof, the sewer commissioners shall have power to correct, revise, raise, lower, change or modify such roll, or any part thereof, and to set aside such roll, and order that such assessment be made de novo, as to such body shall appear equitable and just and may then by resolution approve the same. In the event of any assessment being raised a new notice similar to such first notice shall be given, after which final approval of such roll may be made by the sewer commissioners. Whenever any property shall have been entered originally upon such roll and the assessment upon any such property shall not be raised, no objection thereto shall be considered by the sewer commissioners or by any court on appeal unless such objection be made in writing at, or prior, to the date fixed for the original hearing upon such roll. [1941 c 210 § 30; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 9425-39.]

**56.20.060 Enlarged local district may be formed.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) In the event that any portion of the system after its installation in such utility local improvement district is not adequate for the purpose for which it was intended, or that for any reason changes, alterations or betterments are necessary in any portion of the system after its installation, then such district, with boundaries which may include one or more existing utility local improvement districts, may be created in the sewer district in the same manner as is provided herein for the creation of utility local improvement districts. Upon the organization of such a utility local improvement district as provided for in this section the plan of the improvement and the payment of the cost of the improvement shall be carried out in the same manner as is provided herein for the carrying out of and the paying for the improvement in the utility local improvement districts previously provided for in this title. [1941 c 210 § 31; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 9425-40.]

**56.20.070 Conclusiveness of roll when approved—Exceptions.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Whenever any assessment roll for local improvements shall have been confirmed by the sewer commission of such sewer district as herein provided, the regularity, validity and correctness of the proceedings relating to such improvement, and to the assessment therefor, including the action of the sewer commission upon such assessment roll and the confirmation thereof, shall be conclusive in all things upon all parties, and cannot in any manner be contested or questioned in any proceeding whatsoever by any person not filing written objections to such roll in the manner and within the time provided in this title, and not appealing from the action of the sewer commission in confirming such assessment roll in the manner and within the time in this title provided. No proceedings of any kind shall be commenced or prosecuted for the purpose of defeating or contesting any such assessment, or the sale of any property to pay such assessment, or any certificate of delinquency issued therefor, or the foreclosure of any lien issued therefor.

This section shall not be construed as prohibiting the bringing of injunction proceedings to prevent the sale of any real estate upon the grounds:

- (1) That the property about to be sold does not appear upon the assessment roll, or
- (2) That said assessment has been paid.

This section also shall not prohibit the correction of clerical errors and errors in the computation of assessments in assessment rolls by the following procedure:

(1) The board of sewer commissioners may file a petition with the superior court of the county wherein the real property is located, asking that the court enter an order correcting such errors and directing that the county treasurer pay a portion or all of the incorrect assessment by the transfer of funds from the district's maintenance fund, if such relief be necessary.

(2) Upon the filing of the petition, the court shall set a date for hearing and upon the hearing may enter an order as provided in subsection (1) of this paragraph: **PROVIDED,** That neither the correcting order or the corrected assessment roll shall result in an increased assessment to the property owner. [1971 ex.s. c 272 § 10; 1969 c 126 § 1; 1941 c 210 § 33; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 9425-42.]

**56.20.080 Review.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The decision of the sewer commission upon any objections made within the time and in the manner herein prescribed, may be reviewed by the superior court upon an appeal thereto taken in the following manner. Such appeal shall be made by filing written notice of appeal with the secretary of said sewer commission and with the clerk of the superior court in the county in which the real property is situated within ten days after publication of a notice that the resolution confirming such assessment roll has been adopted, and such notice of appeal shall describe the property and set forth the objections of such appellant to such assessment. Within ten days from the filing of such notice of appeal with the clerk of the superior court, the appellant shall file with the clerk of said court, a transcript consisting of the assessment roll and his or her objections thereto, together with the resolution confirming such assessment roll and the record of

the sewer district commission with reference to said assessment, which transcript, upon payment of the necessary fees therefor, shall be furnished by such secretary of said sewer commission and by him or her certified to contain full, true and correct copies of all matters and proceedings required to be included in such transcript. Such fees shall be the same as the fees payable to the county clerk for the preparation and certification of transcripts on appeal to the supreme court or the court of appeals in civil actions. At the time of the filing of the notice of appeal with the clerk of the superior court a sufficient bond in the penal sum of two hundred dollars, with sureties thereon as provided by law for appeals in civil cases, shall be filed conditioned to prosecute such appeal without delay, and if unsuccessful, to pay all costs to which the sewer district is put by reason of such appeal. The court may order the appellant upon application therefor, to execute and file such additional bond or bonds as the necessity of the case may require. Within three days after such transcript is filed in the superior court, as aforesaid, the appellant shall give written notice to the secretary of such sewer district, that such transcript is filed. Said notice shall state a time, not less than three days from the service thereof, when the appellant will call up the said cause for hearing. The superior court shall, at said time or at such further time as may be fixed by order of the court, hear and determine such appeal without a jury, and such cause shall have preference over all civil causes pending in said court, except proceedings under an act relating to eminent domain in such sewer district and actions of forcible entry and detainer. The judgment of the court shall confirm, unless the court shall find from the evidence that such assessment is either founded upon a fundamentally wrong basis or a decision of the council or other legislative body thereon was arbitrary or capricious, or both; in which event the judgment of the court shall correct, modify or annul the assessment insofar as the same affects the property of the appellant. A certified copy of the decision of the court shall be filed with the officer who shall have the custody of the assessment roll, and he or she shall modify and correct such assessment roll in accordance with such decision. An appeal shall lie to the supreme court or the court of appeals from the judgment of the superior court, as in other cases, however, such appeal must be taken within fifteen days after the date of the entry of the judgment of such superior court, and the record and opening brief of the appellant in said cause shall be filed in the supreme court or the court of appeals within sixty days after the appeal shall have been taken by notice as provided in this title. The time for filing such record and serving and filing of briefs in this section prescribed may be extended by order of the superior court, or by stipulation of the parties concerned. The supreme court or the court of appeals on such appeal may correct, change, modify, confirm or annul the assessment insofar as the same affects the property of the appellant. A certified copy of the order of the supreme court or the court of appeals upon such appeal shall be filed with the officer having custody of such assessment roll, who shall thereupon modify and correct such assessment roll in accordance with such decision. [1991 c 190 § 4; 1971 ex.s. c 272 § 11; 1971 c 81 § 125; 1965 ex.s. c 40 § 2; 1941 c 210 § 32; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 9425-41.]

*Rules of court: Cf. RAP 2.2, 5.2, 8.1, 18.22.*



**56.20.090 Segregation of special assessment—Fee—Costs.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Whenever any land against which there has been levied any special assessment by any sewer district shall have been sold in part or subdivided, the board of sewer commissioners of such district shall have the power to order a segregation of the assessment.

Any person desiring to have such a special assessment against a tract of land segregated to apply to smaller parts thereof shall apply to the board of commissioners of the sewer district which levied the assessment. If the sewer commissioners determine that a segregation should be made, they shall by resolution order the county treasurer to make segregation on the original assessment roll as directed in the resolution. The segregation shall be made as nearly as possible on the same basis as the original assessment was levied, and the total of the segregated parts of the assessment shall equal the assessment before segregation. The resolution shall describe the original tract, the amount and date of the original assessment, and shall define the boundaries of the divided parts and the amount of the assessment chargeable to each part. A certified copy of the resolution shall be delivered to the county treasurer who shall proceed to make the segregation ordered upon being tendered a fee of three dollars for each tract of land for which a segregation is to be made. In addition to such charge the board of sewer commissioners may require as a condition to the order of segregation that the person seeking it pay the district the reasonable engineering and clerical costs incident to making the segregation. [1953 c 250 § 20.]

*Segregation*

*duties of county treasurer: RCW 36.29.160.*

*of taxes where part of parcel acquired by public body: RCW 84.60.070.*

**56.20.120 Foreclosure of assessments—Attorneys' fees.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Judgments foreclosing special assessments pursuant to RCW 35.50.260 may also allow to sewer districts, in addition to delinquent installments, interest, penalties, and costs, such attorneys' fees as the court may find reasonable. [1987 c 449 § 7.]

## Chapter 56.22

### CONTRACTS FOR SEWER EXTENSIONS

Sections

56.22.010	Contracts—Conditions.
56.22.020	Reimbursement to owner.
56.22.030	Scope of reimbursement.
56.22.040	Reimbursement—Procedures.
56.22.050	District participation in financing project.

**56.22.010 Contracts—Conditions.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) If the sewer district approves an extension to the sewer system, the district shall contract with owners of real estate located within the district boundaries, at an owner's request, for the purpose of permitting extensions to the district's sewer system to be constructed by such owner at such owner's sole cost where such extensions are required as a prerequisite to further property development. The contract shall contain such conditions as the district may require pursuant to the district's adopted policies and standards. The district shall request comprehensive plan

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approval for such extension, if required, and connection of the extension to the district system is conditioned upon:

- (1) Construction of such extension according to plans and specifications approved by the district;
- (2) Inspection and approval of such extension by the district;
- (3) Transfer to the district of such extension without cost to the district upon acceptance by the district of such extension;
- (4) Payment of all required connection charges to the district;
- (5) Full compliance with the owner's obligations under such contract and with the district's rules and regulations;
- (6) Provision of sufficient security to the district to ensure completion of the extension and other performance under the contract;
- (7) Payment by the owner to the district of all of the district's costs associated with such extension including, but not limited to, the district's engineering, legal, and administrative costs; and
- (8) Verification and approval of all contracts and costs related to such extension. [1989 c 389 § 4.]

**56.22.020 Reimbursement to owner.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The contract shall also provide, subject to the terms and conditions in this section, for the reimbursement to the owner or the owner's assigns for a period not to exceed fifteen years of a portion of the costs of the sewer facilities constructed pursuant to such contract from connection charges received by the district from other property owners who subsequently connect to or use the sewer facilities within the fifteen-year period and who did not contribute to the original cost of such sewer facilities. [1989 c 389 § 5.]

**56.22.030 Scope of reimbursement.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The reimbursement shall be a pro rata share of construction and contract administration costs of the sewer project. Reimbursement for sewer projects shall include, but not be limited to, design, engineering, installation, and restoration. [1989 c 389 § 6.]

**56.22.040 Reimbursement—Procedures.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The procedures for reimbursement contracts shall be governed by the following:

- (1) A reimbursement area shall be formulated by the board of commissioners within a reasonable time after the acceptance of the extension. The reimbursement shall be based upon a determination by the board of commissioners of which parcels would require similar sewer improvements upon development.
- (2) The contract must be recorded in the appropriate county auditor's office after the final execution of the agreement. [1989 c 389 § 7.]

**56.22.050 District participation in financing project.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) As an alternative to financing projects under this chapter solely by owners of real estate, sewer districts may join in the financing of improvement projects and may be reimbursed in the same manner as the owners of real estate who participate in the projects, if the

board of commissioners has specified the conditions of its participation in a resolution. [1989 c 389 § 8.]

## Chapter 56.24

### ANNEXATION OF TERRITORY

#### Sections

- 56.24.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.
- 56.24.070 Annexation authorized—Petition—Filing—Certificate of sufficiency—Notice of hearing.
- 56.24.080 Hearing—Boundaries—Election, notice, judges.
- 56.24.090 Election—Qualification of voters.
- 56.24.100 Conduct, expense of election.
- 56.24.110 Petition method is alternative to election method.
- 56.24.120 Petition method—Petition—Signers—Content—Certain public properties excluded from local improvement districts.
- 56.24.130 Petition method—Hearing—Notice.
- 56.24.140 Petition method—Resolution—Filing.
- 56.24.150 Petition method—Effective date of annexation—Prior indebtedness.
- 56.24.180 Annexation of certain unincorporated territory—Authorized—Hearing.
- 56.24.190 Annexation of certain unincorporated territory—Opportunity to be heard—Effective date of annexation resolution—Notice—Referendum.
- 56.24.200 Annexation of certain unincorporated territory—Referendum authorized—Petition—Election—Effective date of annexation.
- 56.24.205 Annexation of certain unincorporated territory with boundaries contiguous to two municipal corporations providing sewer service—Procedure.
- 56.24.210 Expenditure of funds to provide certain information authorized—Limits.
- 56.24.900 Severability—1967 ex.s. c 11.

*Annexation of district territory to cities and towns: Chapter 35.13A RCW.*

**56.24.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Actions taken under chapter 56.24 RCW may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1989 c 84 § 52.]

**56.24.070 Annexation authorized—Petition—Filing—Certificate of sufficiency—Notice of hearing.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Territory within the county or counties in which a district is located, or territory adjoining or in close proximity to a district but which is located in another county, may be annexed to and become a part of the district. All annexations shall be accomplished in the following manner: Ten percent of the number of registered voters residing in the territory proposed to be annexed who voted in the last general municipal election may file a petition with the district commissioners and cause the question to be submitted to the voters of the territory whether the territory will be annexed and become a part of the district. If the commissioners concur in the petition, they shall file it with the county auditor, who shall, within ten days, examine the signatures thereon and certify to the sufficiency or insufficiency thereof; and for such purpose the county auditor shall have access to all registration books in the possession of the officers of any city or town in the proposed district. If the petition contains a sufficient number of signatures, the county auditor shall transmit it, together with a certificate of sufficiency attached thereto to the sewer commissioners of the district. If there are no registered

voters residing in the territory to be annexed, the petition may be signed by such a number as appear of record to own at least a majority of the acreage in the territory, and the petition shall disclose the total number of acres of land in the territory and the names of all record owners of land therein. If the commissioners are satisfied as to the sufficiency of the petition and concur therein, they shall send it, together with their certificate of concurrence attached thereto to the county legislative authority.

The county legislative authority, upon receipt of a petition certified to contain a sufficient number of signatures of registered voters, or upon receipt of a petition signed by such a number as own at least a majority of the acreage, together with a certificate of concurrence signed by the sewer commissioners, at a regular or special meeting shall cause to be published once a week for at least two weeks in a newspaper in general circulation throughout the territory proposed to be annexed a notice that the petition has been filed, stating the time of the meeting at which it shall be presented, and setting forth the boundaries of the territory proposed to be annexed. [1990 c 259 § 25; 1989 c 308 § 3; 1988 c 162 § 13; 1985 c 469 § 56; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 3; 1967 ex.s. c 11 § 1.]

**56.24.080 Hearing—Boundaries—Election, notice, judges.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) When the petition is presented for hearing, the county legislative authority shall hear the same or may adjourn the hearing from time to time not exceeding one month in all, and any person, firm or corporation may appear before the county legislative authority and make objections to the proposed boundary lines or to the annexation of the territory described in the petition; and upon a final hearing the county legislative authority shall make such changes in the proposed boundary lines as it deems to be proper and shall establish and define the boundaries and shall find whether the proposed annexation of the territory as established by the county legislative authority to the sewer district will be conducive to the public health, welfare and convenience and will be of special benefit to the land included within the boundaries of the territory proposed to be annexed to the sewer district and so established by the county legislative authority: PROVIDED, That no lands which will not, in the judgment of the county legislative authority, be benefited by inclusion therein, shall be included within the boundaries of the territory as so established and defined: PROVIDED FURTHER, That no change shall be made by the county legislative authority in the boundary lines, including any territory outside of the boundary lines described in the petition: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That no person having signed the petition as herein provided for shall be allowed to withdraw his or her name therefrom after the filing of the same with the board of sewer commissioners of the sewer district.

Upon the entry of the findings of the final hearing to the petition by the county legislative authority, if it finds the proposed annexation of the territory to the sewer district to be conducive to the public health, welfare and convenience and to be of special benefit to the land proposed to be annexed and included within the boundaries of the district, it shall give notice of a special election to be held within the boundaries of the territory proposed to be annexed to the

sewer district for the purpose of determining whether the same shall be annexed to the sewer district; and the notice shall particularly describe the boundaries established by the county legislative authority on its final hearing of the petition, and shall state the name of the sewer district to which the territory is proposed to be annexed, and the same shall be published once a week for at least two weeks prior to the election in a newspaper of general circulation within the county within which the district is located, and shall be posted for the same period in at least four public places within the boundaries of the district proposed to be annexed, which notice shall designate the places within the territory proposed to be annexed to the sewer district where the said election shall be held, and shall require the voters to cast ballots which shall contain the words:

For Annexation to Sewer District  
or  
Against Annexation to Sewer District

The county legislative authority shall name the persons to act as judges at such election. [1985 c 469 § 57; 1967 ex.s. c 11 § 2.]

**56.24.090 Election—Qualification of voters.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The said election shall be held on the date designated in such notice and shall be conducted in accordance with the general election laws of the state. In the event the original petition for annexation is signed by qualified electors then only qualified electors, at the date of election, residing in the territory proposed to be annexed, shall be permitted to vote at the said election. In the event the original petition for annexation is signed by property owners as provided for in this chapter then no person shall be entitled to vote at such election unless at the time of the filing of the original petition he owned the land in the district of record and in addition thereto at the date of election shall be a qualified elector of the county in which such district is located. It shall be the duty of the county auditor, upon request of the county commissioners, to certify to the election officers of any such election, the names of all persons owning land in the district at the date of the filing of the original petition as shown by the records of his office; and at any such election the election officers may require any such landowner offering to vote to take an oath that he is a qualified elector of the county before he shall be allowed to vote: PROVIDED, That at any election held under the provisions of this chapter an officer or agent of any corporation having its principal place of business in said county and owning land at the date of filing the original petition in the district duly authorized thereto in writing may cast a vote on behalf of such corporation. When so voting he shall file with the election officers such a written instrument of his authority. The judge or judges at such election shall make return thereof to the board of sewer commissioners, who shall canvass such return and cause a statement of the result of such election to be entered on the record of such commissioners. If the majority of the votes cast upon the question of such election shall be for annexation, then such territory shall immediately be and become annexed to such sewer district and the same shall then forthwith be a

part of the said sewer district, the same as though originally included in such district. [1967 ex.s. c 11 § 3.]

**56.24.100 Conduct, expense of election.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) All elections held pursuant to this chapter, whether general or special, shall be conducted by the county election board of the county in which the district is located.

The expense of all such elections shall be paid for out of the funds of such sewer district. [1967 ex.s. c 11 § 4.]

**56.24.110 Petition method is alternative to election method.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The method of annexation provided for in RCW 56.24.120 through 56.24.150 shall be an alternative method to that specified in RCW 56.24.070 through 56.24.100. [1967 ex.s. c 11 § 5.]

**56.24.120 Petition method—Petition—Signers—Content—Certain public properties excluded from local improvement districts.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) A petition for annexation of an area contiguous to a sewer district may be made in writing, addressed to and filed with the board of commissioners of the district to which annexation is desired. It must be signed by the owners, according to the records of the county auditor, of not less than sixty percent of the area of land for which annexation is petitioned, excluding county and state rights of way, parks, tidelands, lakes, retention ponds, and stream and water courses. Additionally, the petition shall set forth a description of the property according to government legal subdivisions or legal plats, and shall be accompanied by a plat which outlines the boundaries of the property sought to be annexed. Such county and state properties shall be excluded from local improvement districts or utility local improvement districts in the annexed area and from special assessments, rates, or charges of the district except where service has been regulated and provided to such properties. The owners of such property shall be invited to be included within local improvement districts or utility local improvement districts at the time they are proposed for formation. [1985 c 141 § 4; 1967 ex.s. c 11 § 6.]

**56.24.130 Petition method—Hearing—Notice.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) If the petition for annexation filed with the board of commissioners complies with the requirements of law, as proved to the satisfaction of the board of commissioners, it may entertain the petition, fix the date for public hearing thereon, and cause notice of the hearing to be published in one issue of a newspaper of general circulation in the area proposed to be annexed and also posted in three public places within the area proposed for annexation. The notice shall specify the time and place of hearing and invite interested persons to appear and voice approval or disapproval of the annexation. The expense of publication and posting of the notice shall be borne by the signers of the petition. [1967 ex.s. c 11 § 7.]

**56.24.140 Petition method—Resolution—Filing.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Following the hearing the board of commissioners shall determine by resolution

whether annexation shall be made. It may annex all or any portion of the proposed area but may not include in the annexation any property not described in the petition. Upon passage of the resolution a certified copy shall be filed with the board of county commissioners of the county in which the annexed property is located. [1967 ex.s. c 11 § 8.]

**56.24.150 Petition method—Effective date of annexation—Prior indebtedness.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Upon the date fixed in the resolution the area annexed shall become a part of the district.

No property within the limits of the territory so annexed shall ever be taxed or assessed to pay any portion of the indebtedness of the district to which it is annexed contracted prior to or existing at the date of annexation; nor shall any such property be released from any taxes or assessments levied against it or from liability for payment of outstanding bonds or warrants issued prior to such annexation. [1967 ex.s. c 11 § 9.]

**56.24.180 Annexation of certain unincorporated territory—Authorized—Hearing.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) When there is, within a sewer district, unincorporated territory containing less than one hundred acres and having at least eighty percent of the boundaries of such area contiguous to the sewer district, the board of commissioners may resolve to annex such territory to the sewer district. The resolution shall describe the boundaries of the area to be annexed, state the number of voters residing therein as nearly as may be, and set a date for a public hearing on such resolution for annexation. Notice of the hearing shall be given by publication of the resolution at least once a week for two weeks prior to the date of the hearing, in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the sewer district and one or more newspapers of general circulation within the area to be annexed. [1982 c 146 § 1.]

**56.24.190 Annexation of certain unincorporated territory—Opportunity to be heard—Effective date of annexation resolution—Notice—Referendum.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) On the date set for hearing under RCW 56.24.180, residents or property owners of the area included in the resolution for annexation shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard. The board of commissioners may provide by resolution for annexation of the territory described in the resolution, but the effective date of the resolution shall be not less than forty-five days after the passage thereof. The board of commissioners shall cause notice of the proposed effective date of the annexation, together with a description of the property to be annexed, to be published at least once each week for two weeks subsequent to passage of the resolution, in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the sewer district and in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the area to be annexed. Upon the filing of a timely and sufficient referendum petition under RCW 56.24.200, a referendum election shall be held under RCW 56.24.200, and the annexation shall be deemed approved by the voters unless a majority of the votes cast on the proposition are in opposition thereto. After the expiration of the forty-fifth day from, but excluding the date of passage of the annexation resolution, if no timely and

sufficient referendum petition has been filed, under RCW 56.24.200, the area annexed shall become a part of the sewer district upon the date fixed in the resolution of annexation. [1982 c 146 § 2.]

**56.24.200 Annexation of certain unincorporated territory—Referendum authorized—Petition—Election—Effective date of annexation.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Such annexation resolution under RCW 56.24.190 shall be subject to referendum for forty-five days after the passage thereof. Upon the filing of a timely and sufficient referendum petition with the board of commissioners, signed by registered voters in number equal to not less than ten percent of the registered voters in the area to be annexed who voted in the last general municipal election, the question of annexation shall be submitted to the voters of such area in a general election if one is to be held within ninety days or at a special election called for that purpose by the board of commissioners in accordance with RCW 29.13.010 and 29.13.020. Notice of such election shall be given under RCW 56.24.080 and the election shall be conducted under RCW 56.24.090. The annexation shall be deemed approved by the voters unless a majority of the votes cast on the proposition are in opposition thereto.

After the expiration of the forty-fifth day from but excluding the date of passage of the annexation resolution, if no timely and sufficient referendum petition has been filed, the area annexed shall become a part of the sewer district upon the date fixed in the resolution of annexation upon transmitting the resolution to the county legislative authority. [1990 c 259 § 26; 1982 c 146 § 3.]

**56.24.205 Annexation of certain unincorporated territory with boundaries contiguous to two municipal corporations providing sewer service—Procedure.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) When there is unincorporated territory containing less than one hundred acres and having at least eighty percent of the boundaries of such area contiguous to two municipal corporations providing sewer service, one of which is either a sewer or water district, the legislative authority of either of the contiguous municipal corporations may resolve to annex such territory to that municipal corporation, provided a majority of the legislative authority of the other contiguous municipal corporation concurs. The municipal corporation resolving to annex such territory may proceed to effect the annexation by complying with RCW 56.24.180 through 56.24.200. For purposes of this section, "municipal corporation" means a water district, sewer district, city, or town. [1995 c 279 § 1; 1987 c 449 § 8.]

**56.24.210 Expenditure of funds to provide certain information authorized—Limits.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Sewer districts may expend funds to inform residents in areas proposed for annexation into the district of the following:

- (1) Technical information and data;
- (2) The fiscal impact of the proposed improvement;
- (3) The types of improvements planned.

Expenditures under this section shall be limited to research, preparation, printing, and mailing of the information. [1986 c 258 § 1.]

**56.24.900 Severability—1967 ex.s. c 11. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** If any provision of this act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1967 ex.s. c 11 § 11.]

### Chapter 56.28

#### WITHDRAWAL OF TERRITORY

##### Sections

56.28.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.  
56.28.010 Withdrawal authorized—Methods—Laws applicable.  
56.28.020 Alternative procedure—Resolution.

**56.28.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Actions taken under chapter 56.28 RCW may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1989 c 84 § 53.]

**56.28.010 Withdrawal authorized—Methods—Laws applicable. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Territory within a sewer district may be withdrawn therefrom in the same manner provided by law for withdrawal of territory from water districts, and in addition thereto, territory may be withdrawn from a sewer district upon a written petition designating the territory proposed to be withdrawn signed by all of the owners of land within said territory, concurred in by unanimous vote of the sewer commissioners and approved by resolution of the board of county commissioners. The provisions of RCW 57.28.110 shall apply to territory withdrawn from a sewer district. [1953 c 250 § 27.]

**56.28.020 Alternative procedure—Resolution. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** As an alternative procedure to that set forth in RCW 56.28.010, the withdrawal of territory within a sewer district may be commenced by a resolution of the board of commissioners that sets forth boundaries of the territory to be withdrawn and sets a date for the public hearing required under RCW 57.28.050. Upon the final hearing, the commissioners shall make such changes in the proposed boundaries as they deem proper, except that no changes in the boundary lines may be made by the commissioners to include lands not within the boundaries of the territory as described in such resolution.

Whenever the board of commissioners proposes to commence the withdrawal of any portion of their territory located within a city or town using the alternative procedures herein authorized, they shall first notify such city or town of their intent to withdraw said territory. If the legislative authority of the city or town takes no action within sixty days of receipt of notification, the district may proceed with the resolution method.

If the city of [or] town legislative authority disapproves of use of the alternative procedures, the board of commis-

sioners may proceed using the process established pursuant to RCW 56.28.010.

A withdrawal procedure commenced under this section shall be subject to the procedures and requirements set forth in RCW 57.28.040 through 57.28.110. [1985 c 153 § 2.]

### Chapter 56.32

#### CONSOLIDATION OR MERGER OF DISTRICTS— TRANSFER OF PART OF DISTRICT (Formerly: Consolidation of districts—Merger)

##### Sections

56.32.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.  
56.32.010 Consolidation authorized—Methods.  
56.32.020 Petition method—Signers—Filing—Certificate of sufficiency.  
56.32.030 Agreements by consolidating districts—Contents—Comprehensive plan.  
56.32.040 Election—Proposition—Notice.  
56.32.050 Consolidation effected—Rights and powers of new district.  
56.32.060 Vesting of funds and property in consolidated district—Outstanding indebtedness.  
56.32.070 Sewer commissioners—Number.  
56.32.080 Merger of districts authorized.  
56.32.090 Initiation of merger—Methods.  
56.32.100 Election on merging of districts.  
56.32.110 Return of election—When merger effective—Cessation of merging district.  
56.32.115 County auditor defined.  
56.32.120 Vesting of funds and property in merged district—Outstanding indebtedness.  
56.32.160 Transfer of part of district—Procedure.

**56.32.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Actions taken under chapter 56.32 RCW may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1989 c 84 § 54.]

**56.32.010 Consolidation authorized—Methods. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Two or more sewer districts may be joined into one consolidated sewer district. The consolidation may be initiated in either of the following ways: Ten percent of the legal electors residing within each of the sewer districts proposed to be consolidated may petition the board of sewer commissioners of each of their respective sewer districts to cause the question to be submitted to the legal electors of the sewer districts proposed to be consolidated; or, the boards of sewer commissioners of each of the sewer districts proposed to be consolidated may by resolution determine that the consolidation of such districts shall be conducive to the public health, welfare, and convenience and to be of special benefit to the lands of such districts. [1989 c 308 § 9; 1975 1st ex.s. c 86 § 1; 1967 c 197 § 2.]

**56.32.020 Petition method—Signers—Filing—Certificate of sufficiency. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** If consolidation proceedings are initiated by petition, upon the filing of such petitions with the boards of sewer commissioners of the sewer districts, the boards of sewer commissioners of all of the districts shall file such petitions with the county auditor of each county in which any of the affected districts is located, who shall within ten days examine the

signatures thereon and certify to the sufficiency or insufficiency thereof. If all of the petitions shall be found to contain a sufficient number of signatures, the respective county auditor shall transmit them, together with his certificate of sufficiency attached thereto, to the boards of sewer commissioners of each of the districts proposed for consolidation. In the event that there are no legal electors residing in one or more of the sewer districts proposed to be consolidated, the petitions may be signed by such a number as appear of record to own at least a majority of the acreage in the pertinent sewer district, and the petitions shall disclose the total number of acres of land in the sewer district and shall also contain the names of all record owners of land therein. [1975 1st ex.s. c 86 § 2; 1967 c 197 § 3.]

**56.32.030 Agreements by consolidating districts—Contents—Comprehensive plan.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Upon the receipt of each county auditor's certificate of sufficiency of the petitions by the boards of sewer commissioners of the districts proposed for consolidation, hereinafter referred to as the "consolidating districts", or upon adoption by the boards of sewer commissioners of the consolidating districts of their resolutions for consolidation, the boards of the consolidating districts shall, within ninety days, enter into an agreement providing for consolidation.

The agreement shall set forth the method and manner of consolidation, a comprehensive plan or scheme of sewer supply for the consolidated district and, if such comprehensive plan or scheme of sewer supply provides that one or more of the consolidating districts or the proposed consolidated district issue revenue bonds for the construction and/or other costs of any part or all of the comprehensive plan, then the details thereof shall be set forth.

The requirement that a comprehensive plan or scheme of sewer supply for the consolidated district be set forth in the agreement for consolidation shall be satisfied if the existing comprehensive plans or schemes of the consolidating districts are incorporated therein by reference and any changes or additions thereto are set forth in detail. [1975 1st ex.s. c 86 § 3; 1967 c 197 § 4.]

**56.32.040 Election—Proposition—Notice.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The respective boards of sewer commissioners of the consolidating districts shall certify such agreement to the county auditors of the counties in which the districts are located. Thereupon, the county auditor of the county in which the largest amount of territory of the proposed consolidated sewer is located shall call a special election for the purpose of submitting to the voters of each of the consolidating districts the proposition of whether or not the several districts shall be consolidated into one sewer district. The proposition shall give the title of the proposed consolidated district. Notice of the election shall be given and the election conducted in accordance with the general election laws. [1975 1st ex.s. c 86 § 4; 1967 c 197 § 5.]

**56.32.050 Consolidation effected—Rights and powers of new district.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) If at the election a majority of the voters in each of the consolidating districts shall vote in favor of the consolidation, the county canvassing board of the county the auditor

of which conducted the election shall so declare in its canvass and the return of the election shall be made within ten days after the date thereof. Upon the return the consolidation shall be effective and the consolidating districts shall cease to exist and shall then be and become a new sewer district and municipal corporation of the state of Washington.

The name of such new sewer district shall be ". . . (name). . . Sewer District of . . . County", which shall be the name appearing on the ballot.

The district shall have all and every power, right and privilege possessed by other sewer districts of the state of Washington. The district may issue revenue bonds to pay for the construction of any additions and betterments set forth in the comprehensive scheme and plan of sewer supply contained in the agreement for consolidation and any future additions and betterments to the comprehensive scheme and plan of sewer supply, as its board of sewer commissioners shall by resolution adopt, without submitting a proposition therefor to the voters of the district. [1975 1st ex.s. c 86 § 5; 1967 c 197 § 6.]

**56.32.060 Vesting of funds and property in consolidated district—Outstanding indebtedness.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Upon the formation of any consolidated sewer district, all funds, rights and property, real and personal, of the former districts, shall vest in and become the property of the consolidated district. Unless the agreement for consolidation provides to the contrary, any outstanding indebtedness of any form, owed by the districts, shall remain the obligation of the area of the original debtor district and the sewer commissioners of the consolidated sewer district shall make such levies, assessments, or charges for service upon that area or the sewer users therein as shall pay off the indebtedness at maturity. [1967 c 197 § 7.]

**56.32.070 Sewer commissioners—Number.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The sewer commissioners of all sewer districts consolidated into any new consolidated sewer district shall become sewer commissioners thereof until their respective terms of office expire. At each election of sewer commissioners following the consolidation, only one position shall be filled, so that as the terms of office expire the total number of sewer commissioners in the consolidated sewer district shall be reduced to three. [1985 c 141 § 5; 1967 c 197 § 8.]

**56.32.080 Merger of districts authorized.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Whenever two sewer districts desire to merge, either district hereinafter referred to as the "merging district", may merge into the other districts, hereinafter referred to as the "merger district", and the merger district will survive under its original name or number. [1989 c 308 § 10; 1975 1st ex.s. c 86 § 6; 1967 c 197 § 9.]

**56.32.090 Initiation of merger—Methods.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) A merger of two sewer districts may be initiated in any of the following ways:

(1) Whenever the boards of sewer commissioners of both such districts determine by resolution that the merger of such districts shall be conducive to the public health, welfare

and convenience and to be of special benefit to the lands of such districts.

(2) Whenever ten percent of the legal electors residing within the merging district petition the board of sewer commissioners of the merging sewer district for a merger, and the board of sewer commissioners of the merger district determines by resolution that the merger of the districts shall be conducive to the public health, welfare and convenience of the two districts.

(3) Whenever the boards determine that the merger of the districts shall be conducive to the public health, welfare and convenience and to be of special benefit to the lands of the districts, they shall enter into an agreement providing for the merger. [1967 c 197 § 10.]

**56.32.100 Election on merging of districts.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The respective boards of sewer commissioners of the districts shall certify the agreement to the county auditor of the county in which the largest amount of territory of the merging district is located. Thereupon, the county auditor shall call a special election for the purpose of submitting to the voters of the merging district the proposition of whether the merging district shall be merged into the merger district. Notice of the election shall be given and the election conducted in accordance with the general election laws. [1975 1st ex.s. c 86 § 7; 1967 c 197 § 11.]

**56.32.110 Return of election—When merger effective—Cessation of merging district.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) If at the election a majority of the voters of the merging sewer district shall vote in favor of the merger, the county canvassing board of the county the auditor of which conducted the election shall so declare in its canvass and the return of the election shall be made within ten days after the date thereof. Upon the return the merger shall be effective and the merging sewer district shall cease to exist and shall become a part of the merger sewer district. The sewer commissioners of the merging district shall hold office as commissioners of the new consolidated sewer district until their respective terms of office expire or until they resign from office or these positions otherwise become vacant. If such a resignation or vacancy occurs, a person shall not be appointed to fill the vacancy. [1994 c 289 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 86 § 8; 1967 c 197 § 12.]

**56.32.115 County auditor defined.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) For the purposes of this chapter, county auditor of a county shall mean the election officer of that county. [1975 1st ex.s. c 86 § 9.]

**56.32.120 Vesting of funds and property in merged district—Outstanding indebtedness.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) All funds, rights and property, real and personal, of the merging district, shall vest in and become the property of the merger district. Unless the agreement of merger provides to the contrary, any outstanding indebtedness of any form, owed by the district shall remain the obligation of the area of the original debtor district and the sewer commissioners of the merger sewer district shall make such levies, assessments, or charges for service upon that area or the

sewer users therein as shall pay off the indebtedness at maturity. [1967 c 197 § 13.]

**56.32.160 Transfer of part of district—Procedure.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) A part of one sewer or water district may be transferred into an adjacent sewer district if the area can be better served thereby. Such transfer can be accomplished by a petition, directed to both districts, signed by the owners according to the records of the county auditor of not less than sixty percent of the area of land to be transferred. If a majority of the commissioners of each district approves the petition, copies of the approving resolutions shall be filed with the county legislative authority which shall act upon the petition as a proposed action in accordance with RCW 56.02.060. [1987 c 449 § 9.]

## Chapter 56.36

### MERGER OF WATER DISTRICTS AND SEWER DISTRICTS

#### Sections

56.36.001	Actions subject to review by boundary review board.
56.36.010	Merger authorized.
56.36.020	Initiation of merger—Resolution—Petition.
56.36.030	Agreement of merger—Board review of proposed merger—Special election.
56.36.040	Election—Results—Effect—Commissioners—Terms.
56.36.045	Persons serving on both boards to hold only one position after merger.
56.36.050	Disposition of funds, rights and property—Indebtedness of merged water districts.
56.36.060	Powers of sewer district.
56.36.070	Validation of prior mergers.

**56.36.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Actions taken under chapter 56.36 RCW may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1989 c 84 § 55.]

**56.36.010 Merger authorized.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Any water district, acting alone or in conjunction with any other water district or districts similarly situated as hereafter described, the territory of which lies wholly or partly within, or which is adjoining or in proximity to a sewer district, may merge into the sewer district, and the sewer district will survive under its original name. The term "in proximity to" as used herein shall mean within one mile of each other, measured in a straight line between the closest points of approach of the territorial boundaries of the respective districts. [1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 4; 1969 ex.s. c 148 § 1.]

**Severability—1969 ex.s. c 148:** "If any provision of this act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1969 ex.s. c 148 § 9.]

**56.36.020 Initiation of merger—Resolution—Petition.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) A merger of one or more water districts into a sewer district may be initiated in any one of the following ways:

(1) Whenever the board of commissioners of the sewer district, on the one hand, and the board of commissioners of

the water district or of the respective water districts seeking to merge into the sewer district, on the other hand, each determine by resolution that the merger of such water district or water districts into the sewer district shall be conducive to the public health, welfare and convenience and to be of special benefit to the lands of such district so desiring to merge.

(2) Whenever ten percent of the qualified electors residing within each of the sewer districts and the water district or districts involved petition the board of commissioners of their respective districts for a merger of such district into the sewer district.

(3) Whenever ten percent of the qualified electors residing within the sewer district petition the board of sewer commissioners for such a merger, and the board of water commissioners of the district or each water district to be merged determines by resolution that the merger of such district into the sewer district will be conducive to the public health, welfare and convenience of the two districts. [1969 ex.s. c 148 § 2.]

**Severability—1969 ex.s. c 148:** See note following RCW 56.36.010.

**56.36.030 Agreement of merger—Board review of proposed merger—Special election.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Whenever a merger is initiated in any of the three ways provided in RCW 56.36.020, the boards of the sewer and water commissioners of the respective districts involved shall enter into an agreement providing for the merger. The agreement must be entered into within ninety days following completion of the last act required for initiation of the merger by any one of the means above specified, as provided in RCW 56.36.020. Where two or more water districts seek to merge into a sewer district at or about the same time, there need be but one agreement of merger signed by the sewer district and such two or more water districts if the parties so agree.

Upon entry of such agreement, the boards of the water and sewer commissioners shall file a notice of intention to merge together with a copy of said agreement with the boundary review board, if any, of the county and the board shall review the proposed merger under the provisions of RCW 36.93.150 through 36.93.180.

The respective boards of sewer and water commissioners of such districts shall certify such agreement to the county auditor of the county in which the districts are located within twenty days from date of execution of such agreement, with a certified copy thereof filed with the clerk of the board of county commissioners of such county. Thereupon, unless the boundary review board has disapproved the proposed merger, the county auditor shall call a special election for the purpose of submitting to the voters of the water district or of each of the two or more water districts involved the proposition of whether the water district shall be merged into the sewer district. Notice of the election shall be given, and the election conducted, in accordance with the general election laws. [1971 ex.s. c 146 § 7; 1969 ex.s. c 148 § 3.]

**Severability—1969 ex.s. c 148:** See note following RCW 56.36.010.

**56.36.040 Election—Results—Effect—Commissioners—Terms.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) If

at such election a majority of the voters in the water district or all or either of the water districts involved, shall vote in favor of the merger, the county election canvassing board shall so declare in its canvass, and the return of the election shall be made within ten days after the date of such election. Upon completion of the return the merger shall be effective as to the sewer district and each water district in which the majority of voters voted in favor of the merger, and each such water district shall cease to exist as a separate entity and the area within such water district shall become a part of the sewer district. The water commissioners of any water district so merged shall hold office as commissioners of the sewer district into which the water district was merged until their respective terms of office expire or until they resign from office if the resignation is before the expiration of their terms of office. At the district election immediately preceding the time when the total number of remaining sewer commissioners is reduced to two through expiration of terms of office or resignations, one sewer commissioner shall be elected for a four year term of office. At the next district election, one sewer commissioner shall be elected for a four year term of office, and one shall be elected for a six year term of office. Thereafter, each sewer commissioner shall be elected for a six-year term of office in the manner provided in RCW 56.12.020 and 56.12.030 for elections in an existing district. [1982 c 104 § 1; 1981 c 45 § 6; 1969 ex.s. c 148 § 4.]

**Legislative declaration—"District" defined—Severability—1981 c 45:** See notes following RCW 56.36.060.

**Severability—1969 ex.s. c 148:** See note following RCW 56.36.010.

**56.36.045 Persons serving on both boards to hold only one position after merger.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) A person who serves on the board of commissioners of a water district that merges under this chapter into a sewer district, for which the person also serves on the board of commissioners, shall only hold one position on the board of commissioners of the district that results from the merger and shall only receive compensation, expenses, and benefits that are available to a single commissioner. [1988 c 162 § 3.]

**56.36.050 Disposition of funds, rights and property—Indebtedness of merged water districts.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) All funds, rights and property, real and personal, of any water district merging into a sewer district shall vest in and become the property of the sewer district. Unless the agreement of merger provides to the contrary, any outstanding indebtedness of any form, owed by the water district, shall remain the obligation of and, as applicable, a lien upon the land, assets and/or revenue of the original district. The board of commissioners of the sewer district shall make such levies, assessments or charges upon said land or the water or sewer users therein as are necessary to pay any indebtednesses of the merged water districts as and when the same mature. [1969 ex.s. c 148 § 5.]

**Severability—1969 ex.s. c 148:** See note following RCW 56.36.010.

**56.36.060 Powers of sewer district.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Following merger, the sewer district and the board of commissioners thereof shall have all powers granted



sewer districts by RCW 56.08.060 and 56.20.015 and shall have all other powers granted sewer districts by Title 56 RCW in any area within its boundaries which is not part of another existing district duly authorized to exercise sewer district powers in such area and shall have all powers granted water districts by RCW 57.08.045 and 57.08.065 and shall have all other powers granted water districts by Title 57 RCW in any area within its boundaries which is not part of another existing district duly authorized to exercise water district powers in such area. The sewer district shall have the power to issue revenue bonds to which are pledged water revenue, sewer revenue, or both water and sewer revenue, as well as the power to levy assessments against property specially benefited in local improvement districts or utility local improvement districts, for improvements to the water system or the sewer system or both. [1981 c 45 § 7; 1969 ex.s. c 148 § 6.]

**Legislative declaration—"District" defined—1981 c 45:** "It is declared to be the public policy of the state of Washington to provide for the orderly growth and development of those areas of the state requiring public water service or sewer service and to secure the health and welfare of the people residing therein. The growth of urban population and the movement of people into suburban areas has required the performance of such services by water districts and sewer districts and the development of such districts has created problems of conflicting jurisdiction and potential double taxation.

It is the purpose of this act to reduce the duplication of service and the conflict among jurisdictions by establishing the principle that the first in time is the first in right where districts overlap and by encouraging the consolidation of districts. It is also the purpose of this act to prevent the imposition of double taxation upon the same property by establishing a general classification of property which will be exempt from property taxation by a district when such property is within the jurisdiction of an established district duly authorized to provide service of like character.

Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, as used in this act, the term "district" means either a water district organized under Title 57 RCW or a sewer district organized under Title 56 RCW or a merged water and sewer district organized pursuant to chapter 57.40 or 56.36 RCW." [1981 c 45 § 1.]

**Severability—1981 c 45:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1981 c 45 § 14.]

**Severability—1969 ex.s. c 148:** See note following RCW 56.36.010.

**56.36.070 Validation of prior mergers. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Each and all of the respective areas of land organized as a water district and heretofore attempted to be merged into a sewer district under \*chapter 148 of the Laws of 1969 [ex. sess.], and amendments thereto, and which have maintained their organization as part of a sewer district since the date of such attempted merger, are hereby validated and declared to be a proper merger of a water district into a sewer district. Such district shall have the respective boundaries set forth in their merger proceedings as shown by the official files of the legislative authority of the county in which such merged district is located. All debts, contracts, bonds, and other obligations heretofore executed in connection with or in pursuance of such attempted organization, and any and all assessments or levies and all other actions taken by such districts or by their respective officers acting under such attempted organization, are hereby declared legal and valid and of full force and effect. Such districts may hereafter exercise their powers only to the extent permitted by and in accordance with the provisions of

RCW 56.36.060, as now or hereafter amended. [1981 c 45 § 8.]

**\*Reviser's note:** Chapter 148, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. consists of the enactment of RCW 56.36.010 through 56.36.060 and the amendment of RCW 56.12.010 and 57.12.010.

**Legislative declaration—"District" defined—Severability—1981 c 45:** See notes following RCW 56.36.060.

## Chapter 56.40

### VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO ASSIST LOW-INCOME CUSTOMERS

#### Sections

- 56.40.010 Voluntary contributions to assist low-income residential customers—Administration.
- 56.40.020 Disbursement of contributions—Quarterly report.
- 56.40.030 Contributions not considered commingling of funds.

**56.40.010 Voluntary contributions to assist low-income residential customers—Administration. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** A sewer district may include along with, or as part of its regular customer billings, a request for voluntary contributions to assist qualified low-income residential customers of the district in paying their sewer district bills. All funds received by the district in response to such requests shall be transmitted to the grantee of the department of community, trade, and economic development which administers federally funded energy assistance programs for the state in the district's service area or to a charitable organization within the district's service area. All such funds shall be used solely to supplement assistance to low-income residential customers of the district in paying their sewer district bills. The grantee or charitable organization shall be responsible to determine which of the district's customers are qualified for low-income assistance and the amount of assistance to be provided to those who are qualified. [1995 c 399 § 147; 1993 c 45 § 1.]

**56.40.020 Disbursement of contributions—Quarterly report. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** All assistance provided under this chapter shall be disbursed by the grantee or charitable organization. Where possible the sewer district will be paid on behalf of the customer by the grantee or the charitable organization. When direct vendor payment is not feasible, a check will be issued jointly payable to the customer and the sewer district. The availability of funds for assistance to a district's low-income customers as a result of voluntary contributions shall not reduce the amount of assistance for which the district's customers are eligible under the federally funded energy assistance programs administered by the grantee of the department of community, trade, and economic development within the district's service area. The grantee or charitable organization shall provide the district with a quarterly report on January 15th, April 15th, July 15th, and October 15th which includes information concerning the total amount of funds received from the district, the names of all recipients of assistance from these funds, the amount received by each recipient, and the amount of funds received from the district currently on hand and available for future low-income assistance. [1995 c 399 § 148; 1993 c 45 § 2.]

**56.40.030 Contributions not considered commingling of funds.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Contributions received under a program implemented by a sewer district in compliance with this chapter shall not be considered a commingling of funds. [1993 c 45 § 3.]

# Title 57

## WATER DISTRICTS

### Chapters

- 57.02 General provisions.**
- 57.04 Formation and dissolution.**
- 57.06 Validation and construction.**
- 57.08 Powers.**
- 57.12 Officers and elections.**
- 57.16 Comprehensive plan—Local improvement districts.**
- 57.20 Finances.**
- 57.22 Contracts for water system extensions.**
- 57.24 Annexation of territory.**
- 57.28 Withdrawal of territory.**
- 57.32 Consolidation of districts—Transfer of part of district.**
- 57.36 Merger of districts.**
- 57.40 Merger of water districts into sewer districts—Merger of sewer districts into water districts.**
- 57.42 Disposition of property to public utility district.**
- 57.46 Voluntary contributions to assist low-income customers.**
- 57.90 Disincorporation of water and other districts in counties with a population of two hundred ten thousand or more.**

*Assumption of jurisdiction over district or territory to city or town: Chapter 35.13A RCW.*

*City sewerage, drainage, and water supply: RCW 35.21.210, chapters 35.67 and 35.92 RCW.*

*Conveyances of real property by public bodies—Recording: RCW 65.08.095.*

*County water systems, authority, procedure: Chapter 36.94 RCW.*

*Credit card use by local governments: RCW 43.09.2855.*

*Furnishing impure water: RCW 70.54.020.*

*Hospitalization and medical aid for public employees and dependents—Premiums, governmental contributions authorized: RCW 41.04.180, 41.04.190.*

*Irrigation districts authorized to acquire water district's water system, authority to convey: RCW 87.03.015.*

*Municipal corporation may authorize investment of funds that are in custody of county treasurer or other municipal corporation treasurer: RCW 36.29.020.*

*Pollution of watershed or source of drinking water: RCW 70.54.010, 70.54.030.*

*Port district may provide sewer and water utilities in adjacent areas: RCW 53.08.040.*

### Chapter 57.02

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS

### Sections

- 57.02.001 Reclassification of water and sewer districts—Previous actions valid.
- 57.02.010 Petition signatures of property owners—Rules governing.

- 57.02.015 Board of commissioners may notify property owners about petitions—Review of petitions—Information.
- 57.02.020 Claims against district.
- 57.02.030 Title to be liberally construed.
- 57.02.040 Water district activities to be approved—Criteria for approval by county legislative authority.
- 57.02.045 Approval by county legislative authority final, when—Boundary review board approval.
- 57.02.050 Multicounty districts—Delegation of duties—Exceptions.
- 57.02.070 Ratification of actions for the formation, annexation, consolidation, or merger of water districts prior to July 10, 1982.
- 57.02.080 Water-sewer districts desiring to merge into irrigation districts—Procedure.
- 57.02.090 Elections.

*Effect when city or town takes over portion of water system: RCW 57.08.035.*

#### **57.02.001 Reclassification of water and sewer districts—Previous actions valid. (Effective July 1, 1997.)**

Every sewer district and every water district previously created shall be reclassified and shall become a water-sewer district, and shall be known as the ". . . . Water-Sewer District," or "Water-Sewer District No. . . ." or shall continue to be known as a "sewer district" or a "water district," with the existing name or number inserted, as appropriate. As used in this title, "district" means a water-sewer district, a sewer district, or a water district. All debts, contracts, and obligations previously made or incurred by or in favor of any water district or sewer district, and all bonds or other obligations issued or executed by those districts, and all assessments or levies, and all other things and proceedings done or taken by those districts or by their respective officers, are declared legal and valid and of full force and effect. [1996 c 230 § 101.]

**Part headings not law—1996 c 230:** "Part headings as used in this act do not constitute any part of the law." [1996 c 230 § 1700.]

**Effective date—1996 c 230:** "This act shall take effect July 1, 1997." [1996 c 230 § 1704.]

#### **57.02.010 Petition signatures of property owners—Rules governing. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)**

Wherever in Title 57 RCW petitions are required to be signed by the owners of property, the following rules shall govern the sufficiency thereof:

(1) The signature of a record owner, as determined by the records of the county auditor of the county in which the real property is located, shall be sufficient without the signature of his or her spouse.

(2) In the case of mortgaged property, the signature of the mortgagor shall be sufficient.

(3) In the case of property purchased on contract, the signature of the contract purchaser, as shown by the records of the county auditor of the county in which the real property is located, shall be deemed sufficient.

(4) Any officer of a corporation owning land in the district duly authorized to execute deeds or encumbrances on behalf of the corporation may sign on behalf of such corporation: PROVIDED, That there shall be attached to the petition a certified excerpt from the bylaws showing such authority.

(5) If any property in the district stands in the name of a deceased person or any person for whom a guardian has been appointed, the signature of the executor, administrator or guardian, as the case may be, shall be equivalent to the signature of the owner of the property. [1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 8; 1953 c 251 § 24.]

**57.02.010 Petition signatures of property owners—Rules governing.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) Wherever in this title petitions are required to be signed by the owners of property, the following rules shall govern the sufficiency of the petitions:

(1) The signature of a record owner, as determined by the records of the county auditor of the county in which the real property is located, shall be sufficient without the signature of the owner's spouse.

(2) For mortgaged property, the signature of the mortgagor shall be sufficient.

(3) For property purchased on contract, the signature of the contract purchaser, as shown by the records of the county auditor of the county in which the real property is located, shall be sufficient.

(4) Any officer of a corporation owning land in the district duly authorized to execute deeds or encumbrances on behalf of the corporation may sign on behalf of that corporation, except that there shall be attached to the petition a certified excerpt from the bylaws showing such authority.

(5) If any property in the district stands in the name of a deceased person or any person for whom a guardian has been appointed, the signature of the personal representative, administrator, or guardian, as the case may be, shall be equivalent to the signature of the owner of the property. [1996 c 230 § 102; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 8; 1953 c 251 § 24.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.02.015 Board of commissioners may notify property owners about petitions—Review of petitions—Information.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) The board of commissioners of a district may notify the owner or reputed owner of any tract, parcel of land, or other property located within the area included in a petition being circulated for a local improvement district or utility local improvement district under chapter 57.16 RCW, an annexation under chapter 57.24 RCW, a consolidation under chapter 57.32 RCW, a merger under chapter 57.36 RCW, a withdrawal of territory under chapter 57.28 RCW, or a transfer of territory under RCW 57.32.160.

Upon the request of any person, the board of commissioners of a district may:

- (1) Review a proposed petition for proper drafting; and
- (2) Provide information regarding the effects of the adoption of any proposed petition. [1996 c 230 § 103; 1979 c 35 § 3. Formerly RCW 56.02.110.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.02.020 Claims against district.** See chapter 4.96 RCW.

**57.02.030 Title to be liberally construed.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The rule of strict construction shall have no application to this title, but the same shall be liberally construed to carry out the purposes and objects for which this title is intended. [1959 c 108 § 19.]

**57.02.030 Title to be liberally construed.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) The rule of strict construction shall not apply to this title, which shall be liberally construed to carry out its purposes and objects. [1996 c 230 § 104; 1959 c 108 § 19.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.02.040 Water district activities to be approved—Criteria for approval by county legislative authority.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, no water district shall be formed or reorganized under chapter 57.04 RCW, nor shall any water district annex territory under chapter 57.24 RCW, nor shall any water district withdraw territory under chapter 57.28 RCW, nor shall any water district consolidate under chapter 57.32 RCW, nor shall any water district be merged under chapter 57.36 RCW, nor shall any sewer district be merged into a water district under chapter 57.40 RCW, unless such proposed action shall be approved as provided for in RCW 56.02.070.

The county legislative authority shall within thirty days of the date after receiving notice of the proposed action, approve such action or hold a hearing on such action. In addition, a copy of such proposed action shall be mailed to the state department of ecology and to the state department of social and health services.

The county legislative authority shall decide within sixty days of a hearing whether to approve or not approve such proposed action. In approving or not approving the proposed action, the county legislative authority shall consider the following criteria:

(1) Whether the proposed action in the area under consideration is in compliance with the development program which is outlined in the county comprehensive plan and its supporting documents; and/or

(2) Whether the proposed action in the area under consideration is in compliance with the basinwide water and/or sewage plan as approved by the state department of ecology and the state department of social and health services; and/or

(3) Whether the proposed action is in compliance with the policies expressed in the county plan for water and/or sewage facilities.

If the proposed action is inconsistent with subsections (1), (2), or (3) of this section, the county legislative authority shall not approve it. If such action is consistent with all such subsections, the county legislative authority shall approve it unless it finds that utility service in the area under consideration will be most appropriately served by the

county itself under the provisions of chapter 36.94 RCW, by a city, town, or municipality, or by another existing special purpose district rather than by the proposed action under consideration. If there has not been adopted for the area under consideration a plan under any one of subsections (1), (2) or (3) of this section, the proposed action shall not be found inconsistent with such subsection.

Where a water district is proposed to be formed, and where no boundary review board has been established, the petition described in RCW 57.04.030 shall serve as the notice of proposed action under this section, and the hearing provided for in RCW 57.04.030 shall serve as the hearing provided for in this section and in RCW 56.02.070. [1988 c 162 § 7; 1971 ex.s. c 139 § 2.]

1988 validation: RCW 57.06.180.

**57.02.040 Water-sewer district activities to be approved—Criteria for approval by county legislative authority.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) (1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the following proposed actions shall be approved as provided for in RCW 57.02.045:

- (a) Formation or reorganization under chapter 57.04 RCW;
- (b) Annexation of territory under chapter 57.24 RCW;
- (c) Withdrawal of territory under chapter 57.28 RCW;
- (d) Transfer of territory under RCW 57.32.160;
- (e) Consolidation under chapter 57.32 RCW; and
- (f) Merger under chapter 57.36 RCW.

(2) At least one of the districts involved shall give notice of the proposed action to the county legislative authority, state department of ecology, and state department of health. The county legislative authority shall within thirty days of receiving notice of the proposed action approve the action or hold a hearing on the action.

(3) The county legislative authority shall decide within sixty days of a hearing whether to approve or not approve the proposed action. In approving or not approving the proposed action, the county legislative authority shall consider the following criteria:

(a) Whether the proposed action in the area under consideration is in compliance with the development program that is outlined in the county comprehensive plan, or city or town comprehensive plan where appropriate, and its supporting documents;

(b) Whether the proposed action in the area under consideration is in compliance with the basinwide water and/or sewage plan as approved by the state department of ecology and the state department of social and health services; and

(c) Whether the proposed action is in compliance with the policies expressed in the county plan for water and/or sewage facilities.

(4) If the proposed action is inconsistent with subsection (3)(a), (b), or (c) of this section, the county legislative authority shall not approve it. If the proposed action is consistent with subsection (3)(a), (b), and (c) of this section, the county legislative authority shall approve it unless it finds that water or sewer service in the area under consideration will be most appropriately served by the county itself under the provisions of chapter 36.94 RCW, or by another district, city, town, or municipality. If there has not been

adopted for the area under consideration a plan or program under subsection (3)(a), (b), or (c) of this section, the proposed action shall not be found inconsistent with such subsection.

(5) Where a district is proposed to be formed, and where no boundary review board is established in the county, the petition described in RCW 57.04.030 shall serve as the notice of proposed action under this section, and the hearing provided for in RCW 57.04.030 shall serve as the hearing provided for in this section and in RCW 57.02.045. [1996 c 230 § 105; 1988 c 162 § 7; 1971 ex.s. c 139 § 2.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

1988 validation: RCW 57.06.180.

**57.02.045 Approval by county legislative authority final, when—Boundary review board approval.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) In any county where a boundary review board, as provided in chapter 36.93 RCW, is not established, the approval of the proposed action shall be by the county legislative authority pursuant to RCW 57.02.040 and shall be final, and the procedures required to adopt such proposed action shall be followed as provided by law.

In any county where a boundary review board, as provided in chapter 36.93 RCW, is established, a notice of intention of the proposed action shall be filed with the boundary review board as required by RCW 36.93.090 and with the county legislative authority. The county legislative authority shall transmit to the boundary review board a report of its approval or disapproval of the proposed action together with its findings and recommendations under RCW 57.02.040. Approval by the county legislative authority of the proposed action shall be final and the procedures required to adopt the proposal shall be followed as provided by law, unless the boundary review board reviews the action under RCW 36.93.100 through 36.93.180. If the county legislative authority does not approve the proposed action, the boundary review board shall review the action under RCW 36.93.150 through 36.93.180. The action of the boundary review board shall supersede approval or disapproval by the county legislative authority.

Where a district is proposed to be formed, and where no boundary review board is established in the county, the hearings provided for in RCW 57.04.030 shall serve as the hearing provided for in this section and in RCW 57.02.040. [1996 c 230 § 106; 1988 c 162 § 6; 1971 ex.s. c 139 § 3. Formerly RCW 56.02.070.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

1988 validation: RCW 57.06.180.

**57.02.050 Multicounty districts—Delegation of duties—Exceptions.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Whenever the boundaries or proposed boundaries of a water district include or are proposed to include by means of formation, annexation, consolidation, or merger (including merger with a sewer district) territory in more than one county, all duties delegated by Title 57 RCW to officers of the county in which the district is located shall be delegated to the officers of the county in which the largest land area of the district is located, except that elections shall be conduct-

ed pursuant to general election law, actions subject to review and approval under RCW 57.02.040 and 56.02.070 shall be reviewed and approved only by the officers or boards in the county in which such actions are proposed to occur, verification of electors' signatures shall be conducted by the county election officer of the county in which such signators reside, and comprehensive plan review and approval or rejection by the respective county legislative authorities under RCW 57.16.010 shall be limited to that part of such plans within the respective counties. [1994 c 223 § 66; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 5.]

**57.02.050 Multicounty districts—Delegation of duties—Exceptions.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) Whenever the boundaries or proposed boundaries of a district include or are proposed to include by means of formation, annexation, transfer, withdrawal, consolidation, or merger, territory in more than one county:

(1) All duties delegated by this title to officers of the county in which the district is located shall be delegated to the officers of the county in which the largest land area of the district is located, except that elections shall be conducted pursuant to general election law;

(2) Actions subject to review and approval under RCW 57.02.040 shall be reviewed and approved only by the officers or boundary review board in the county in which such actions are proposed to occur;

(3) Verification of voters' signatures shall be conducted by the county auditor of the county in which such signators reside; and

(4) Comprehensive plan review and approval or rejection by the respective county legislative authorities under RCW 57.16.010 shall be limited to that part of such plans within the respective counties. [1996 c 230 § 108; 1994 c 223 § 66; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 5.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.02.070 Ratification of actions for the formation, annexation, consolidation, or merger of water districts prior to July 10, 1982.** All actions taken in regard to the formation, annexation, consolidation, or merger of water districts taken prior to July 10, 1982, but consistent with this title, as amended, are hereby approved and ratified and shall be legal for all purposes. [1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 7.]

**57.02.080 Water-sewer districts desiring to merge into irrigation districts—Procedure.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) The procedures and provisions of RCW 85.08.830 through 85.08.890, which are applicable to drainage improvement districts, joint drainage improvement districts, or consolidated drainage improvement districts that desire to merge into irrigation districts, shall also apply to districts organized, or reorganized, under this title that desire to merge into irrigation districts.

The authority granted by this section shall be cumulative and in addition to any other power or authority granted by law to any district. [1996 c 230 § 107; 1977 ex.s. c 208 § 3. Formerly RCW 56.02.100.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

*Merger of irrigation district with drainage, joint drainage, consolidated drainage improvement, or sewer district: RCW 87.03.720, 87.03.725.*

**57.02.090 Elections.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) Elections in a district shall be conducted under general election laws. [1996 c 230 § 109.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

## Chapter 57.04

### FORMATION AND DISSOLUTION

#### Sections

- 57.04.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.
- 57.04.020 Districts authorized.
- 57.04.030 Petition procedure—Hearing—Boundaries.
- 57.04.050 Election—Notice—Ballots—Excess tax levy.
- 57.04.055 County auditor to conduct elections—Expenses.
- 57.04.060 District created—Name.
- 57.04.065 Change of name—Procedure—Effect.
- 57.04.070 When two or more petitions filed.
- 57.04.080 Act cumulative.
- 57.04.090 Dissolution—Legislative and court methods.
- 57.04.100 Dissolution—Election method.
- 57.04.110 Dissolution when district's boundaries identical with municipality.
- 57.04.120 Sewerage improvement districts located in counties with populations of from forty thousand to less than seventy thousand become sewer districts.
- 57.04.130 Sewerage improvement districts operating as sewer districts become water-sewer districts—Procedure.

*Dissolution of inactive special purpose districts: Chapter 36.96 RCW.*

**57.04.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Actions taken under chapter 57.04 RCW may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1989 c 84 § 56.]

**57.04.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) Actions taken under this chapter may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1996 c 230 § 201; 1989 c 84 § 56.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.04.020 Districts authorized.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Water districts for the acquirement, construction, maintenance, operation, development and regulation of a water supply system and providing for additions and betterments thereto are authorized to be established. Such districts may include within their boundaries one or more incorporated cities and towns. [1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 9; 1929 c 114 § 1; RRS § 11579. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 1.]

**57.04.020 Districts authorized.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) Water-sewer districts are authorized to be established for the purposes of chapter 57.08 RCW. Such districts may include within their boundaries one or more counties, cities, and towns, or other political subdivisions. However, no portion or all of any city or town may be included without the consent by resolution of the city or town legislative

authority. [1996 c 230 § 202; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 9; 1929 c 114 § 1; RRS § 11579. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 1.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.04.030 Petition procedure—Hearing—Boundaries.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) For the purpose of formation of water districts, a petition shall be presented to the county legislative authority of each county in which the proposed water district is located, which petition shall set forth the object for the creation of the district, shall designate the boundaries thereof and set forth the further fact that establishment of the district will be conducive to the public health, convenience and welfare and will be of benefit to the property included in the district. The petition shall specify the proposed property tax levy assessment, if any, which shall not exceed one dollar and twenty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value, for general preliminary expenses of the district. The petition shall be signed by at least ten percent of the registered voters who voted in the last general municipal election, who shall be qualified electors on the date of filing the petition, residing within the district described in the petition. The petition shall be filed with the county auditor of each county in which the proposed district is located, who shall, within ten days examine and verify the signatures of the signers residing in the county; and for such purpose the county election official shall have access to all registration books in the possession of the officers of any incorporated city or town in such proposed district. No person having signed such a petition shall be allowed to withdraw his name from the petition after the filing of the petition with the county election officer. The petition shall be transmitted to the election officer of the county in which the largest land area of the district is located who shall certify to the sufficiency or insufficiency of the number of signatures. If the petition shall be found to contain a sufficient number of signatures, the county election officer shall then transmit the same, together with a certificate of sufficiency attached thereto to the county legislative authority of each county in which the proposed district is located. Following receipt of a petition certified to contain a sufficient number of signatures, at a regular or special meeting the county legislative authority shall cause to be published once a week for at least two weeks in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the proposed district, a notice that such a petition has been presented, stating the time of the meeting at which the petition shall be considered, and setting forth the boundaries of the proposed district. When such a petition is presented for hearing, each county legislative authority shall hear the petition or may adjourn the hearing from time to time not exceeding one month in all. Any person, firm, or corporation may appear before the county legislative authority and make objections to the establishment of the district or the proposed boundary lines thereof. Upon a final hearing each county legislative authority shall make such changes in the proposed boundary lines within the county as it deems to be proper and shall establish and define the boundaries and shall find whether the proposed water district will be conducive to the public health, welfare and convenience and be of special benefit to the land included within the boundaries of the proposed district. No lands which will not, in

the judgment of the county legislative authority, be benefited by inclusion therein, shall be included within the boundaries of the district. No change shall be made by the county legislative authority in the boundary lines to include any territory outside of the boundaries described in the petition, except that the boundaries of any proposed district may be extended by the county legislative authority to include other lands in the county upon a petition signed by the owners of all of the land within the proposed extension. [1990 c 259 § 27; 1987 c 33 § 3; 1985 c 469 § 58; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 10; 1931 c 72 § 3; 1929 c 114 § 2; RRS § 11580. Cf. 1915 c 24 § 1; 1913 c 161 § 2. Formerly RCW 57.04.030 and 57.04.040.]

**57.04.030 Petition procedure—Hearing—Boundaries.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) (1) For the purpose of formation of water-sewer districts, a petition shall be presented to the county legislative authority of each county in which the proposed district is located. The petition shall set forth the reasons for the creation of the district, designate the boundaries of the district, and state that establishment of the district will be conducive to the public health, convenience, and welfare and will be of benefit to the property included in the district. The petition shall state the proposed name of the district, which may be ". . . . . Sewer-Water [Water-Sewer] District," ". . . . . Water District," ". . . . . Sewer District," or may be designated by a number such as ". . . . . County Water-Sewer District No. . . ." The petition shall specify the proposed property tax levy assessment, if any, which shall not exceed one dollar and twenty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value, for general preliminary expenses of the district. The petition shall be signed by at least ten percent of the registered voters who voted in the last municipal general election, who shall be qualified voters on the date of filing the petition, residing within the district described in the petition.

The petition shall be filed with the county auditor of the county in which all or the largest geographic portion of the proposed district is located, who shall within ten days examine and verify the signatures on the petition. No person having signed such a petition shall be allowed to withdraw the person's name from the petition after the filing of the petition with the county auditor. If the area proposed to be included in the district is located in more than one county, the auditor of the county in which the largest geographic portion of the district is located shall be the lead auditor and shall immediately transfer a copy of the petitions to the auditor of each other county in which the proposed district is located. Within ten days after the lead auditor received the petition, the auditors of these other counties shall certify to the lead auditor: (a) The number of voters of that county residing in the proposed district who voted at the last municipal general election; and (b) the number of valid signatures on the petition of voters of that county residing in the proposed district. The lead auditor shall certify the sufficiency of the petition after receiving this information. If the petition shall be found to contain a sufficient number of signatures, the county auditor or lead county auditor shall then transmit it, together with a certificate of sufficiency attached thereto to the county legislative authority of each county in which the proposed district is located.

(2) If in the opinion of the county health officer the existing water, sewerage, or drainage facilities are inadequate in the district to be created, and creation of the district is necessary for public health and safety, then the legislative authority of the county may declare by resolution that a water-sewer district is a public health and safety necessity, and the district shall be organized under this title, without a petition being required.

(3) Following receipt of a petition certified to contain a sufficient number of signatures, or upon declaring a district to be a public health and safety necessity, at a regular or special meeting the county legislative authority shall cause to be published once a week for at least two weeks in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the proposed district, a notice that such a petition has been presented, stating the time of the meeting at which the petition shall be considered, and setting forth the boundaries of the proposed district. When a petition is presented for hearing, each county legislative authority shall hear the petition or may adjourn the hearing from time to time not exceeding one month in all. Any person, firm, or corporation may appear before the county legislative authority and make objections to the establishment of the district or the proposed boundary lines thereof. Upon a final hearing each county legislative authority shall make such changes in the proposed boundary lines within the county as it deems to be proper and shall establish and define the boundaries and shall find whether the proposed district will be conducive to the public health, welfare, and convenience and be of special benefit to the land included within the boundaries of the proposed district. No lands that will not, in the judgment of the county legislative authority, be benefitted by inclusion therein, shall be included within the boundaries of the district. No change shall be made by the county legislative authority in the boundary lines to include any territory outside of the boundaries described in the petition, except that the boundaries of any proposed district may be extended by the county legislative authority to include other lands in the county upon a petition signed by the owners of all of the land within the proposed extension. [1996 c 230 § 203; 1990 c 259 § 27; 1987 c 33 § 3; 1985 c 469 § 58; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 10; 1931 c 72 § 3; 1929 c 114 § 2; RRS § 11580. Cf. 1915 c 24 § 1; 1913 c 161 § 2. Formerly RCW 57.04.030 and 57.04.040.]

Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230: See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.04.050 Election—Notice—Ballots—Excess tax levy. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Upon entry of the findings of the final hearing on the petition if one or more county legislative authorities find that the proposed district will be conducive to the public health, welfare, and convenience and be of special benefit to the land therein, they shall call a special election by presenting a resolution to the county auditor at least forty-five days prior to the proposed election date. A special election will be held on a date decided by the commissioners in accordance with RCW 29.13.010 and 29.13.020. The commissioners shall cause to be published a notice of the election for four successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the proposed district, which notice shall state the hours during which the polls will be open, the boundaries of the district as finally

adopted and the object of the election, and the notice shall also be posted for ten days in ten public places in the proposed district. In submitting the proposition to the voters, it shall be expressed on the ballots in the following terms:

Water District . . . . . YES   
Water District . . . . . NO

giving the name of the district as provided in the petition.

At the same election a proposition shall be submitted to the voters, for their approval or rejection, authorizing the water district, if formed, to levy at the earliest time permitted by law on all property located in the district a general tax for one year, in excess of the limitations provided by law, in the amount specified in the petition to create the district, not to exceed one dollar and twenty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value, for general preliminary expenses of the district. The proposition may not appear at the September or November election. The proposition shall be expressed on the ballots in the following terms:

One year . . . . . dollars and . . . . . cents  
per thousand dollars of assessed value  
tax . . . . . YES   
One year . . . . . dollars and . . . . . cents  
per thousand dollars of assessed value  
tax . . . . . NO

Such proposition to be effective must be approved in the manner set forth in Article VII, section 2(a) of the Constitution of this state, as amended by Amendment 59 and as thereafter amended. [1994 c 292 § 2; 1990 c 259 § 28; 1987 c 33 § 4; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 11; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 67; 1953 c 251 § 1; 1931 c 72 § 4; 1929 c 114 § 3; RRS § 11581. Cf. 1927 c 230 § 1; 1915 c 24 § 2; 1913 c 161 § 3.]

**Findings—Intent—1994 c 292:** "The legislature finds that the monitoring and treatment requirements of the federal safe drinking water act place increasing burdens and cost on public water supply systems, especially smaller systems and rural systems. Across the state, those systems are turning to existing systems and their county governments for help, which may include assumption of the system.

It is the intent of the legislature to encourage larger existing systems to assist or acquire troubled systems or those systems burdened by federal requirements, to provide financial protection for that assistance, and to protect receivers of failed water systems." [1994 c 292 § 1.]

**Severability—Effective dates and termination dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

**57.04.050 Election—Notice—Ballots—Excess tax levy. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** Upon entry of the findings of the final hearing on the petition if one or more county legislative authorities find that the proposed district will be conducive to the public health, welfare, and convenience and will benefit the land therein, they shall call a special election by presenting a resolution to the county auditor at least forty-five days prior to the proposed election date. A special election shall be held on a date decided by the commissioners in accordance with RCW 29.13.020. The commissioners shall cause to be published a notice of the election for four successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the proposed district, which notice shall state the hours during which the polls will be open, the boundaries of the district as finally adopted and the object of the election, and the notice shall also be posted ten days in ten public places in



the proposed district. In submitting the proposition to the voters, it shall be expressed on the ballots in the following terms:

- ..... District ..... YES
- ..... District ..... NO

giving the name of the district as provided in the petition. The proposition to be effective must be approved by a majority of the voters voting on the proposition.

At the same election a proposition shall be submitted to the voters, for their approval or rejection, authorizing the district, if formed, to impose on all property located in the district a general tax for one year, in excess of the limitations provided by law, in the amount specified in the petition to create the district, not to exceed one dollar and twenty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value, for general preliminary expenses of the district, that proposition to be expressed on the ballots in the following terms:

- One year ..... dollars and ..... cents  
per thousand dollars of assessed value  
tax ..... YES
- ..... NO

Such a ballot proposition may only be submitted to voters for their approval or rejection if the special election is held in February, March, April, or May. The proposition to be effective must be approved by at least three-fifths of the voters voting on the proposition in the manner set forth in Article VII, section 2(a) of the state Constitution. [1996 c 230 § 204; 1994 c 292 § 2; 1990 c 259 § 28; 1987 c 33 § 4; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 11; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 67; 1953 c 251 § 1; 1931 c 72 § 4; 1929 c 114 § 3; RRS § 11581. Cf. 1927 c 230 § 1; 1915 c 24 § 2; 1913 c 161 § 3.]

Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230: See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

Findings—Intent—1994 c 292: "The legislature finds that the monitoring and treatment requirements of the federal safe drinking water act place increasing burdens and cost on public water supply systems, especially smaller systems and rural systems. Across the state, those systems are turning to existing systems and their county governments for help, which may include assumption of the system.

It is the intent of the legislature to encourage larger existing systems to assist or acquire troubled systems or those systems burdened by federal requirements, to provide financial protection for that assistance, and to protect receivers of failed water systems." [1994 c 292 § 1.]

Severability—Effective dates and termination dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195: See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

57.04.055 County auditor to conduct elections—Expenses. (Effective July 1, 1997.) All elections held pursuant to this title, whether general or special, shall be conducted by the county auditor of the county in which the district is located. Except as provided in RCW 57.04.060, the expense of all such elections shall be paid for out of the funds of the district. [1996 c 230 § 208; 1941 c 210 § 40; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 9425-49. Formerly RCW 56.04.080.]

Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230: See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

57.04.060 District created—Name. (Effective until July 1, 1997.) If at such election a majority of the voters voting upon such proposition shall vote in favor of the formation of such district the board of county commissioners

shall so declare in its canvass of the returns of such election to be made within ten days after the date of the election, and such water district shall then be and become a municipal corporation of the state of Washington, and the name of such water district shall be ". . . . . Water District" (inserting the name appearing on the ballot). [1929 c 114 § 5; RRS § 11583. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 5.]

57.04.060 District created—Name—Formation expenses. (Effective July 1, 1997.) If at the election a majority of the voters voting upon the proposition vote in favor of the formation of the district the county legislative authority shall so declare in its canvass of the returns of the election to be made within ten days after the date of the election, and the district shall then be and become a municipal corporation of the state of Washington, and the name of the district shall be the name of the district as provided in the petition and the ballot.

The county's expenses incurred in the formation of the district, including the election costs associated with the ballot proposition authorizing the district, election of the initial commissioners under RCW 57.12.030, and the ballot proposition authorizing the excess levy, shall be repaid to the county if the district is formed. [1996 c 230 § 205; 1929 c 114 § 5; RRS § 11583. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 5.]

Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230: See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

57.04.065 Change of name—Procedure—Effect. (Effective until July 1, 1997.) Any water district heretofore or hereafter organized and existing may apply to change its name by filing with the county legislative authority in which was filed the original petition for organization of the district, a certified copy of a resolution of its board of commissioners adopted by majority vote of all of the members of said board at a regular meeting thereof providing for such change of name. After approval of the new name by the county legislative authority, all proceedings for such districts shall be had under such changed name, but all existing obligations and contracts of the district entered into under its former name shall remain outstanding without change and with the validity thereof unimpaired and unaffected by such change of name, and the change of name heretofore made by any existing water district in this state, substantially in the manner above approved is hereby ratified, confirmed, and validated. [1984 c 147 § 7.]

57.04.065 Change of name—Procedure—Effect. (Effective July 1, 1997.) Any district may apply to change its name by filing with the county legislative authority in which was filed the original petition for organization of the district, a certified copy of a resolution of its board of commissioners adopted by majority vote of all of the members of that board at a regular meeting thereof providing for such change of name. After approval of the new name by the county legislative authority, all proceedings for the district shall be had under the changed name, but all existing obligations and contracts of the district entered into under its former name shall remain outstanding without change and with the validity thereof unimpaired and unaffected by such change of name. A change of name heretofore made by any

existing district in this state, substantially in the manner approved under this section, is ratified, confirmed, and validated. [1996 c 230 § 206; 1984 c 147 § 7.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.04.070 When two or more petitions filed. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Whenever two or more petitions for the formation of a water district shall be filed as provided in this chapter, the petition describing the greater area shall supersede all others and an election shall first be held thereunder, and no lesser water district shall ever be created within the limits in whole or in part of any water district, except as provided in RCW 57.40.150 and 36.94.420, as now or hereafter amended. [1985 c 141 § 6; 1981 c 45 § 9; 1929 c 114 § 4; RRS § 11582. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 4.]

**Legislative declaration—"District" defined—Severability—1981 c 45:** See notes following RCW 36.93.090.

**57.04.070 When two or more petitions filed. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** Whenever two or more petitions for the formation of a district shall be filed as provided in this chapter, the petition describing the greater area shall supersede all others and an election shall first be held thereunder, and no lesser district shall ever be created within the limits in whole or in part of any district, except as provided in RCW 36.94.420. [1996 c 230 § 207; 1985 c 141 § 6; 1981 c 45 § 9; 1929 c 114 § 4; RRS § 11582. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 4.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**Legislative declaration—"District" defined—Severability—1981 c 45:** See notes following RCW 36.93.090.

**57.04.080 Act cumulative.** \*This act shall not be construed to repeal, amend, or modify any law heretofore enacted providing a method for water supply for any city or town in this state, but shall be held to be an additional and concurrent method providing for such purpose. Nor shall this act be construed to repeal \*\*chapter 161 of the Laws of 1913, pages 533 to 552, or amendments thereto. [1929 c 114 § 24; RRS § 11601.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) The language "this act" appeared in 1929 c 114, the basic water district law, which is codified as follows: RCW 57.04.020, 57.04.030, 57.04.050 through 57.04.080, 57.04.100, 57.08.010, 57.08.050, 57.12.010, 57.12.020, 57.12.030, 57.16.010, 57.16.020, 57.16.030, 57.16.040, 57.16.050, 57.16.060, 57.16.070, 57.16.080 through 57.16.100, 57.20.010, 57.20.100 through 57.20.140, 57.24.010, 57.24.020, 57.24.040, and 57.24.050.

\*\*\*(2) As to the reference "chapter 161 of the Laws of 1913," see note following RCW 57.06.010.

**57.04.090 Dissolution—Legislative and court methods.** Dissolution of district, see chapters 36.96 and 53.48 RCW.

**57.04.100 Dissolution—Election method. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Any water district organized under this title may be disincorporated in the same manner (insofar as the same is applicable) as is provided in RCW 35.07.010 through 35.07.220 for the disincorporation of cities and

towns, except that the petition for disincorporation shall be signed by not less than twenty-five percent of the voters in the water district. [1994 c 81 § 80; 1929 c 114 § 25; 1917 c 147 § 1; RRS § 11602.]

**57.04.100 Dissolution—Election method. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** Any district may be disincorporated in the same manner (insofar as the same is applicable) as is provided in RCW 35.07.010 through 35.07.220 for the disincorporation of cities and towns, except that the petition for disincorporation shall be signed by not less than twenty-five percent of the voters in the district. [1996 c 230 § 209; 1994 c 81 § 80; 1929 c 114 § 25; 1917 c 147 § 1; RRS § 11602.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.04.110 Dissolution when district's boundaries identical with municipality. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** A water district whose boundaries are identical with the boundaries of an incorporated town may be dissolved by summary dissolution proceedings if the water district is free from all debts and liabilities except contractual obligations between the district and the town. Summary dissolution shall take place if the board of commissioners of the water district votes unanimously to dissolve the district and to turn all of its property over to the town within which the district lies, and the council of such town unanimously passes an ordinance accepting the conveyance of the property and assets of the district tendered to the town by the water district. [1955 c 358 § 1.]

*Acceptance by town: RCW 35.92.012.*

**57.04.110 Dissolution when district's boundaries identical with municipality. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** A district whose boundaries are identical with, or if the district is located entirely within, the boundaries of a city or town may be dissolved by summary dissolution proceedings if the district is free from all debts and liabilities except contractual obligations between the district and the city or town. Summary dissolution shall take place if the board of commissioners of the district votes unanimously to dissolve the district and to turn all of its property over to the city or town within which the district lies, and the council of such city or town unanimously passes an ordinance accepting the conveyance of the property and assets of the district tendered to the city or town by the district. [1996 c 230 § 210; 1955 c 358 § 1.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

*Acceptance by town: RCW 35.92.012.*

**57.04.120 Sewerage improvement districts located in counties with populations of from forty thousand to less than seventy thousand become sewer districts. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** (1) On and after March 16, 1979, any sewerage improvement districts created under Title 85 RCW and located in a county with a population of from forty thousand to less than seventy thousand shall become districts and shall be operated, maintained, and have the same powers as districts created under this title, upon being so ordered by

the county legislative authority of the county in which such district is located after a hearing of which notice is given by publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the district and mailed to any known creditors, holders of contracts, and obligees at least thirty days prior to such hearing. After such hearing if the county legislative authority finds the converting of such district to be in the best interest of that district, it shall order that such sewer improvement district shall become a district and fix the date of such conversion. All debts, contracts, and obligations created while attempting to organize or operate a sewerage improvement district and all other financial obligations and powers of the district to satisfy such obligations established under Title 85 RCW are legal and valid until they are fully satisfied or discharged under Title 85 RCW.

(2) The board of supervisors of a sewerage improvement district in a county with a population of from forty thousand to less than seventy thousand shall act as the board of commissioners of the district under subsection (1) of this section until other members of the board of commissioners of the district are elected and qualified. There shall be an election on the same date as the 1979 state general election and the seats of all three members of the governing authority of every entity which was previously known as a sewerage improvement district in a county with a population of from forty thousand to less than seventy thousand shall be up for election. The election shall be held in the manner provided for in RCW 57.12.030 for the election of the first board of commissioners of a district. Thereafter, the terms of office of the members of the governing body shall be determined under RCW 57.12.030. [1996 c 230 § 211; 1991 c 363 § 136; 1979 c 35 § 1. Formerly RCW 56.04.120.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**57.04.130 Sewerage improvement districts operating as sewer districts become water-sewer districts—Procedure. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** Any sewerage improvement district which has been operating as a sewer district shall be a district under this title as of March 16, 1979, upon being so ordered by the county legislative authority of the county in which such district is located after a hearing of which notice is given by publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the district and mailed to any known creditors, holders of contracts, and obligees at least thirty days prior to such hearing. After such hearing if the county legislative authority finds that the sewerage improvement district was operating as a district and that the converting of such district will be in the best interest of that district, it shall order that such sewer improvement district shall become a district immediately upon the passage of the resolution containing such order. The debts, contracts, and obligations of any sewerage improvement district which has been erroneously operating as a district are recognized as legal and binding. The members of the government authority of any sewerage improvement district which has been operating as a district and who were erroneously elected as sewer district commissioners shall be recognized as the governing authority of a district. The members of the governing authority shall continue in office

for the term for which they were elected. [1996 c 230 § 212; 1979 c 35 § 2. Formerly RCW 56.04.130.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

## Chapter 57.06

### VALIDATION AND CONSTRUCTION

#### Sections

57.06.010	1927 validation.
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57.06.190	Sewer districts—Validation—1959 c 103.
57.06.200	Sewer districts—Formation of districts validated.
57.06.210	Sewer districts—Validation of prior mergers.

**57.06.010 1927 validation.** In case an attempt has been made to organize a water district not containing within its boundaries any incorporated city or town, and either through inadvertence or mistake the election for the organization of the district was held more than thirty days from the date of such certificate of the county auditor but less than sixty days from such date, such proceedings shall not be deemed invalid by reason thereof, and in case all other proceedings in connection with the organization of any such water district were regular, such proceedings are hereby validated and all bonds and warrants issued or to be issued by any such water district are hereby declared to be valid. [1927 c 230 § 2; RRS § 11581-1.]

**Reviser's note:** This section appeared in an act the first section of which amended RRS § 11581 which compiled 1913 c 161 § 3 as amended. 1913 c 161 was declared unconstitutional in *Drum v. University Place Water District*, 144 Wash. 585, 258 P. 505 (1927). The current basic water district act codified in this title is 1929 c 114.

**57.06.020 1931 validation.** Each and all of the respective areas of land heretofore organized or attempted to be organized or incorporated under \*chapter 161 of the Laws of 1913, and amendments thereto, are each hereby declared to be and created into duly existing water districts having the respective boundaries set forth in their respective organization proceedings as shown in the files and records of the office of the board of county commissioners of the county in which said organization, or attempted organization is located. The water districts validated or created by this act shall have the same rights, liabilities, duties and obligations as water districts created under chapter 114 of the Laws of 1929, and amendments thereto: PROVIDED, That the provisions of this act shall apply only to those water districts which have maintained their organization as water districts since the date

of their attempted incorporation or establishment: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That nothing herein contained shall be deemed to validate the debts, contracts, bonds or other obligations executed prior to this act in connection with or in pursuance of such attempted organization, and all taxes or assessments shall hereafter be levied in accordance with the act of 1929, chapter 114, approved March 13, 1929. [1931 c 71 § 1; RRS § 11604.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The language "chapter 161 of the Laws of 1913" appears in 1931 c 71 § 1. See note following RCW 57.06.010.

**57.06.030 1943 validation.** Each and all of the respective areas of land heretofore attempted to be organized into water districts or into local improvement districts or utility local improvement districts under the provisions of chapter 114 of the Laws of 1929 and amendments thereto, are hereby validated and declared to be duly existing water districts, or local improvement districts, or utility local improvement districts, as the case may be, having the respective boundaries set forth in their organization proceedings as shown by the files in the office of the board of county commissioners of the county in question and of such water districts. [1943 c 177 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 11604-13.]

**57.06.040 1943 validation.** All debts, contracts, and obligations heretofore made or incurred by or in favor of any such water district, local improvement district, or utility local improvement district, and all bonds or other obligations executed by such districts in connection with or in pursuance of such attempted organization, and any and all assessments or levies, and all other things and proceedings done or taken by such districts or by their respective officers acting under or in pursuance of such attempted organization, are hereby declared legal and valid and of full force and effect. [1943 c 177 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 11604-14.]

**57.06.050 1943 validation.** The provisions of the act shall apply only to such districts attempted to be organized under chapter 114 of the Laws of 1929, and amendments thereto, which have maintained their organization as such since the date of such attempted organization, establishment, or creation. [1943 c 177 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 11604-15.]

**57.06.060 1945 validation.** Each and all of the respective areas of land heretofore attempted to be organized into water districts or into local improvement districts or utility local improvement districts under the provisions of Pierce's Perpetual Code 994-1 to -53, chapter 114, Laws of 1929, and amendments thereto (sections 11579 to 11604, Remington's Revised Statutes), are hereby validated and declared to be duly existing water districts, or local improvement districts, or utility local improvement districts, as the case may be, having the respective boundaries set forth in their organization proceedings as shown by the files in the office of the board of county commissioners of the county in question and of such water districts. [1945 c 40 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11604-17.]

**57.06.070 1945 validation.** All debts, contracts, and obligations heretofore made or incurred by or in favor of any

such water district, local improvement district, or utility local improvement district, and all bonds or other obligations executed by such districts in connection with or in pursuance of such attempted organization, and any and all assessments or levies, and all other things and proceedings done or taken by such districts or by their respective officers acting under or in pursuance of such attempted organization, are hereby declared legal and valid and of full force and effect. [1945 c 40 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11604-18.]

**57.06.080 1945 validation.** The provisions of this act shall apply only to such districts attempted to be organized under Pierce's Perpetual Code 994-1 to 53, chapter 114, Laws of 1929, and amendments thereto (sections 11579 to 11604, Remington's Revised Statutes), which have maintained their organization as such since the date of such attempted organization, establishment, or creation. [1945 c 40 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11604-19.]

**57.06.090 1953 validation.** Each and all of the respective areas of land heretofore attempted to be organized into water districts, including all areas attempted to be annexed thereto, or into local improvement districts or utility local improvement districts, under the provisions of chapter 114, Laws of 1929, and amendments thereto, are hereby validated and declared to be duly existing water districts, or local improvement districts, or utility local improvement districts, as the case may be, having the respective boundaries set forth in their organization and annexation proceedings as shown by the files in the office of the board of county commissioners of the county in question and of such water districts. [1953 c 251 § 25.]

**57.06.100 1953 validation.** All debts, contracts, and obligations heretofore made or incurred by or in favor of any such water district, local improvement district, or utility local improvement district, and all bonds or other obligations executed by such districts in connection with or in pursuance of such attempted organization, and any and all assessments or levies, and all other things and proceedings done or taken by such districts or by their respective officers acting under or in pursuance of such attempted organization, are hereby declared legal and valid and of full force and effect. [1953 c 251 § 26.]

**57.06.110 1953 validation.** The provisions of this act shall apply only to such districts attempted to be organized under chapter 114, Laws of 1929, and amendments thereto, which have maintained their organization as such since the date of such attempted organization, establishment, or creation. [1953 c 251 § 27.]

**57.06.120 1959 validation.** All debts, contracts and obligations heretofore made or incurred by or in favor of any water district and all bonds, warrants, or other obligations issued by such district, and all charges heretofore made by such districts, and any and all assessments heretofore levied in any local improvement districts or utility local improvement districts of any water district, and all other things and proceedings relating thereto done or taken by such water districts or by their respective officers are hereby declared to

be legal and valid and of full force and effect from the date thereof: PROVIDED, That nothing in this section shall apply to ultra vires acts or acts of fraud committed by the officers or agents of said district. [1959 c 108 § 18.]

**57.06.130 1959 severability.** If any provision of this act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. [1959 c 108 § 20.]

**57.06.140 1975 validation.** Each and all of the respective areas of land heretofore attempted to be organized into water districts under the provisions of chapter 114, Laws of 1929, and amendments thereto, are hereby validated and declared to be duly existing water districts, having the respective boundaries set forth in their organization proceedings as shown by the files in the office of the board of county commissioners of the county in question and of such water districts. [1975 1st ex.s. c 188 § 15.]

**Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 188:** See RCW 36.94.921.

**57.06.150 1975 validation.** All debts, contracts, and obligations heretofore made or incurred by or in favor of any such water district, and all bonds or other obligations executed by such districts in connection with or in pursuance of such attempted organization, and any and all assessments or levies, and all other things and proceedings done or taken by such districts or by their respective officers, including by persons acting as commissioners nominated by petition of at least twenty-five percent of the qualified electors of the district, and elected and qualified as otherwise provided by law, acting under or in pursuance of such attempted organization, are hereby declared legal and valid and of full force and effect. [1975 1st ex.s. c 188 § 16.]

**Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 188:** See RCW 36.94.921.

**57.06.160 1975 validation.** The holding and exercise of the office of commissioner by persons now serving as members of the first board of commissioners under or in pursuance of such attempted organization, nominated by petition of at least twenty-five percent of the qualified electors of the district, and elected and qualified as otherwise provided by law, is hereby declared legal and valid and of full force and effect. [1975 1st ex.s. c 188 § 17.]

**Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 188:** See RCW 36.94.921.

**57.06.170 1975 validation.** RCW 57.06.140 through 57.06.160 shall apply only to such districts attempted to be organized under chapter 114, Laws of 1929, and amendments thereto, which have maintained their organization as such since the date of such attempted organization, establishment, or creation, or which have been merged into another municipal corporation. [1975 1st ex.s. c 188 § 18.]

**Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 188:** See RCW 36.94.921.

**57.06.180 1988 validation.** The existence of all water districts formed in counties without a boundary review board in compliance with the requirements of chapter 57.04 RCW, whether or not the requirements of RCW 57.02.040 and

\*56.02.070 were satisfied, is validated and such districts shall be deemed to be legally formed. [1988 c 162 § 9.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 56.02.070 was recodified as RCW 57.02.045 by 1996 c 230 § 1701, effective July 1, 1997.

**57.06.190 Sewer districts—Validation—1959 c 103. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** All debts, contracts and obligations heretofore made or incurred by or in favor of any sewer district, all bonds, warrants, or other obligations issued by such districts, any connection or service charges made by such districts, any and all assessments heretofore levied in any utility local improvement districts of any sewer districts, and all other things and proceedings relating thereto done or taken by such sewer districts or by their respective officers are hereby declared to be legal and valid and of full force and effect from the date thereof: PROVIDED, That nothing in this section shall apply to ultra vires acts or acts of fraud committed by the officers or agents of said district. [1959 c 103 § 17. Formerly RCW 56.02.030.]

**Severability—1959 c 103:** See note following RCW 57.08.044.

**57.06.200 Sewer districts—Formation of districts validated. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** The existence of all sewer districts formed in counties without a boundary review board in compliance with the requirements of \*chapter 56.04 RCW, whether or not the requirements of RCW \*\*56.02.060 and \*\*\*56.02.070 were satisfied, is validated and such districts shall be deemed to be legally formed. [1988 c 162 § 8. Formerly RCW 56.02.080.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) Chapter 56.04 RCW was repealed and/or recodified in its entirety by 1996 c 230, effective July 1, 1997.

\*\*\*(2) RCW 56.02.060 was repealed by 1996 c 230 § 1702, effective July 1, 1997.

\*\*\*\*(3) RCW 56.02.070 was recodified as RCW 57.02.045 pursuant to 1996 c 230 § 1701, effective July 1, 1997.

**57.06.210 Sewer districts—Validation of prior mergers. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** Each and all of the respective areas of land organized as a water district and heretofore attempted to be merged into a sewer district under chapter 148 of the Laws of 1969 [ex. sess.], and amendments thereto, and which have maintained their organization as part of a sewer district since the date of such attempted merger, are hereby validated and declared to be a proper merger of a water district into a sewer district. Such district shall have the respective boundaries set forth in their merger proceedings as shown by the official files of the legislative authority of the county in which such merged district is located. All debts, contracts, bonds, and other obligations heretofore executed in connection with or in pursuance of such attempted organization, and any and all assessments or levies and all other actions taken by such districts or by their respective officers acting under such attempted organization, are hereby declared legal and valid and of full force and effect. Such districts may hereafter exercise their powers only to the extent permitted by and in accordance with the provisions of \*RCW 56.36.060, as now or hereafter amended. [1981 c 45 § 8. Formerly RCW 56.36.070.]

**\*Reviser's note:** RCW 56.36.060 was repealed by 1996 c 230 § 1702, effective July 1, 1997.

**Legislative declaration—"District" defined—Severability—1981 c 45:** See notes following RCW 36.93.090.

**Chapter 57.08**  
**POWERS**

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*Lien for labor and materials on public works: Chapter 60.28 RCW.*

*Special purpose districts, expenditures to recruit job candidates: RCW 42.24.170.*

**57.08.005 Powers.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) A district shall have the following powers:

(1) To acquire by purchase or condemnation, or both, all lands, property and property rights, and all water and water rights, both within and without the district, necessary for its purposes. The right of eminent domain shall be exercised in the same manner and by the same procedure as provided for cities and towns, insofar as consistent with this title, except that all assessment or reassessment rolls to be prepared and filed by eminent domain commissioners or commissioners appointed by the court shall be prepared and filed by the district, and the duties devolving upon the city treasurer are imposed upon the county treasurer;

(2) To lease real or personal property necessary for its purposes for a term of years for which that leased property may reasonably be needed;

(3) To construct, condemn and purchase, add to, maintain, and supply waterworks to furnish the district and inhabitants thereof and any other persons, both within and without the district, with an ample supply of water for all uses and purposes public and private with full authority to regulate and control the use, content, distribution, and price thereof in such a manner as is not in conflict with general law and may construct, acquire, or own buildings and other necessary district facilities. Where a customer connected to the district's system uses the water on an intermittent or transient basis, a district may charge for providing water service to such a customer, regardless of the amount of water, if any, used by the customer. District waterworks may include facilities which result in combined water supply and electric generation, if the electricity generated thereby is a byproduct of the water supply system. That electricity may be used by the district or sold to any entity authorized by law to use or distribute electricity. Electricity is deemed a byproduct when the electrical generation is subordinate to the primary purpose of water supply. For such purposes, a district may take, condemn and purchase, acquire, and retain water from any public or navigable lake, river or watercourse, or any underflowing water, and by means of aqueducts or pipeline conduct the same throughout the district and any city or town therein and carry it along and upon public highways, roads, and streets, within and without such district. For the purpose of constructing or laying aqueducts or pipelines, dams, or waterworks or other necessary structures in storing and retaining water or for any other lawful purpose such district may occupy the beds and shores up to the high water mark of any such lake, river, or other watercourse, and may acquire by purchase or condemnation such property or property rights or privileges as may be necessary to protect its water supply from pollution. For the purposes of waterworks which include facilities for the generation of electricity as a byproduct, nothing in this section may be construed to authorize a district to condemn electric generating, transmission, or distribution rights or facilities of entities authorized by law to distribute electricity, or to acquire such rights or facilities without the consent of the owner;

(4) To purchase and take water from any municipal corporation, private person, or entity. A district contiguous to Canada may contract with a Canadian corporation for the purchase of water and for the construction, purchase, maintenance, and supply of waterworks to furnish the district

and inhabitants thereof and residents of Canada with an ample supply of water under the terms approved by the board of commissioners;

(5) To construct, condemn and purchase, add to, maintain, and operate systems of sewers for the purpose of furnishing the district, the inhabitants thereof, and persons outside the district with an adequate system of sewers for all uses and purposes, public and private, including but not limited to on-site sewage disposal facilities, approved septic tanks or approved septic tank systems, other facilities and systems for the collection, interception, treatment, and disposal of wastewater, and for the control of pollution from wastewater and for the protection, preservation, and rehabilitation of surface and underground waters, facilities for the drainage and treatment of storm or surface waters, public highways, streets, and roads with full authority to regulate the use and operation thereof and the service rates to be charged. Sewage facilities may include facilities which result in combined sewage disposal, treatment, or drainage and electric generation, except that the electricity generated thereby is a byproduct of the system of sewers. Such electricity may be used by the district or sold to any entity authorized by law to distribute electricity. Electricity is deemed a byproduct when the electrical generation is subordinate to the primary purpose of sewage disposal, treatment, or drainage. For such purposes a district may conduct sewage throughout the district and throughout other political subdivisions within the district, and construct and lay sewer pipe along and upon public highways, roads, and streets, within and without the district, and condemn and purchase or acquire land and rights of way necessary for such sewer pipe. A district may erect sewage treatment plants within or without the district, and may acquire, by purchase or condemnation, properties or privileges necessary to be had to protect any lakes, rivers, or watercourses and also other areas of land from pollution from its sewers or its sewage treatment plant. For the purposes of sewage facilities which include facilities that result in combined sewage disposal, treatment, or drainage and electric generation where the electric generation is a byproduct, nothing in this section may be construed to authorize a district to condemn electric generating, transmission, or distribution rights or facilities of entities authorized by law to distribute electricity, or to acquire such rights or facilities without the consent of the owners;

(6) To construct, condemn, acquire, and own buildings and other necessary district facilities;

(7) To compel all property owners within the district located within an area served by the district's system of sewers to connect their private drain and sewer systems with the district's system under such penalty as the commissioners shall prescribe by resolution. The district may for such purpose enter upon private property and connect the private drains or sewers with the district system and the cost thereof shall be charged against the property owner and shall be a lien upon property served;

(8) Where a district contains within its borders, abuts, or is located adjacent to any lake, stream, ground water as defined by RCW 90.44.035, or other waterway within the state of Washington, to provide for the reduction, minimization, or elimination of pollutants from those waters in accordance with the district's comprehensive plan, and to

issue general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, local improvement district bonds, or utility local improvement bonds for the purpose of paying all or any part of the cost of reducing, minimizing, or eliminating the pollutants from these waters;

(9) To fix rates and charges for water, sewer, and drain service supplied and to charge property owners seeking to connect to the district's systems, as a condition to granting the right to so connect, in addition to the cost of the connection, such reasonable connection charge as the board of commissioners shall determine to be proper in order that those property owners shall bear their equitable share of the cost of the system. For the purposes of calculating a connection charge, the board of commissioners shall determine the pro rata share of the cost of existing facilities and facilities planned for construction within the next ten years and contained in an adopted comprehensive plan and other costs borne by the district which are directly attributable to the improvements required by property owners seeking to connect to the system. The cost of existing facilities shall not include those portions of the system which have been donated or which have been paid for by grants. The connection charge may include interest charges applied from the date of construction of the system until the connection, or for a period not to exceed ten years, whichever is shorter, at a rate commensurate with the rate of interest applicable to the district at the time of construction or major rehabilitation of the system, or at the time of installation of the lines to which the property owner is seeking to connect. A district may permit payment of the cost of connection and the reasonable connection charge to be paid with interest in installments over a period not exceeding fifteen years. The county treasurer may charge and collect a fee of three dollars for each year for the treasurer's services. Those fees shall be a charge to be included as part of each annual installment, and shall be credited to the county current expense fund by the county treasurer. Revenues from connection charges excluding permit fees are to be considered payments in aid of construction as defined by department of revenue rule.

Except as otherwise provided in RCW 90.03.525, any public entity and public property, including the state of Washington and state property, shall be subject to rates and charges for sewer, water, storm water control, drainage, and street lighting facilities to the same extent private persons and private property are subject to those rates and charges that are imposed by districts. In setting those rates and charges, consideration may be made of in-kind services, such as stream improvements or donation of property;

(10) To contract with individuals, associations and corporations, the state of Washington, and the United States;

(11) To employ such persons as are needed to carry out the district's purposes and fix salaries and any bond requirements for those employees;

(12) To contract for the provision of engineering, legal, and other professional services as in the board of commissioner's discretion is necessary in carrying out their duties;

(13) To sue and be sued;

(14) To loan and borrow funds and to issue bonds and instruments evidencing indebtedness under chapter 57.20 RCW and other applicable laws;

(15) To transfer funds, real or personal property, property interests; or services subject to RCW 57.08.015;

(16) To levy taxes in accordance with this chapter and chapters 57.04 and 57.20 RCW;

(17) To provide for making local improvements and to levy and collect special assessments on property benefitted thereby, and for paying for the same or any portion thereof in accordance with chapter 57.16 RCW;

(18) To establish street lighting systems under RCW 57.08.060;

(19) To exercise such other powers as are granted to water-sewer districts by this title or other applicable laws; and

(20) To exercise any of the powers granted to cities and counties with respect to the acquisition, construction, maintenance, operation of, and fixing rates and charges for waterworks and systems of sewerage and drainage. [1996 c 230 § 301.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.08.007 Concurrent service by two districts.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) Except upon approval of both districts by resolution, a district may not provide a service within an area in which that service is available from another district or within an area in which that service is planned to be made available under an effective comprehensive plan of another district. [1996 c 230 § 302.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.08.009 Use of property not immediately necessary to district for park or recreational purposes.** A district may operate and maintain a park or recreational facilities on real property that it owns or in which it has an interest that is not immediately necessary for its purposes.

If such park or recreational facilities are operated by a person other than the district, including a corporation, partnership, or other business enterprise, the person shall indemnify and hold harmless the district for any injury or damage caused by the action of the person. [1991 c 82 § 3. Formerly RCW 56.08.170.]

**57.08.010 Right to acquire property and rights—Eminent domain—Leases—Generation of electricity—Rates and charges—Use of property for park or recreational purposes.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) (1)(a) A water district may acquire by purchase or condemnation, or both, all property and property rights and all water and water rights, both within and without the district, necessary for its purposes.

(b) A water district may lease real or personal property necessary for its purposes for a term of years for which such leased property may reasonably be needed where in the opinion of the board of water commissioners such property may not be needed permanently or substantial savings to the district can be effected thereby.

(c) The right of eminent domain shall be exercised in the same manner and by the same procedure as provided for cities and towns, insofar as consistent with the provisions of this title, except that all assessment rolls to be prepared and

filed by eminent domain commissioners or commissioners appointed by the court shall be prepared and filed by the water district, and the duties devolving upon the city treasurer are hereby imposed upon the county treasurer.

(d) A water district may construct, condemn and purchase, purchase, add to, maintain, and supply waterworks to furnish the district and inhabitants thereof, and any city or town therein and any other persons, both within and without the district, with an ample supply of water for all uses and purposes public and private with full authority to regulate and control the use, content, distribution, and price thereof in such a manner as is not in conflict with general law and may construct, acquire, or own buildings and other necessary district facilities. Where a customer connected to the district's system uses the water on an intermittent or transient basis, a district may charge for providing water service to such a customer, regardless of the amount of water, if any, used by the customer.

(e) A water district contiguous to Canada may contract with a Canadian corporation for the purchase of water and for the construction, purchase, maintenance, and supply of waterworks to furnish the district and inhabitants thereof and residents of Canada with an ample supply of water under terms approved by the board of commissioners. Such waterworks may include facilities which result in combined water supply and electric generation, provided that the electricity generated thereby is a byproduct of the water supply system.

(f) Such electricity may be used by the water district or sold to any entity authorized by law to distribute electricity. Such electricity is a byproduct when the electrical generation is subordinate to the primary purpose of water supply.

(g) For such purposes, a water district may take, condemn and purchase, purchase, acquire, and retain water from any public or navigable lake, river, or watercourse, or any underflowing water and, by means of aqueducts or pipe line conduct the same throughout such water district and any city or town therein and carry it along and upon public highways, roads, and streets, within and without such district.

(h) For the purpose of constructing or laying aqueducts or pipe lines, dams, or waterworks or other necessary structures in storing and retaining water or for any other lawful purpose such water district may occupy the beds and shores up to the high water mark of any such lake, river, or other watercourse, and may acquire by purchase or condemnation such property or property rights or privileges as may be necessary to protect its water supply from pollution.

(i) For the purposes of waterworks which include facilities for the generation of electricity as a byproduct, nothing in this section may be construed to authorize a water district to condemn electric generating, transmission, or distribution rights or facilities of entities authorized by law to distribute electricity, or to acquire such rights or facilities without the consent of the owner.

(2) A water district may purchase and take water from any municipal corporation.

(3) A water district may fix rates and charges for water supplied and may charge property owners seeking to connect to the district's water supply system, as a condition to granting the right to so connect, in addition to the cost of such connection, such reasonable connection charge as the



board of commissioners shall determine to be proper in order that such property owners shall bear their equitable share of the cost of such system.

(a) For purposes of calculating a connection charge, the board of commissioners shall determine the pro rata share of the cost of existing facilities and facilities planned for construction within the next ten years and contained in an adopted comprehensive plan and other costs borne by the district which are directly attributable to the improvements required by property owners seeking to connect to the system. The cost of existing facilities shall not include those portions of the system which have been donated or which have been paid for by grants.

(b) The connection charge may include interest charges applied from the date of construction of the water system until the connection, or for a period not to exceed ten years, whichever is shorter, at a rate commensurate with the rate of interest applicable to the district at the time of construction or major rehabilitation of the water system, or at the time of installation of the water lines to which the property owner is seeking to connect.

(4)(a) A district may permit payment of the cost of connection and the reasonable connection charge to be paid with interest in installments over a period not exceeding fifteen years. The county treasurer may charge and collect a fee of three dollars for each year for the treasurer's services. Such fees shall be a charge to be included as part of each annual installment, and shall be credited to the county current expense fund by the county treasurer.

(b) Revenues from connection charges excluding permit fees are to be considered payments in aid of construction as defined by department of revenue rule.

(5) A district may operate and maintain a park or recreational facilities on real property that it owns or in which it has an interest that is not immediately necessary for its purposes.

If such park or recreational facilities are operated by a person other than the district, including a corporation, partnership, or other business enterprise, the person shall indemnify and hold harmless the district for any injury or damage caused by the action of the person. [1994 c 81 § 81; 1991 c 82 § 4. Prior: 1989 c 389 § 9; 1989 c 308 § 2; 1988 c 11 § 1; 1987 c 449 § 10; 1985 c 444 § 4; 1959 c 108 § 1; 1929 c 114 § 8; RRS § 11586. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 8.]

**Intent—Construction—Severability—1985 c 444:** See notes following RCW 35.92.010.

*Eminent domain*

*generally: State Constitution Art. 1 § 16.*

*second class cities: RCW 35.23.311.*

*Evaluation of application to appropriate water for electric generation facility: RCW 90.54.170.*

**57.08.011 Authority to manage, operate, maintain, or repair public or private water system—Contract. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** A water district may enter into a contract with any person, corporation, or other entity, public or private, that owns a water system located in the water district to manage, operate, maintain, or repair the water system. Such a contract may be entered into only if the general comprehensive plan of the water district reflects the water system that is to be so managed, operated, maintained, or repaired.

A water district shall be liable to provide the services provided in such a contract only if the required contractual payments are made to the district, and such payments shall be secured by a lien on the property served by the water system to the same extent that rates and charges imposed by the water district constitute liens on the property served by the district. The responsibility for all costs incurred by the water system in complying with water quality laws, regulations, and standards shall be solely that of the water system and not the water district, except to the extent payments have been made to the district for the costs of such compliance.

A water district periodically may transfer to another account surplus moneys that may accumulate in an account established by the district to receive payments for the provision of services for such a water system. [1989 c 308 § 14.]

**57.08.011 Authority to manage, operate, maintain, or repair public or private water system—Contract. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** A district may enter into a contract with any person, corporation, or other entity, public or private, that owns a water system located in the district to manage, operate, maintain, or repair the water system. Such a contract may be entered into only if the general comprehensive plan of the district reflects the water system that is to be so managed, operated, maintained, or repaired.

A district shall be liable to provide the services provided in such a contract only if the required contractual payments are made to the district, and such payments shall be secured by a lien on the property served by the water system to the same extent that rates and charges imposed by the district constitute liens on the property served by the district. The responsibility for all costs incurred by the water system in complying with water quality laws, regulations, and standards shall be solely that of the water system and not the district, except to the extent payments have been made to the district for the costs of such compliance.

A district periodically may transfer to another account surplus moneys that may accumulate in an account established by the district to receive payments for the provision of services for such a water system. [1996 c 230 § 303; 1989 c 308 § 14.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.08.012 Fluoridation of water authorized.** A water district by a majority vote of its board of commissioners may fluoridate the water supply system of the water district. The commissioners may cause the proposition of fluoridation of the water supply to be submitted to the electors of the water district at any general election or special election to be called for the purpose of voting on the proposition. The proposition must be approved by a majority of the electors voting on the proposition to become effective. [1988 c 11 § 2.]

**57.08.014 Authority to adjust or delay rates or charges for poor persons—Notice. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** In addition to the authority of a water district to establish classifications for rates and charges and impose such rates and charges, as provided in RCW 57.08.010 and

57.20.020, a water district may adjust, or delay such rates and charges for poor persons or classes of poor persons, including but not limited to, poor handicapped persons and poor senior citizens. Other financial assistance available to poor persons shall be considered in determining charges and rates under this section. Notification of special rates or charges established under this section shall be provided to all persons served by the district annually and upon initiating service. Information on cost shifts caused by establishment of the special rates or charges shall be included in the notification. Any reduction in charges and rates granted to poor persons in one part of a service area shall be uniformly extended to poor persons in all other parts of the service area. [1983 c 198 § 2.]

**Severability—1983 c 198:** See note following RCW 56.08.014.

**57.08.014 Authority to adjust or delay rates or charges for low-income persons—Notice.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) In addition to the authority of a district to establish classifications for rates and charges and impose such rates and charges, a district may adjust or delay those rates and charges for low-income persons or classes of low-income persons, including but not limited to, poor handicapped persons and poor senior citizens. Other financial assistance available to low-income persons shall be considered in determining charges and rates under this section. Notification of special rates or charges established under this section shall be provided to all persons served by the district annually and upon initiating service. Information on cost shifts caused by establishment of the special rates or charges shall be included in the notification. Any reduction in charges and rates granted to low-income persons in one part of a service area shall be uniformly extended to low-income persons in all other parts of the service area. [1996 c 230 § 304; 1983 c 198 § 2.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**Severability—1983 c 198:** "If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1983 c 198 § 3.]

**57.08.015 Sale of unnecessary property authorized—Notice.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The board of commissioners of a water district may sell, at public or private sale, property belonging to the district if the board determines that the property is not and will not be needed for district purposes and if the board gives notice of intention to sell as in this section provided: **PROVIDED,** That no such notice of intention shall be required to sell personal property of less than two thousand five hundred dollars in value.

The notice of intention to sell shall be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the district. The notice shall describe the property and state the time and place at which it will be sold or offered for sale, the terms of sale, whether the property is to be sold at public or private sale, and if at public sale the notice shall call for bids, fix the conditions thereof and shall reserve the right to reject any and all bids. [1993 c 198 § 19; 1989 c 308 § 7; 1977 ex.s. c 299 § 2; 1953 c 50 § 1.]

**57.08.015 Sale of unnecessary property authorized—Notice.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) The board of commissioners of a district may sell, at public or private sale, property belonging to the district if the board determines that the property is not and will not be needed for district purposes and if the board gives notice of intention to sell as in this section provided. However, no such notice of intention shall be required to sell personal property of less than two thousand five hundred dollars in value.

The notice of intention to sell shall be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the district. The notice shall describe the property and state the time and place at which it will be sold or offered for sale, the terms of sale, whether the property is to be sold at public or private sale, and if at public sale the notice shall call for bids, fix the conditions of the bids and reserve the right to reject any and all bids. [1996 c 230 § 305; 1993 c 198 § 19; 1989 c 308 § 7; 1977 ex.s. c 299 § 2; 1953 c 50 § 1.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.08.016 Sale of unnecessary property authorized—Additional requirements for sale of realty.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) (1) Subject to the provisions of subsection (2) of this section, no real property valued at two thousand five hundred dollars or more of the district shall be sold for less than ninety percent of the value thereof as established by a written appraisal made not more than six months prior to the date of sale by three disinterested real estate brokers licensed under the laws of the state or professionally designated real estate appraisers as defined in RCW 74.46.020. The appraisal shall be signed by the appraisers and filed with the secretary of the board of commissioners of the district, who shall keep it at the office of the district open to public inspection. Any notice of intention to sell real property of the district shall recite the appraised value thereof: **PROVIDED,** That there shall be no private sale of real property where the appraised value exceeds the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars.

(2) If no purchasers can be obtained for the property at ninety percent or more of its appraised value after one hundred twenty days of offering the property for sale, the board of commissioners of the water district may adopt a resolution stating that the district has been unable to sell the property at the ninety percent amount. The water district then may sell the property at the highest price it can obtain at public auction. A notice of intention to sell at public auction shall be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the water district. The notice shall describe the property, state the time and place at which it will be offered for sale and the terms of sale, and shall call for bids, fix the conditions thereof, and reserve the right to reject any and all bids. [1993 c 198 § 20; 1989 c 308 § 8; 1988 c 162 § 2; 1984 c 103 § 3; 1953 c 50 § 2.]

**57.08.016 Sale of unnecessary property authorized—Additional requirements for sale of realty.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) (1) There shall be no private sale of real property where the appraised value exceeds the sum

of two thousand five hundred dollars. Subject to the provisions of subsection (2) of this section, no real property of the district shall be sold for less than ninety percent of the value thereof as established by a written appraisal made not more than six months prior to the date of sale by three disinterested real estate brokers licensed under the laws of the state or professionally designated real estate appraisers as defined in RCW 74.46.020. The appraisal shall be signed by the appraisers and filed with the secretary of the board of commissioners of the district, who shall keep it at the office of the district open to public inspection. Any notice of intention to sell real property of the district shall recite the appraised value thereof.

(2) If no purchasers can be obtained for the property at ninety percent or more of its appraised value after one hundred twenty days of offering the property for sale, the board of commissioners of the district may adopt a resolution stating that the district has been unable to sell the property at the ninety percent amount. The district then may sell the property at the highest price it can obtain at public auction. A notice of intention to sell at public auction shall be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the district. The notice shall describe the property, state the time and place at which it will be offered for sale and the terms of sale, and shall call for bids, fix the conditions thereof, and reserve the right to reject any and all bids. [1996 c 230 § 306; 1993 c 198 § 20; 1989 c 308 § 8; 1988 c 162 § 2; 1984 c 103 § 3; 1953 c 50 § 2.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.08.017 Application of sections to certain service provider agreements under chapter 70.150 RCW. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** RCW 57.08.015, 57.08.016, 57.08.050, 57.08.120, and 57.08.130 shall not apply to agreements entered into under authority of chapter 70.150 RCW provided there is compliance with the procurement procedure under RCW 70.150.040. [1986 c 244 § 16.]

**Severability—1986 c 244:** See RCW 70.150.905.

**57.08.017 Application of sections to certain service provider agreements under chapter 70.150 RCW. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** RCW 57.08.015, 57.08.016, 57.08.050, and 57.08.120 shall not apply to agreements entered into under authority of chapter 70.150 RCW if there is compliance with the procurement procedure under RCW 70.150.040. [1996 c 230 § 321; 1986 c 244 § 16.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**Severability—1986 c 244:** See RCW 70.150.905.

**57.08.020 Conveyance of water system to city or town.** That water districts duly organized under the laws of the state of Washington shall have the following powers in addition to those conferred by existing statutes. Whenever any water district shall have installed a distributing system of mains and laterals and as a source of supply of water shall be purchasing or intending to purchase water from any city or town, and whenever it shall appear to be advantageous to the water consumers in said water district that such

city or town shall take over the water system of the water district and supply water to the said water users, the commissioners of said water district, upon being authorized as provided in RCW 57.08.030, shall have the right to convey such distributing system to any such city or town: **PROVIDED,** Such city or town is willing to accept, maintain and repair the same: **PROVIDED, FURTHER,** That all bonded and other indebtedness of said water district except local improvement district bonds shall have been paid. [1933 c 142 § 1; RRS § 11586-1.]

**57.08.030 Election on conveyance—Contract to maintain. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Should the commissioners of any such water district decide that it would be to the advantage of the water consumers of such water district to make the conveyance provided for in RCW 57.08.020, they shall cause the proposition of making such conveyance to be submitted to the electors of the water district at any general election or at a special election to be called for the purpose of voting on the same. If at any such election a majority of the electors voting at such election shall be in favor of making such conveyance, the water district commissioners shall have the right to convey to such city or town the mains and laterals belonging to the water district upon such city or town entering into a contract satisfactory to the water commissioners to maintain and repair the same. [1933 c 142 § 2; RRS § 11586-2.]

**57.08.030 Election on conveyance—Contract for operation of facilities. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** (1) Whenever any district shall have installed a distributing system of water mains and laterals, and as a source of supply of water shall be purchasing or intending to purchase water from any city or town, and whenever it appears to be advantageous to the water consumers in the district that such city or town shall take over the water system of the district and supply water to those water users, the commissioners of the district, when authorized as provided in subsection (2) of this section, shall have the right to convey the distributing system to that city or town if that city or town is willing to accept, maintain, and repair the same.

(2) Should the commissioners of the district decide that it would be to the advantage of the water consumers of the district to make the conveyance provided for in subsection (1) of this section, they shall cause the proposition of making that conveyance to be submitted to the voters of the district at any general election or at a special election to be called for the purpose of voting on the same. If at the election a majority of the voters voting on the proposition shall be in favor of making the conveyance, the district commissioners shall have the right to convey to the city or town the mains and laterals belonging to the district upon the city or town entering into a contract satisfactory to the commissioners to maintain and repair the same.

(3) Whenever a city or town located wholly or in part within a district shall enter into a contract with the commissioners of a district providing that the city or town shall take over all of the operation of the facilities of the district located within its boundaries, the area of the district located within the city or town shall upon the execution of the contract cease to be served by the district for water service

purposes. However, the affected land within that city or town shall remain liable for the payment of all assessments, any lien upon the property at the time of the execution of the agreement, and for any lien of all general obligation bonds due at the date of the contract, and the city shall remain liable for its fair prorated share of the debt of the area for any revenue bonds, outstanding as of the date of contract. [1996 c 230 § 307; 1933 c 142 § 2; RRS § 11586-2.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.08.035 Effect when city or town takes over portion of water system.** Whenever a city or town located wholly or in part within a water district shall enter into a contract with the commissioners of a water district providing that the city or town shall take over all of the operation of the facilities of the district located within its boundaries, such area of said water district located within said city or town shall upon the execution of said contract cease to be a part of said water district and the inhabitants therein shall no longer be permitted to vote in said water district. The land, however, within such city or town shall remain liable for the payment of all assessments, any lien upon said property at the time of the execution of said agreement and for any lien of all general obligation bonds due at the date of said contract, and the city shall remain liable for its fair prorated share of the debt of the area for any revenue bonds outstanding as of said date of contract. [1971 ex.s. c 272 § 13.]

**57.08.040 City or town may accept and agree to maintain system. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Whenever any city or town is selling or proposes to sell water to a water district organized under the laws of the state of Washington and the provisions of RCW 57.08.020 and 57.08.030 have been complied with, any such city or town may by ordinance accept a conveyance of any such distributing system and enter into a contract with the water district for the maintenance and repair of the system and the supplying of water to the water district consumers. [1933 c 142 § 3; RRS § 11586-3.]

**57.08.040 City or town may accept and agree to maintain system. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** Whenever any city or town is selling or proposes to sell water to a district, the city or town may by ordinance accept a conveyance of any distributing system and enter into a contract with the district for the maintenance and repair of the system and the supplying of water to the district consumers. [1996 c 230 § 308; 1933 c 142 § 3; RRS § 11586-3.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.08.044 Contracts for acquisition, use, operation, etc., authorized—Service to areas in other districts. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** A district may enter into contracts with any county, city, town, or any other municipal corporation, or with any private person or corporation, for the acquisition, ownership, use, and operation of any property, facilities, or services, within or without the district, and necessary or desirable to carry out the purposes of the district. A district may provide water, sewer, drainage, or

street lighting services to property owners in areas within or without the limits of the district, except that if the area to be served is located within another existing district duly authorized to exercise district powers in that area, then water, sewer, drainage, or street lighting service may not be so provided by contract or otherwise without the consent by resolution of the board of commissioners of that other district. [1996 c 230 § 309; 1981 c 45 § 4; 1959 c 103 § 3; 1953 c 250 § 8; 1941 c 210 § 48; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 9425-57. Formerly RCW 56.08.060.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**Legislative declaration—"District" defined—Severability—1981 c 45:** See notes following RCW 36.93.090.

**Severability—1959 c 103:** "If any provision of this act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1959 c 103 § 19.]

*Sewer districts and municipalities, joint agreements: RCW 35.67.300.*

**57.08.045 Contracts for joint use—Service to areas in other districts. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** A water district may enter into contracts with any county, city, town, sewer district, water district, or any other municipal corporation, or with any private person or corporation, for the acquisition, ownership, use and operation of any property, facilities, or services, within or without the water district and necessary or desirable to carry out the purposes of the water district, and a water district or sewer district duly authorized to exercise water district powers may provide water services to property owners in areas within or without the limits of the district: PROVIDED, That if such area is located within another existing district duly authorized to exercise water district powers in such area, then water service may not be so provided by contract or otherwise without the consent by resolution of the board of commissioners of such other district. [1981 c 45 § 10; 1959 c 108 § 4; 1953 c 251 § 3.]

**Legislative declaration—"District" defined—Severability—1981 c 45:** See notes following RCW 56.36.060.

**57.08.047 Provision of water service beyond district subject to review by boundary review board. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** The provision of water service beyond the boundaries of a water district may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1989 c 84 § 57.]

**57.08.047 Provision of water or sewer service beyond district subject to review by boundary review board. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** The provision of water or sewer service beyond the boundaries of a district may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1996 c 230 § 310; 1989 c 84 § 57.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.08.050 Board may create positions—Contracts for materials and work—Small works roster—Notice—Bids—Requirements waived, when (as amended by 1996 c 18).** (1) The board of water commissioners shall have authority to create and fill such positions and fix salaries and bonds thereof as it may by resolution provide.

(2) All materials purchased and work ordered, the estimated cost of which is in excess of five thousand dollars shall be let by contract. All contract projects, the estimated cost of which is less than fifty thousand dollars, may be awarded to a contractor using a small works roster process provided in RCW 39.04.155 or the process provided in RCW 39.04.190 for purchases. The board of water commissioners may set up uniform procedures to prequalify contractors for inclusion on the small works roster. All contract projects equal to or in excess of fifty thousand dollars shall be let by competitive bidding. Before awarding any such contract the board of water commissioners shall publish a notice in a newspaper of general circulation where the district is located at least once thirteen days before the last date upon which bids will be received, inviting sealed proposals for such work, plans and specifications which must at the time of publication of such notice be on file in the office of the board of water commissioners subject to public inspection. Such notice shall state generally the work to be done and shall call for proposals for doing the same to be sealed and filed with the board of water commissioners on or before the day and hour named therein.

(3) Each bid shall be accompanied by a certified or cashier's check or postal money order payable to the order of the county treasurer for a sum not less than five percent of the amount of the bid, or accompanied by a bid bond in an amount not less than five percent of the bid with a corporate surety licensed to do business in the state, conditioned that the bidder will pay the district as liquidated damages the amount specified in the bond, unless the bidder enters into a contract in accordance with his or her bid, and no bid shall be considered unless accompanied by such check, cash or bid bond. At the time and place named such bids shall be publicly opened and read and the board of water commissioners shall proceed to canvass the bids and may let such contract to the lowest responsible bidder upon plans and specifications on file or to the best bidder submitting his or her own plans and specifications: PROVIDED, That no contract shall be let in excess of the cost of the materials or work. The board of water commissioners may reject all bids for good cause and readvertise and in such case all checks, cash or bid bonds shall be returned to the bidders. If such contract be let, then all checks, cash or bid bonds shall be returned to the bidders, except that of the successful bidder, which shall be retained until a contract shall be entered into for the purchase of such materials or doing such work, and a bond to perform such work furnished with sureties satisfactory to the board of water commissioners in the full amount of the contract price between the bidder and the commission in accordance with the bid. If the bidder fails to enter into the contract in accordance with the bid and furnish such bond within ten days from the date at which the bidder is notified that he or she is the successful bidder, the check, cash or bid bonds and the amount thereof shall be forfeited to the water district: PROVIDED, That if the bidder fails to enter into a contract in accordance with his or her bid, and the board of water commissioners deems it necessary to take legal action to collect on any bid bond required ~~(herein)~~ in this section, then the water district shall be entitled to collect from the bidder any legal expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees occasioned thereby. A low bidder who claims error and fails to enter into a contract is prohibited from bidding on the same project if a second or subsequent call for bids is made for the project.

(4) In the event of an emergency when the public interest or property of the water district would suffer material injury or damage by delay, upon resolution of the board of water commissioners, or proclamation of an official designated by the board to act for the board during such emergencies, declaring the existence of such emergency and reciting the facts constituting the same, the board, or official acting for the board, may waive the requirements of this chapter with reference to any purchase or contract. In addition, these requirements may be waived for purchases which are clearly and legitimately limited to a single source of supply and purchases involving special facilities, services, or market conditions, in which instances the purchase price may be best established by direct negotiation. [1996 c 18 § 14; 1994 c 31 § 2. Prior: 1993 c 198 § 21; 1993 c 45 § 8; 1989 c 105 § 2; 1987 c 309 § 2; 1985 c 154 § 2; 1983 c 38 § 2; 1979 ex.s. c 137 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 64 § 2; 1965 c 72 § 1; 1947 c 216 § 2; 1929 c 114 § 21; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 11598. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 20.]

**57.08.050 Contracts for materials and work—Small works roster—Notice—Bids—Requirements waived, when (as amended by 1996 c 230). (Effective July 1, 1997.)** (1) ~~(The board of water commissioners shall have authority to create and fill such positions and fix salaries and bonds thereof as it may by resolution provide.~~

(2)) All ~~(materials purchased and)~~ work ordered, the estimated cost of which is in excess of five thousand dollars, shall be let by contract. All

contract projects, the estimated cost of which is less than fifty thousand dollars, may be awarded to a contractor using ~~((a)) the small works roster process provided in RCW 39.04.155 ((or the process provided in RCW 39.04.190 for purchases))~~. The board of ~~((water))~~ commissioners may set up uniform procedures to prequalify contractors for inclusion on the small works roster. All contract projects equal to or in excess of fifty thousand dollars shall be let by competitive bidding. Before awarding any such contract the board of ~~((water))~~ commissioners shall publish a notice in a newspaper of general circulation where the district is located at least once thirteen days before the last date upon which bids will be received, inviting sealed proposals for such work, plans and specifications which must at the time of publication of such notice be on file in the office of the board of ~~((water))~~ commissioners subject to the public inspection. ~~((Such))~~ The notice shall state generally the work to be done and shall call for proposals for doing the same to be sealed and filed with the board of water commissioners on or before the day and hour named therein.

~~((2))~~ Each bid shall be accompanied by a certified or cashier's check or postal money order payable to the order of the county treasurer for a sum not less than five percent of the amount of the bid, or accompanied by a bid bond in an amount not less than five percent of the bid with a corporate surety licensed to do business in the state, conditioned that the bidder will pay the district as liquidated damages the amount specified in the bond, unless the bidder enters into a contract in accordance with ~~((his or her))~~ the bidder's bid, and no bid shall be considered unless accompanied by such check, cash or bid bond. At the time and place named such bids shall be publicly opened and read and the board of ~~((water))~~ commissioners shall proceed to canvass the bids and may let such contract to the lowest responsible bidder upon plans and specifications on file or to the best bidder submitting ~~((his or her))~~ the bidder's own plans and specifications ~~((+ PROVIDED, That))~~. However, no contract shall be let in excess of the cost of the materials or work. The board of ~~((water))~~ commissioners may reject all bids for good cause and readvertise and in such case all checks, cash or bid bonds shall be returned to the bidders. If ~~((such))~~ the contract ~~((be))~~ is let, then all checks, cash, or bid bonds shall be returned to the bidders, except that of the successful bidder, which shall be retained until a contract shall be entered into for ~~((the purchase of such materials or))~~ doing ~~((such))~~ the work, and a bond to perform such work furnished with sureties satisfactory to the board of ~~((water))~~ commissioners in the full amount of the contract price between the bidder and the commission in accordance with the bid. If the bidder fails to enter into the contract in accordance with the bid and furnish ~~((such))~~ the bond within ten days from the date at which the bidder is notified that ~~((he or she))~~ the bidder is the successful bidder, the check, cash, or bid bonds and the amount thereof shall be forfeited to the ~~((water))~~ district ~~((+ PROVIDED, That))~~. If the bidder fails to enter into a contract in accordance with ~~((his or her))~~ the bidder's bid, and the board of ~~((water))~~ commissioners deems it necessary to take legal action to collect on any bid bond required ~~((herein))~~ by this section, then the ~~((water))~~ district shall be entitled to collect from the bidder any legal expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees occasioned thereby.

~~((4))~~ (2) Any purchase of materials, supplies, or equipment, with an estimated cost in excess of ten thousand dollars, shall be by contract. Any purchase of materials, supplies, or equipment, with an estimated cost of from five thousand dollars to less than fifty thousand dollars shall be made using the process provided in RCW 39.04.155 or by competitive bidding following the procedure for letting contracts for projects under subsection (1) of this section. Any purchase of materials, supplies, or equipment with an estimated cost of fifty thousand dollars or more shall be made by competitive bidding following the procedure for letting contracts for projects under subsection (1) of this section.

(3) In the event of an emergency when the public interest or property of the ~~((water))~~ district would suffer material injury or damage by delay, upon resolution of the board of ~~((water))~~ commissioners, or proclamation of an official designated by the board to act for the board during such emergencies, declaring the existence of such emergency and reciting the facts constituting the same, the board ~~((;))~~ or official acting for the board ~~((;))~~ may waive the requirements of this chapter with reference to any purchase or contract. In addition, these requirements may be waived for purchases which are clearly and legitimately limited to a single source of supply and purchases involving special facilities, services, or market conditions, in which instances the purchase price may be best established by direct negotiation. [1996 c 230 § 311; 1994 c 31 § 2. Prior: 1993 c 198 § 21; 1993 c 45 § 8; 1989 c 105 § 2; 1987 c 309 § 2; 1985 c 154 § 2; 1983 c 38 § 2; 1979 ex.s. c 137 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 64 § 2; 1965 c 72 § 1; 1947 c 216 § 2; 1929 c 114 § 21; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 11598. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 20.]

**Reviser's note:** RCW 57.08.050 was amended twice during the 1996 legislative session, each without reference to the other. For rule of construction concerning sections amended more than once during the same legislative session, see RCW 1.12.025.

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.08.060 Powers as to street lighting systems—Establishment. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** (1) In addition to the powers given water districts by law, they shall also have power to acquire, construct, maintain, operate, and develop street lighting systems.

(2) To establish a street lighting system, the board of water commissioners shall adopt a resolution proposing a street lighting system and delineating the boundaries of the area to be served by the proposed street lighting system. The board shall conduct a public hearing on the resolution to create a street lighting system. Notice of the hearing shall be published at least once each week for two consecutive weeks in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the area to be served by the proposed street lighting system. Following the hearing, the board may by resolution establish the street lighting system.

(3) A street lighting system shall not be established if, within thirty days following the decision of the board, a petition opposing the street lighting system is filed with the board and contains the signatures of at least forty percent of the voters registered in the area to be served by the proposed system.

(4) The water district has the same powers of collection for delinquent street lighting charges as the water district has for collection of delinquent water service charges.

(5) Any street lighting system established by a water district prior to March 31, 1982, is declared to be legal and valid. [1987 c 449 § 11; 1982 c 105 § 1; 1941 c 68 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11604-12.]

**57.08.060 Powers as to street lighting systems—Establishment. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** In addition to the powers given districts by law, a district shall also have power to acquire, construct, maintain, operate, and develop street lighting systems.

To establish a street lighting system, the board of commissioners shall adopt a resolution proposing a street lighting system and delineating the boundaries of the area to be served by the proposed street lighting system. The board shall conduct a public hearing on the resolution to create a street lighting system. Notice of the hearing shall be published at least once each week for two consecutive weeks in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the area to be served by the proposed street lighting system. Following the hearing, the board may by resolution establish the street lighting system.

A street lighting system shall not be established if, within thirty days following the decision of the board, a petition opposing the street lighting system is filed with the board and contains the signatures of at least forty percent of the voters registered in the area to be served by the proposed system.

The district has the same powers of imposing charges for providing street lighting, collecting delinquent street lighting charges, and financing street lighting systems by

issuing general obligation bonds, issuing revenue bonds, and creating improvement districts as it has for imposing charges for providing water, collecting delinquent water service charges, and financing water systems by issuing general obligation bonds, issuing revenue bonds, and creating improvement districts. [1996 c 230 § 312; 1987 c 449 § 11; 1982 c 105 § 1; 1941 c 68 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11604-12.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.08.065 Powers as to sewer systems—General obligation bonds for sewer system purposes—Election. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** In addition to the powers now given water districts by law, they shall also have power to establish, maintain and operate a mutual water and sewer system or a separate sewer system within their water district area in the same manner as provided by law for the doing thereof in connection with water supply systems.

In addition thereto, a water district constructing, maintaining and operating a sanitary sewer system may exercise all the powers permitted to a sewer district under Title 56 RCW, including, but not limited to, the right to compel connections to the district's system, liens for delinquent sewer connection charges or sewer service charges, and all other powers presently exercised by or which may be hereafter granted to such sewer districts: PROVIDED, That a water district may not exercise sewer district powers in any area within its boundaries which is part of an existing district which previously shall have been duly authorized to exercise sewer district powers in such area without the consent by resolution of the board of commissioners of such other district: PROVIDED FURTHER, That no water district shall proceed to exercise the powers herein granted to establish, maintain, construct and operate any sewer system without first obtaining written approval and certification of necessity so to do from the department of ecology and department of social and health services. Any comprehensive plan for a system of sewers or addition thereto or betterment thereof shall be approved by the same county and state officials as are required to approve such plans adopted by a sewer district.

A water district shall have the power to issue general obligation bonds for sewer system purposes: PROVIDED, That a proposition to authorize general obligation bonds payable from excess tax levies for sewer system purposes pursuant to chapter 56.16 RCW shall be submitted to all of the qualified voters within that part of the water district which is not contained within another existing district duly authorized to exercise sewer district powers, and the taxes to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds approved by such voters shall be levied only upon all of the taxable property within such part of the water district. [1981 c 45 § 11; 1979 c 141 § 69; 1967 ex.s. c 135 § 3; 1963 c 111 § 1.]

**Legislative declaration—"District" defined—Severability—1981 c 45:** See notes following RCW 36.93.090.

**57.08.065 Powers as to mutual systems—Overlapping districts—Operation of sewer system by former water district. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** (1) A

district shall have power to establish, maintain, and operate a mutual water, sewer, drainage, and street lighting system, a mutual system of any two or three of the systems, or separate systems.

(2) Where any two or more districts include the same territory as of July 1, 1997, none of the overlapping districts may provide any service that was made available by any of the other districts prior to July 1, 1997, within the overlapping territory without the consent by resolution of the board of commissioners of the other district or districts.

(3) A district that was a water district prior to July 1, 1997, that did not operate a sewer system prior to July 1, 1997, may not proceed to exercise the powers to establish, maintain, construct, and operate any sewer system without first obtaining written approval and certification of necessity from the department of ecology and department of health. Any comprehensive plan for a system of sewers or addition thereto or betterment thereof proposed by a district that was a water district prior to July 1, 1997, shall be approved by the same county and state officials as were required to approve such plans adopted by a sewer district immediately prior to July 1, 1997, and as subsequently may be required. [1996 c 230 § 313; 1981 c 45 § 11; 1979 c 141 § 69; 1967 ex.s. c 135 § 3; 1963 c 111 § 1.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**Legislative declaration—"District" defined—Severability—1981 c 45:** See notes following RCW 36.93.090.

**57.08.070 Participation in volunteer fire fighters' relief and pension fund.** See chapter 41.24 RCW.

**57.08.080 Rates and charges. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** The commissioners shall enforce collection of the water connection charges and rates and charges for water supplied against property owners connecting with the system and/or receiving such water, such charges being deemed charges against the property served, by addition of penalties of not more than ten percent thereof in case of failure to pay the charges at times fixed by resolution. The commissioners may provide by resolution that where either water connection charges or rates and charges for water supplied are delinquent for any specified period of time, the district shall certify the delinquencies to the treasurer of the county in which the real property is located, and the charges and any penalties added thereto and interest thereon at the rate of not more than eight percent per year shall be a lien against the property upon which the service was received, subject only to the lien for general taxes. [1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 12; 1959 c 108 § 2.]

*Assessments and charges against state lands: Chapter 79.44 RCW.*

**57.08.081 Rates and charges—Delinquencies. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** The commissioners of any district shall provide for revenues by fixing rates and charges for furnishing sewer and drainage service to those to whom service is available or for providing water, such rates and charges to be fixed as deemed necessary by the commissioners, so that uniform charges will be made for the same class of customer or service. Rates and charges may be combined for the furnishing of more than one type of sewer

service, such as but not limited to storm or surface water and sanitary.

In classifying customers of such water, sewer, or drainage system, the board of commissioners may in its discretion consider any or all of the following factors: The difference in cost of service to various customers; the location of the various customers within and without the district; the difference in cost of maintenance, operation, repair, and replacement of the various parts of the system; the different character of the service furnished various customers; the quantity and quality of the service furnished; the time of its use; the achievement of water conservation goals and the discouragement of wasteful practices; capital contributions made to the system including but not limited to assessments; and any other matters which present a reasonable difference as a ground for distinction. Rates shall be established as deemed proper by the commissioners and as fixed by resolution and shall produce revenues sufficient to take care of the costs of maintenance and operation, revenue bond and warrant interest and principal amortization requirements, and all other charges necessary for efficient and proper operation of the system.

The commissioners shall enforce collection of connection charges, and rates and charges for water supplied against property owners connecting with the system or receiving such water, and for sewer and drainage services charged against property to which and its owners to whom the service is available, such charges being deemed charges against the property served, by addition of penalties of not more than ten percent thereof in case of failure to pay the charges at times fixed by resolution. The commissioners may provide by resolution that where either connection charges or rates and charges for services supplied are delinquent for any specified period of time, the district shall certify the delinquencies to the treasurer of the county in which the real property is located, and the charges and any penalties added thereto and interest thereon at the rate of not more than the prime lending rate of the district's bank plus four percentage points per year shall be a lien against the property upon which the service was received, subject only to the lien for general taxes.

The district may, at any time after the connection charges or rates and charges for services supplied or available and penalties are delinquent for a period of sixty days, bring suit in foreclosure by civil action in the superior court of the county in which the real property is located. The court may allow, in addition to the costs and disbursements provided by statute, attorneys' fees, title search and report costs, and expenses as it adjudges reasonable. The action shall be in rem, and may be brought in the name of the district against an individual or against all of those who are delinquent in one action. The laws and rules of the court shall control as in other civil actions.

In addition to the right to foreclose provided in this section, the district may also cut off all or part of the service after charges for water or sewer service supplied or available are delinquent for a period of sixty days. [1996 c 230 § 314.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

*Assessments and charges against state lands: Chapter 79.44 RCW.*

**57.08.085 Public property subject to rates and charges for storm water control facilities.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) Except as otherwise provided in RCW 90.03.525, any public entity and public property, including state of Washington property, shall be subject to rates and charges for storm water control facilities to the same extent as private persons and private property are subject to such rates and charges that are imposed by districts pursuant to RCW 57.08.005 or 57.08.081. In setting those rates and charges, consideration may be given to in-kind services, such as stream improvements or donation of property. [1996 c 230 § 315; 1986 c 278 § 59; 1983 c 315 § 5. Formerly RCW 56.08.012.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**Severability—1986 c 278:** See note following RCW 36.01.010.

**Severability—1983 c 315:** See note following RCW 90.03.500.

*Flood control zone districts—Storm water control improvements: Chapter 86.15 RCW.*

*Rates and charges for storm water control facilities—Limitations—Definitions: RCW 90.03.500 through 90.03.525. See also RCW 35.67.025, 35.92.021, 36.89.085, and 36.94.145.*

**57.08.090 Rates and charges—Foreclosure for delinquency—Costs—Fees—Cut off of service.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The district may, at any time after the connection charges or rates and charges for water supplied and penalties are delinquent for a period of sixty days, bring suit in foreclosure by civil action in the superior court of the county in which the real property is located. The court may allow, in addition to the costs and disbursements provided by statute, such an attorney's fee as it adjudges reasonable. The action shall be in rem, and may be brought in the name of the district against an individual, or against all of those who are delinquent in one action, and the laws and rules of the court shall control as in other civil actions.

In addition to the right to foreclose provided in this section, the district may also cut off all or part of the service after charges for water supplied are delinquent for a period of sixty days. [1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 13; 1977 ex.s. c 299 § 1; 1959 c 108 § 3.]

**57.08.100 Health care, group, life, and social security insurance contracts for employees', commissioners' benefit—Joint action with sewer district.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Subject to chapter 48.62 RCW, a water district, by a majority vote of its board of commissioners, may enter into contracts to provide health care services and/or group insurance and/or term life insurance and/or social security insurance for the benefit of its employees and may pay all or any part of the cost thereof. Any two or more water districts or any one or more water districts and one or more sewer districts, by a majority vote of their respective boards of commissioners, may, if deemed expedient, join in the procuring of such health care services and/or group insurance and/or term life insurance, and the board of commissioners of each participating sewer and/or water district may by appropriate resolution authorize their respective district to pay all or any portion of the cost thereof.

A water district with five thousand or more customers providing health, group, or life insurance to its employees

may provide its commissioners with the same coverage: PROVIDED, That the per person amounts for such insurance paid by the district shall not exceed the per person amounts paid by the district for its employees. [1991 sp.s. c 30 § 25; 1991 c 82 § 5; 1981 c 190 § 6; 1973 c 24 § 2; 1961 c 261 § 2.]

**Effective date, implementation, application—Severability—1991 sp.s. c 30:** See RCW 48.62.900 and 48.62.901.

*Hospitalization and medical insurance authorized: RCW 41.04.180.*

*Hospitalization and medical insurance not deemed additional compensation: RCW 41.04.190.*

**57.08.100 Health care, group, life, and social security insurance contracts for employees', commissioners' benefit—Joint action with other districts.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) Subject to chapter 48.62 RCW, a district, by a majority vote of its board of commissioners, may enter into contracts to provide health care services and/or group insurance and/or term life insurance and/or social security insurance for the benefit of its employees and may pay all or any part of the cost thereof. Any two or more districts, by a majority vote of their respective boards of commissioners, may, if deemed expedient, join in the procuring of such health care services and/or group insurance and/or term life insurance, and the board of commissioners of a participating district may by appropriate resolution authorize its respective district to pay all or any portion of the cost thereof.

A district with five thousand or more customers providing health, group, or life insurance to its employees may provide its commissioners with the same coverage. However, the per person amounts for such insurance paid by the district shall not exceed the per person amounts paid by the district for its employees. [1996 c 230 § 316; 1991 sp.s. c 30 § 25; 1991 c 82 § 5; 1981 c 190 § 6; 1973 c 24 § 2; 1961 c 261 § 2.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**Effective date, implementation, application—Severability—1991 sp.s. c 30:** See RCW 48.62.900 and 48.62.901.

*Hospitalization and medical insurance authorized: RCW 41.04.180.*

*Hospitalization and medical insurance not deemed additional compensation: RCW 41.04.190.*

**57.08.105 Liability insurance for officials and employees.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The board of water commissioners of each water district may purchase liability insurance with such limits as they may deem reasonable for the purpose of protecting their officials and employees against liability for personal or bodily injuries and property damage arising from their acts or omissions while performing or in good faith purporting to perform their official duties. [1973 c 125 § 7.]

**57.08.105 Liability insurance for officials and employees.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) The board of commissioners of each district may purchase liability insurance with such limits as it may deem reasonable for the purpose of protecting its officials and employees against liability for personal or bodily injuries and property damage arising from their acts or omissions while performing or in good faith



purporting to perform their official duties. [1996 c 230 § 317; 1973 c 125 § 7.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.08.107 Liability insurance for officers and employees authorized.** See RCW 36.16.138.

**57.08.110 Association of commissioners—Purposes—Powers—Expenses—Records audited by state auditor.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) To improve the organization and operation of water districts, the commissioners of two or more such districts may form an association thereof, for the purpose of securing and disseminating information of value to the members of the association and for the purpose of promoting the more economical and efficient operation of the comprehensive plans of water supply in their respective districts. The commissioners of water districts so associated shall adopt articles of association, select such officers as they may determine, and employ and discharge such agents and employees as shall be deemed convenient to carry out the purposes of the association. Water district commissioners and employees are authorized to attend meetings of the association. The expense of the association may be paid from the maintenance or general funds of the associated districts in such manner as shall be provided in the articles of association: **PROVIDED,** That the aggregate contributions made to the association by the district in any calendar year shall not exceed the amount which would be raised by a levy of two and one-half cents per thousand dollars of assessed value against the taxable property of the district. The financial records of such association shall be subject to audit by the state auditor. [1995 c 301 § 76; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 68; 1970 ex.s. c 47 § 5; 1961 c 242 § 1.]

**Severability—Effective dates and termination dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

**57.08.110 Association of commissioners—Purposes—Powers—Expenses—Records audited by state auditor.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) To improve the organization and operation of districts, the commissioners of two or more such districts may form an association thereof, for the purpose of securing and disseminating information of value to the members of the association and for the purpose of promoting the more economical and efficient operation of the comprehensive plans of water supply and sewage treatment and disposal in their respective districts. The commissioners of districts so associated shall adopt articles of association, select such officers as they may determine, and employ and discharge such agents and employees as shall be deemed convenient to carry out the purposes of the association. District commissioners and employees are authorized to attend meetings of the association. The expenses of an association may be paid from the maintenance or general funds of the associated districts in such manner as shall be provided in the articles of association. However, the aggregate contributions made to an association by a district in any calendar year shall not exceed the amount that would be raised by a levy of two and one-half cents per thousand dollars of assessed value against the

taxable property of the district. The financial records of such an association shall be subject to audit by the state auditor. [1996 c 230 § 318; 1995 c 301 § 76; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 68; 1970 ex.s. c 47 § 5; 1961 c.242 § 1.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**Severability—Effective dates and termination dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

**57.08.112 Association of commissioners—Association to furnish information to legislature and governor.** See RCW 44.04.170.

**57.08.120 Lease of real property—Notice, contents, publication—Performance bond or security.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) A water district may lease out real property which it owns or in which it has an interest and which is not immediately necessary for its purposes upon such terms as the board of water commissioners deems proper: **PROVIDED,** That no such lease shall be made until the water district has first caused notice thereof to be published twice in a newspaper in general circulation in the water district, the first publication to be at least fifteen days and the second at least seven days prior to the making of such lease, which notice shall describe the property proposed to be leased out, to whom, for what purpose, and the rental to be charged therefor. A hearing shall be held pursuant to the terms of the said notice, at which time any and all persons who may be interested shall have the right to appear and to be heard.

No such lease shall be for a period longer than twenty-five years, and each lease of real property shall be secured by a bond conditioned to perform the terms of such lease with surety satisfactory to the commissioners, in a penalty not less than the rental for one-sixth of the term: **PROVIDED,** That the penalty shall not be less than the rental for one year where the term is one year or more. In a lease, the term of which exceeds five years, and when at the option of the commissioners, it is so stipulated in the lease, the commission shall accept, with surety satisfactory to it, a bond conditioned to perform the terms of the lease for some part of the term, in no event less than five years (unless the remainder of the unexpired term is less than five years, in which case for the full remainder) and in every such case the commissioners shall require of the lessee, another or other like bond to be delivered within two years, and not less than one year prior to the expiration of the period covered by the existing bond, covering an additional part of the term in accordance with the foregoing provisions in respect to the original bond, and so on until the end of the term so that there will always be in force a bond securing the performance of the lease, and the penalty in each bond shall be not less than the rental for one-half the period covered thereby, but no bond shall be construed to secure the furnishing of any other bond. However, the board of commissioners may require a reasonable security deposit in lieu of a bond on leased real property owned by a water district.

The commissioners may accept as surety on any bond required by this section, either an approved surety company or one or more persons satisfactory to the commissioners, or in lieu of such bond may accept a deposit as security of such

property or collateral or the giving of such other form of security as may be satisfactory to the commissioners. [1991 c 82 § 6; 1967 ex.s. c 135 § 1.]

**57.08.120 Lease of real property—Notice, contents, publication—Performance bond or security.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) A district may lease out real property which it owns or in which it has an interest and which is not immediately necessary for its purposes upon such terms as the board of commissioners deems proper. No such lease shall be made until the district has first caused notice thereof to be published twice in a newspaper in general circulation in the district, the first publication to be at least fifteen days and the second at least seven days prior to the making of such lease. The notice shall describe the property, the lessee, and the lease payments. A hearing shall be held pursuant to the terms of the notice, at which time any and all persons who may be interested shall have the right to appear and to be heard.

No such lease shall be made unless secured by a bond conditioned on the performance of the terms of the lease, with surety satisfactory to the commissioners and with a penalty of not less than one-sixth of the term of the lease or for one year's rental, whichever is greater.

No such lease shall be made for a term longer than twenty-five years. In cases involving leases of more than five years, the commissioners may provide for or stipulate to acceptance of a bond conditioned on the performance of a part of the term for five years or more whenever it is further provided that the lessee must procure and deliver to the commissioners renewal bonds with like terms and conditions no more than two years prior nor less than one year prior to the expiration of such bond during the entire term of the lease. However, no such bond shall be construed to secure the furnishing of any other bond by the same surety or indemnity company. The board of commissioners may require a reasonable security deposit in lieu of a bond on leased property owned by a district.

The commissioners may accept as surety on any bond required by this section an approved surety company, or may accept in lieu thereof a secured interest in property of a value at least twice the amount of the bond required, conditioned further that in the event the commissioners determine that the value of the bond security has become or is about to become impaired, additional security shall be required from the lessee.

The authority granted under this section shall not be exercised by the board of commissioners unless the property is declared by resolution of the board of commissioners to be property for which there is a future need by the district and for the use of which provision is made in the comprehensive plan of the district as the same may be amended from time to time. [1996 c 230 § 319; 1991 c 82 § 6; 1967 ex.s. c 135 § 1.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.08.130 Limitation on leasing real property.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The authority granted in RCW 57.08.120 shall not be exercised by the board of water commissioners unless such property is declared by resolution

of the board of commissioners to be property for which there is a future need by the district and for the use of which provision is made in the comprehensive plan of the water system of the district as the same may be amended from time to time. [1967 ex.s. c 135 § 2.]

**57.08.140 RCW 39.33.060 to govern on sales by water district for park and recreational purposes.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The provisions of RCW 57.08.015, 57.08.016, 57.08.120 and 57.08.130 shall have no application as to the sale or conveyance of real or personal property or any interest or right therein by a water district to the county or park and recreation district wherein such property is located for park and recreational purposes, but in such cases the provisions of RCW 39.33.060 shall govern. [1971 ex.s. c 243 § 8.]

**Severability—1971 ex.s. c 243:** See RCW 84.34.920.

**57.08.140 RCW 39.33.060 to govern on sales by district for park and recreational purposes.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) The provisions of RCW 57.08.015, 57.08.016, and 57.08.120 shall have no application as to the sale or conveyance of real or personal property or any interest or right therein by a district to the county or park and recreation district wherein such property is located for park and recreational purposes, but in those cases the provisions of RCW 39.33.060 shall govern. [1996 c 230 § 320; 1971 ex.s. c 243 § 8.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**Severability—1971 ex.s. c 243:** See RCW 84.34.920.

**57.08.150 Extensions by private party—Preparation of plans—Review by district.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) A water district may not require that a specified engineer prepare plans or designs for extensions to its systems if the extensions are to be financed and constructed by a private party, but may review, and approve or reject, the plans or designs which have been prepared for such a private party based upon standards and requirements established by the water district. [1987 c 309 § 4.]

**57.08.150 Extensions by private party—Preparation of plans—Review by district.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) A district may not require that a specified engineer prepare plans or designs for extensions to its systems if the extensions are to be financed and constructed by a private party, but may review, and approve or reject, the plans or designs which have been prepared for such a private party based upon standards and requirements established by the district. [1996 c 230 § 323; 1987 c 309 § 4.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.08.160 Authority to assist customers in the acquisition of water conservation equipment—Limitations.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Any district is hereby authorized, within limits established by the Constitution of the state of Washington, to assist the owners of structures in financing the acquisition and installation of fixtures, systems, and equipment, for compensation or

otherwise, for the conservation or more efficient use of water in the structures under a water conservation plan adopted by the district if the cost per unit of water saved or conserved by the use of the fixtures, systems, and equipment is less than the cost per unit of water supplied by the next least costly new water source available to the district to meet future demand. Except where otherwise authorized, assistance shall be limited to:

(1) Providing an inspection of the structure, either directly or through one or more inspectors under contract, to determine and inform the owner of the estimated cost of purchasing and installing conservation fixtures, systems, and equipment for which financial assistance will be approved and the estimated life cycle savings to the water system and the consumer that are likely to result from the installation of the fixtures, systems, or equipment;

(2) Providing a list of businesses that sell and install the fixtures, systems, and equipment within or in close proximity to the service area of the city or town, each of which businesses shall have requested to be included and shall have the ability to provide the products in a workmanlike manner and to utilize the fixtures, systems, and equipment in accordance with the prevailing national standards;

(3) Arranging to have approved conservation fixtures, systems, and equipment installed by a private contractor whose bid is acceptable to the owner of the structure and verifying the installation; and

(4) Arranging or providing financing for the purchase and installation of approved conservation fixtures, systems, and equipment. The fixtures, systems, and equipment shall be purchased or installed by a private business, the owner, or the utility.

Pay back shall be in the form of incremental additions to the utility bill, billed either together with use charge or separately. Loans shall not exceed one hundred twenty months in length. [1989 c 421 § 5.]

**Intent—Contingent effective date—1989 c 421:** See notes following RCW 35.92.017.

**57.08.160 Authority to assist customers in the acquisition of water conservation equipment—Limitations. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** Any district is hereby authorized, within limits established by the Constitution of the state of Washington, to assist the owners of structures in financing the acquisition and installation of fixtures, systems, and equipment, for compensation or otherwise, for the conservation or more efficient use of water in the structures under a water conservation plan adopted by the district if the cost per unit of water saved or conserved by the use of the fixtures, systems, and equipment is less than the cost per unit of water supplied by the next least costly new water source available to the district to meet future demand. Except where otherwise authorized, assistance shall be limited to:

(1) Providing an inspection of the structure, either directly or through one or more inspectors under contract, to determine and inform the owner of the estimated cost of purchasing and installing conservation fixtures, systems, and equipment for which financial assistance will be approved and the estimated life cycle savings to the water system and the consumer that are likely to result from the installation of the fixtures, systems, or equipment;

(2) Providing a list of businesses that sell and install the fixtures, systems, and equipment within or in close proximity to the service area of the city or town, each of which businesses shall have requested to be included and shall have the ability to provide the products in a workmanlike manner and to utilize the fixtures, systems, and equipment in accordance with the prevailing national standards;

(3) Arranging to have approved conservation fixtures, systems, and equipment installed by a private contractor whose bid is acceptable to the owner of the structure and verifying the installation; and

(4) Arranging or providing financing for the purchase and installation of approved conservation fixtures, systems, and equipment. The fixtures, systems, and equipment shall be purchased or installed by a private business, the owner, or the utility.

Pay back shall be in the form of incremental additions to the utility bill, billed either together with the use charge or separately. Loans shall not exceed one hundred twenty months in length. [1996 c 230 § 324; 1989 c 421 § 5.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**Intent—Contingent effective date—1989 c 421:** See notes following RCW 35.92.017.

**57.08.170 Water conservation plan—Emergency water use restrictions—Fine. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** A water district may adopt a water conservation plan and emergency water use restrictions. The district may enforce a water conservation plan and emergency water use restrictions by imposing a fine as provided by resolution for failure to comply with any such plan or restrictions. The commissioners may provide by resolution that if a fine for failure to comply with the water conservation plan or emergency water use restrictions is delinquent for a specified period of time, the district shall certify the delinquency to the treasurer of the county in which the real property is located and serve notice of the delinquency on the subscribing water customer who fails to comply, and the fine is then a separate item for inclusion on the bill of the party failing to comply with the water conservation plan or emergency water use restrictions. [1991 c 82 § 7.]

**57.08.170 Water conservation plan—Emergency water use restrictions—Fine. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** A district may adopt a water conservation plan and emergency water use restrictions. The district may enforce a water conservation plan and emergency water use restrictions by imposing a fine as provided by resolution for failure to comply with any such plan or restrictions. The commissioners may provide by resolution that if a fine for failure to comply with the water conservation plan or emergency water use restrictions is delinquent for a specified period of time, the district shall certify the delinquency to the treasurer of the county in which the real property is located and serve notice of the delinquency on the subscribing water customer who fails to comply, and the fine is then a separate item for inclusion on the bill of the party failing to comply with the water conservation plan or emergency water use restrictions. [1996 c 230 § 325; 1991 c 82 § 7.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.08.180 Sewer and water connections without district permission—Penalties.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) It is unlawful and a misdemeanor to make, or cause to be made, or to maintain any connection with any sewer or water system of any water district, or with any sewer or water system which is connected directly or indirectly with any sewer or water system of any water district without having permission from the water district. [1995 c 376 § 15; 1991 c 190 § 5.]

**Findings—1995 c 376:** See note following RCW 70.116.060.

**57.08.180 Sewer and water connections without district permission—Penalties.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) It is unlawful and a misdemeanor to make, or cause to be made, or to maintain any connection with any sewer or water system of any district, or with any sewer or water system which is connected directly or indirectly with any sewer or water system of any district without having permission from the district. [1996 c 230 § 322; 1995 c 376 § 15; 1991 c 190 § 5.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**Findings—1995 c 376:** See note following RCW 70.116.060.

## Chapter 57.12

### OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

#### Sections

- 57.12.010 Commissioners—President and secretary—Compensation—Waiver of compensation.
- 57.12.015 Increase in number of commissioners.
- 57.12.020 Vacancies.
- 57.12.030 Conduct of elections—Commissioners, terms.
- 57.12.039 Commissioner districts.
- 57.12.045 Unexcused absences—When position declared vacant—Procedure.

*Redistricting by local governments and municipal corporations—Census information for—Plan, prepared when, criteria for, hearing on, request for review of, certification, remand—Sanctions when review request frivolous: RCW 29.70.100.*

**57.12.010 Commissioners—President and secretary—Compensation—Waiver of compensation.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The governing body of a district shall be a board of water commissioners consisting of three members. The board shall annually elect one of its members as president and another as secretary.

The board shall by resolution adopt rules governing the transaction of its business and shall adopt an official seal. All proceedings shall be by resolution recorded in a book kept for that purpose which shall be a public record.

A district shall provide by resolution for the payment of compensation to each of its commissioners at a rate of fifty dollars for each day or portion thereof devoted to the business of the district: PROVIDED, That the compensation for each commissioner shall not exceed four thousand eight hundred dollars per year. In addition, the secretary may be paid a reasonable sum for clerical services.

Any commissioner may waive all or any portion of his or her compensation payable under this section as to any month or months during his or her term of office, by a written waiver filed with the district as provided in this sec-

tion. The waiver, to be effective, must be filed any time after the commissioner's election and prior to the date on which the compensation would otherwise be paid. The waiver shall specify the month or period of months for which it is made.

No commissioner shall be employed full time by the district. Each commissioner shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses actually incurred in connection with such business, including his subsistence and lodging, while away from the commissioner's place of residence and mileage for use of a privately-owned vehicle at the mileage rate authorized in RCW 43.03.060 as now existing or hereafter amended.

The date for holding elections and taking office as herein provided shall be subject to the provisions of any consolidated election laws that may be made applicable thereto although previously enacted. [1985 c 330 § 6; 1980 c 92 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 116 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 148 § 8; 1959 c 108 § 5; 1959 c 18 § 1; 1945 c 50 § 2; 1929 c 114 § 7; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11585. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 7.]

**Severability—1969 ex.s. c 148:** See note following RCW 56.36.010.

**57.12.010 Commissioners—President and secretary—Compensation—Waiver of compensation.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) The governing body of a district shall be a board of commissioners consisting of three members, or five members as provided in RCW 57.12.015, or more, as provided in the event of merger or consolidation. The board shall annually elect one of its members as president and another as secretary.

The board shall by resolution adopt rules governing the transaction of its business and shall adopt an official seal. All proceedings shall be by resolution recorded in a book kept for that purpose which shall be a public record.

A district shall provide by resolution for the payment of compensation to each of its commissioners at a rate of fifty dollars for each day or portion thereof devoted to the business of the district. However the compensation for each commissioner shall not exceed four thousand eight hundred dollars per year. In addition, the secretary may be paid a reasonable sum for clerical services.

Any commissioner may waive all or any portion of his or her compensation payable under this section as to any month or months during the commissioner's term of office, by a written waiver filed with the district at any time after the commissioner's election and prior to the date on which the compensation would otherwise be paid. The waiver shall specify the month or period of months for which it is made.

No commissioner shall be employed full time by the district. A commissioner shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses actually incurred in connection with district business, including subsistence and lodging while away from the commissioner's place of residence and mileage for use of a privately-owned vehicle at the mileage rate authorized in RCW 43.03.060. [1996 c 230 § 401; 1985 c 330 § 6; 1980 c 92 § 2; 1975 1st ex.s. c 116 § 1; 1969 ex.s. c 148 § 8; 1959 c 108 § 5; 1959 c 18 § 1; 1945 c 50 § 2; 1929 c 114 § 7; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 11585. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 7.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**Severability—1969 ex.s. c 148:** "If any provision of this act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of

the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected." [1969 ex.s. c 148 § 9.]

**57.12.015 Increase in number of commissioners.** *(Effective until July 1, 1997.)* In the event a three-member board of commissioners of any water district with any number of customers determines by resolution that it would be in the best interest of the district to increase the number of commissioners from three to five, or in the event the board of a district with any number of customers is presented with a petition signed by ten percent of the registered voters resident within the district who voted in the last general municipal election calling for an increase in the number of commissioners of the district, the board shall submit a resolution to the county auditor requesting that an election be held. Upon receipt of the resolution, the county auditor shall call a special election to be held within the water district in accordance with RCW 29.13.010 and 29.13.020, at which election a proposition in substantially the following language shall be submitted to the voters:

Shall the Board of Commissioners of (Name and/or No. of water district) be increased from three to five members?  
 Yes . . . . .  
 No . . . . .

If the proposition receives a majority approval at the election the board of commissioners of the water district shall be increased to five members. In any water district with more than ten thousand customers, if a three-member board of commissioners determines by resolution that it would be in the best interest of the district to increase the number of commissioners from three to five, the number of commissioners shall be so increased without an election, unless within ninety days of adoption of that resolution a petition requesting an election and signed by at least ten percent of the registered voters who voted in the last general municipal election is filed with the board. If such a petition is received, the board shall submit the resolution and the petition to the county auditor, who shall call a special election in the manner described in this section and in accordance with the provisions of RCW 29.13.010 and 29.13.020.

The two positions created on boards of water commissioners by this section shall be filled initially either as for a vacancy or by nomination under RCW 57.12.039, except that the appointees or newly elected commissioners shall draw lots, one appointee to serve until the next general water district election after the appointment, at which two commissioners shall be elected for six-year terms, and the other appointee to serve until the second general water district election after the appointment, at which two commissioners shall be elected for six-year terms. [1994 c 223 § 67; 1991 c 190 § 6; 1990 c 259 § 29; 1987 c 449 § 12.]

**57.12.015 Increase in number of commissioners.** *(Effective July 1, 1997.)* (1) In the event a three-member board of commissioners of any district with any number of customers determines by resolution that it would be in the best interest of the district to increase the number of commissioners from three to five, or if the board of a district with any number of customers is presented with a petition signed by ten percent of the registered voters resident within

the district who voted in the last general municipal election calling for an increase in the number of commissioners of the district, the board shall submit a resolution to the county auditor requesting that an election be held. Upon receipt of the resolution, the county auditor shall call a special election to be held within the district, at which election a proposition in substantially the following language shall be submitted to the voters:

Shall the Board of Commissioners of (name and/or number of district) be increased from three to five members?  
 Yes . . . . .  
 No . . . . .

If the proposition receives a majority approval at the election the board of commissioners of the district shall be increased to five members.

(2) In any district with more than ten thousand customers, if a three-member board of commissioners determines by resolution that it would be in the best interest of the district to increase the number of commissioners from three to five, the number of commissioners shall be so increased without an election, unless within ninety days of adoption of that resolution a petition requesting an election and signed by at least ten percent of the registered voters who voted in the last municipal general election is filed with the board. If such a petition is received, the board shall submit the resolution and the petition to the county auditor, who shall call a special election in the manner described in this section.

(3) The two additional positions created on boards of commissioners by this section shall be filled initially as for a vacancy, except that the appointees shall draw lots, one appointee to serve until the next district general election after the appointment, at which two commissioners shall be elected for six-year terms, and the other appointee to serve until the second district general election after the appointment, at which two commissioners shall be elected for six-year terms. [1996 c 230 § 402; 1994 c 223 § 67; 1991 c 190 § 6; 1990 c 259 § 29; 1987 c 449 § 12.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.12.020 Vacancies.** *(Effective until July 1, 1997.)* A vacancy on the board shall occur and shall be filled as provided in chapter 42.12 RCW. [1994 c 223 § 68; 1990 c 259 § 30; 1985 c 141 § 7; 1981 c 169 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 188 § 14; 1959 c 18 § 3. Prior: 1953 c 251 § 4; 1947 c 216 § 1, part; 1945 c 50 § 1, part; 1931 c 72 § 1, part; 1929 c 114 § 6, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 11584, part. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 7, part.]

**Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 188:** See RCW 36.94.921.

**57.12.020 Vacancies.** *(Effective July 1, 1997.)* A vacancy on the board shall occur and shall be filled as provided in chapter 42.12 RCW. In addition, if a commissioner is absent from three consecutive scheduled meetings unless by permission of the board, the office may be declared vacant. However, such an action shall not be taken unless the commissioner is notified by mail after two consecutive unexcused absences that the position will be declared vacant if the commissioner is absent without being

excused from the next regularly scheduled meeting. [1996 c 230 § 405; 1994 c 223 § 68; 1990 c 259 § 30; 1985 c 141 § 7; 1981 c 169 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 188 § 14; 1959 c 18 § 3. Prior: 1953 c 251 § 4; 1947 c 216 § 1, part; 1945 c 50 § 1, part; 1931 c 72 § 1, part; 1929 c 114 § 6, part; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 11584, part. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 7, part.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**Severability—1975 1st ex.s. c 188:** See RCW 36.94.921.

**57.12.030 Conduct of elections—Commissioners, terms. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Water district elections shall be held in accordance with the general election laws of this state.

Except as in this section otherwise provided, the term of office of each water district commissioner shall be six years, such term to be computed from the first day of January following the election, and commissioners shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified and assume office in accordance with RCW 29.04.170.

Three water district commissioners shall be elected at the same election at which the proposition is submitted to the voters as to whether such water district shall be formed. The election of water district commissioners shall be null and void if the ballot proposition to form the water district is not approved. Each candidate shall run for one of three separate commissioner positions. A special filing period shall be opened as provided in RCW 29.15.170 and 29.15.180. The person receiving the greatest number of votes for each position shall be elected to that position.

The newly elected water district commissioners shall assume office immediately when they are elected and qualified. Staggering of the terms of office for the new water district commissioners shall be accomplished as follows: (1) The person who is elected receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected to a six-year term of office if the election is held in an odd-numbered year or a five-year term of office if the election is held in an even-numbered year; (2) the person who is elected receiving the next greatest number of votes shall be elected to a four-year term of office if the election is held in an odd-numbered year or a three-year term of office if the election is held in an even-numbered year; and (3) the other person who is elected shall be elected to a two-year term of office if the election is held in an odd-numbered year or a one-year term of office if the election is held in an even-numbered year. The terms of office shall be calculated from the first day of January after the election.

Thereafter, commissioners shall be elected to six-year terms of office. Commissioners shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified and assume office in accordance with RCW 29.04.170. [1994 c 223 § 69; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 14; 1979 ex.s. c 126 § 39; 1959 c 18 § 4. Prior: 1947 c 216 § 1; 1945 c 50 § 1; 1931 c 72 § 1; 1929 c 114 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 11584. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 7.]

**Purpose—1979 ex.s. c 126:** See RCW 29.04.170(1).

*Terms and compensation of county and district officers: State Constitution Art. 11 § 5.*

*Time of holding election for district officers: State Constitution Art. 6 § 8.*

**57.12.030 Commissioners—Terms. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** Except as in this section otherwise provided, the term of office of each district commissioner shall be six years, such term to be computed from the first day of January following the election, and commissioners shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified and assume office in accordance with RCW 29.04.170.

Three initial district commissioners shall be elected at the same election at which the proposition is submitted to the voters as to whether such district shall be formed. The election of initial district commissioners shall be null and void if the ballot proposition to form the district is not approved. Each candidate shall run for one of three separate commissioner positions. A special filing period shall be opened as provided in RCW 29.15.170 and 29.15.180. The person receiving the greatest number of votes for each position shall be elected to that position.

The initial district commissioners shall assume office immediately when they are elected and qualified. Staggering of the terms of office for the initial district commissioners shall be accomplished as follows: (1) The person who is elected receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected to a six-year term of office if the election is held in an odd-numbered year or a five-year term of office if the election is held in an even-numbered year; (2) the person who is elected receiving the next greatest number of votes shall be elected to a four-year term of office if the election is held in an odd-numbered year or a three-year term of office if the election is held in an even-numbered year; and (3) the other person who is elected shall be elected to a two-year term of office if the election is held in an odd-numbered year or a one-year term of office if the election is held in an even-numbered year. The terms of office shall be calculated from the first day of January after the election.

Thereafter, commissioners shall be elected to six-year terms of office. Commissioners shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified and assume office in accordance with RCW 29.04.170. [1996 c 230 § 403; 1994 c 223 § 69; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 14; 1979 ex.s. c 126 § 39; 1959 c 18 § 4. Prior: 1947 c 216 § 1; 1945 c 50 § 1; 1931 c 72 § 1; 1929 c 114 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 11584. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 7.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**Purpose—1979 ex.s. c 126:** See RCW 29.04.170(1).

*Terms and compensation of county and district officers: State Constitution Art. 11 § 5.*

*Time of holding election for district officers: State Constitution Art. 6 § 8.*

**57.12.039 Commissioner districts. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** (1) Notwithstanding RCW 57.12.020 and 57.12.030, the board of commissioners may provide by majority vote that subsequent commissioners be elected from commissioner districts within the district. If the board exercises this option, it shall divide the district into three, or five if the number of commissioners has been increased under RCW 57.12.015, commissioner districts of approximately equal population following current precinct and district boundaries.

(2) Commissioner districts shall be used as follows: (a) Only a registered voter who resides in a commissioner district may be a candidate for, or serve as, a commissioner

of the commissioner district; and (b) only voters of a commissioner district may vote at a primary to nominate candidates for a commissioner of the commissioner district. Voters of the entire water district may vote at a general election to elect a person as a commissioner of the commissioner district. Commissioner districts shall be redrawn as provided in chapter 29.70 RCW.

(3) In water districts in which commissioners are nominated from commissioner districts, at the inception of a five-member board of commissioners, the new commissioner districts shall be numbered one through five and the three incumbent commissioners shall represent commissioner districts one through three. If, as a result of redrawing the district boundaries two or three of the incumbent commissioners reside in one of the new commissioner districts, the commissioners who reside in the same commissioner district shall determine by lot which of the first three numbered commissioner districts they shall represent for the remainder of their respective terms. A primary shall be held to nominate candidates from districts four and five where necessary and commissioners shall be elected at large at the general election. The persons elected as commissioners from commissioner districts four and five shall take office immediately after qualification as defined under RCW 29.01.135. [1994 c 223 § 70; 1986 c 41 § 2.]

**57.12.039 Commissioner districts.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) (1) Notwithstanding RCW 57.12.020 and 57.12.030, the board of commissioners may provide by majority vote that subsequent commissioners be elected from commissioner districts within the district. If the board exercises this option, it shall divide the district into three, or five if the number of commissioners has been increased under RCW 57.12.015, commissioner districts of approximately equal population following current precinct and district boundaries.

(2) Commissioner districts shall be used as follows: (a) Only a registered voter who resides in a commissioner district may be a candidate for, or serve as, a commissioner of the commissioner district; and (b) only voters of a commissioner district may vote at a primary to nominate candidates for a commissioner of the commissioner district. Voters of the entire district may vote at a general election to elect a person as a commissioner of the commissioner district. Commissioner districts shall be redrawn as provided in chapter 29.70 RCW.

(3) In districts in which commissioners are nominated from commissioner districts, at the inception of a five-member board of commissioners, the new commissioner districts shall be numbered one through five and the three incumbent commissioners shall represent commissioner districts one through three. If, as a result of redrawing the district boundaries two or three of the incumbent commissioners reside in one of the new commissioner districts, the commissioners who reside in the same commissioner district shall determine by lot which of the first three numbered commissioner districts they shall represent for the remainder of their respective terms. A primary shall be held to nominate candidates from districts four and five where necessary and commissioners shall be elected at large at the general election. The persons elected as commissioners from commissioner districts four and five shall take office

immediately after qualification as defined under RCW 29.01.135. [1996 c 230 § 404; 1994 c 223 § 70; 1986 c 41 § 2.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.12.045 Unexcused absences—When position declared vacant—Procedure.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) If a water commissioner is absent from three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings unless by provision of the board, the office may be declared vacant by the board of commissioners and the vacancy shall then be filled as provided for in this chapter. However, such an action shall not be taken unless the commissioner is notified by mail after two consecutive unexcused absences that the position will be declared vacant if the commissioner is absent without being excused from the next regularly scheduled meeting. [1987 c 449 § 13.]

## Chapter 57.16

### COMPREHENSIVE PLAN—LOCAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

#### Sections

- 57.16.010 General comprehensive plan of improvements—Approval of engineer, director of health, and city, town, or county—Amendments.
- 57.16.015 Expenditures before plan adopted and approved.
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- 57.16.150 Foreclosure of assessments—Attorneys' fees.

*Deferral of special assessments: Chapter 84.38 RCW.*

*Local improvements, supplemental authority: Chapter 35.51 RCW.*

**57.16.010 General comprehensive plan of improvements—Approval of engineer, director of health, and city, town, or county—Amendments.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The water district commissioners before ordering any improvements hereunder or submitting to vote any proposition for incurring any indebtedness shall adopt a general comprehensive plan of water supply for the district. They shall investigate the several portions and sections of

the district for the purpose of determining the present and reasonably foreseeable future needs thereof; shall examine and investigate, determine and select a water supply or water supplies for such district suitable and adequate for present and reasonably foreseeable future needs thereof; and shall consider and determine a general system or plan for acquiring such water supply or water supplies; and the lands, waters and water rights and easements necessary therefor, and for retaining and storing any such waters, erecting dams, reservoirs, aqueducts and pipe lines to convey the same throughout such district. There may be included as part of the system the installation of fire hydrants at suitable places throughout the district, and the purchase and maintenance of necessary fire fighting equipment and apparatus, together with facilities for housing same. The water district commissioners shall determine a general comprehensive plan for distributing such water throughout such portion of the district as may then reasonably be served by means of subsidiary aqueducts and pipe lines, and the method of distributing the cost and expense thereof against such water district and against local improvement districts or utility local improvement districts within such water district for any lawful purpose, and including any such local improvement district or utility local improvement district lying wholly or partially within the limits of any city or town in such district, and shall determine whether the whole or part of the cost and expenses shall be paid from water revenue bonds. After July 23, 1989, when the district adopts a general comprehensive plan or plans for an area annexed as provided for in RCW 57.16.010, the district shall include a long-term plan for financing the planned projects. The commissioners may employ such engineering and legal service as in their discretion is necessary in carrying out their duties.

The general comprehensive plan shall be adopted by resolution and submitted to an engineer designated by the legislative authority of the county in which fifty-one percent or more of the area of the district is located, and to the director of health of the county in which the district or any portion thereof is located, and must be approved in writing by the engineer and director of health. The general comprehensive plan shall be approved, conditionally approved, or rejected by the director of health within sixty days of the plan's receipt and by the designated engineer within sixty days of the plan's receipt. However, this sixty-day time limitation may be extended by the director of health or engineer for up to an additional sixty days if sufficient time is not available to review adequately the general comprehensive plans.

Before becoming effective, the general comprehensive plan shall also be submitted to, and approved by resolution of, the legislative authority of every county within whose boundaries all or a portion of the water district lies. The general comprehensive plan shall be approved, conditionally approved, or rejected by each of these county legislative authorities pursuant to the criteria in RCW 57.02.040 for approving the formation, reorganization, annexation, consolidation, or merger of water districts, and the resolution, ordinance, or motion of the legislative body which rejects the comprehensive plan or a part thereof shall specifically state in what particular the comprehensive plan or part thereof rejected fails to meet these criteria. The general comprehensive plan shall not provide for the extension or location of

facilities that are inconsistent with the requirements of RCW 36.70A.110. Nothing in this chapter shall preclude a county from rejecting a proposed plan because it is in conflict with the criteria in RCW 57.02.040. Each general comprehensive plan shall be deemed approved if the county legislative authority fails to reject or conditionally approve the plan within ninety days of the plan's submission to the county legislative authority or within thirty days of a hearing on the plan when the hearing is held within ninety days of submission to the county legislative authority. However, a county legislative authority may extend this ninety-day time limitation by up to an additional ninety days where a finding is made that ninety days is insufficient to review adequately the general comprehensive plan. In addition, the water commissioners and the county legislative authority may mutually agree to an extension of the deadlines in this section.

If the district includes portions or all of one or more cities or towns, the general comprehensive plan shall be submitted also to, and approved by resolution of, the governing bodies of such cities and towns before becoming effective. The general comprehensive plan shall be deemed approved by the city or town governing body if the city or town governing body fails to reject or conditionally approve the plan within ninety days of the plan's submission to the city or town or within thirty days of a hearing on the plan when the hearing is held within ninety days of submission to the county legislative authority. However, a city or town governing body may extend this time limitation by up to an additional ninety days where a finding is made that insufficient time exists to adequately review the general comprehensive plan within these time limitations. In addition, the sewer [water] commissioners and the city or town governing body may mutually agree to an extension of the deadlines in this section.

Before becoming effective, any amendment to, alteration of, or addition to, a general comprehensive plan shall also be subject to such approval as if it were a new general comprehensive plan: PROVIDED, That only if the amendment, alteration, or addition affects a particular city or town, shall the amendment, alteration or addition be subject to approval by such particular city or town governing body. [1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 35; 1989 c 389 § 10; 1982 c 213 § 2; 1979 c 23 § 2; 1977 ex.s. c 299 § 3; 1959 c 108 § 6; 1959 c 18 § 6. Prior: 1939 c 128 § 2, part; 1937 c 177 § 1; 1929 c 114 § 10, part; RRS § 11588. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 10.]

Severability—Part, section headings not law—1990 1st ex.s. c 17: See RCW 36.70A.900 and 36.70A.901.

**57.16.010 General comprehensive plans for improvements—Approval of engineer, director of health, and city, town, or county—Amendments.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) Before ordering any improvements or submitting to vote any proposition for incurring any indebtedness, the district commissioners shall adopt a general comprehensive plan for the type or types of facilities the district proposes to provide. A district may prepare a separate general comprehensive plan for each of these services and other services that districts are permitted to provide, or the district may combine any or all of its comprehensive plans into a single general comprehensive plan.

(1) For a general comprehensive plan of a water supply system, the commissioners shall investigate the several



portions and sections of the district for the purpose of determining the present and reasonably foreseeable future needs thereof; shall examine and investigate, determine, and select a water supply or water supplies for such district suitable and adequate for present and reasonably foreseeable future needs thereof; and shall consider and determine a general system or plan for acquiring such water supply or water supplies, and the lands, waters, and water rights and easements necessary therefor, and for retaining and storing any such waters, and erecting dams, reservoirs, aqueducts, and pipe lines to convey the same throughout such district. There may be included as part of the system the installation of fire hydrants at suitable places throughout the district. The commissioners shall determine a general comprehensive plan for distributing such water throughout such portion of the district as may then reasonably be served by means of subsidiary aqueducts and pipe lines, and a long-term plan for financing the planned projects and the method of distributing the cost and expense thereof, including the creation of local improvement districts or utility local improvement districts, and shall determine whether the whole or part of the cost and expenses shall be paid from revenue or general obligation bonds.

(2) For a general comprehensive plan for a sewer system, the commissioners shall investigate all portions and sections of the district and select a general comprehensive plan for a sewer system for the district suitable and adequate for present and reasonably foreseeable future needs thereof. The general comprehensive plan shall provide for treatment plants and other methods for the disposal of sewage and industrial and other liquid wastes now produced or which may reasonably be expected to be produced within the district and shall, for such portions of the district as may then reasonably be served, provide for the acquisition or construction and installation of laterals, trunk sewers, intercepting sewers, syphons, pumping stations or other sewage collection facilities, septic tanks, septic tank systems or drainfields, and systems for the transmission and treatment of wastewater. The general comprehensive plan shall provide a long-term plan for financing the planned projects and the method of distributing the cost and expense of the sewer system, including the creation of local improvement districts or utility local improvement districts; and provide whether the whole or some part of the cost and expenses shall be paid from revenue or general obligation bonds.

(3) For a general comprehensive plan for a drainage system, the commissioners shall investigate all portions and sections of the district and adopt a general comprehensive plan for a drainage system for the district suitable and adequate for present and future needs thereof. The general comprehensive plan shall provide for a system to collect, treat, and dispose of storm water or surface waters, including use of natural systems and the construction or provision of culverts, storm water pipes, ponds, and other systems. The general comprehensive plan shall provide for a long-term plan for financing the planned projects and provide for a method of distributing the cost and expense of the drainage system, including local improvement districts or utility local improvement districts, and provide whether the whole or some part of the cost and expenses shall be paid from revenue or general obligation bonds.

(4) For a general comprehensive plan for street lighting, the commissioners shall investigate all portions and sections of the district and adopt a general comprehensive plan for street lighting for the district suitable and adequate for present and future needs thereof. The general comprehensive plan shall provide for a system or systems of street lighting, provide for a long-term plan for financing the planned projects, and provide for a method of distributing the cost and expense of the street lighting system, including local improvement districts or utility local improvement districts, and provide whether the whole or some part of the cost and expenses shall be paid from revenue or general obligation bonds.

(5) The commissioners may employ such engineering and legal service as in their discretion is necessary in carrying out their duties.

(6) Any general comprehensive plan or plans shall be adopted by resolution and submitted to an engineer designated by the legislative authority of the county in which fifty-one percent or more of the area of the district is located, and to the director of health of the county in which the district or any portion thereof is located, and must be approved in writing by the engineer and director of health, except that a comprehensive plan relating to street lighting shall not be submitted to or approved by the director of health. The general comprehensive plan shall be approved, conditionally approved, or rejected by the director of health and by the designated engineer within sixty days of their respective receipt of the plan. However, this sixty-day time limitation may be extended by the director of health or engineer for up to an additional sixty days if sufficient time is not available to review adequately the general comprehensive plans.

Before becoming effective, the general comprehensive plan shall also be submitted to, and approved by resolution of, the legislative authority of every county within whose boundaries all or a portion of the district lies. The general comprehensive plan shall be approved, conditionally approved, or rejected by each of the county legislative authorities pursuant to the criteria in RCW 57.02.040 for approving the formation, reorganization, annexation, consolidation, or merger of districts. The resolution, ordinance, or motion of the legislative body that rejects the comprehensive plan or a part thereof shall specifically state in what particular the comprehensive plan or part thereof rejected fails to meet these criteria. The general comprehensive plan shall not provide for the extension or location of facilities that are inconsistent with the requirements of RCW 36.70A.110. Nothing in this chapter shall preclude a county from rejecting a proposed plan because it is in conflict with the criteria in RCW 57.02.040. Each general comprehensive plan shall be deemed approved if the county legislative authority fails to reject or conditionally approve the plan within ninety days of the plan's submission to the county legislative authority or within thirty days of a hearing on the plan when the hearing is held within ninety days of submission to the county legislative authority. However, a county legislative authority may extend this ninety-day time limitation by up to an additional ninety days where a finding is made that ninety days is insufficient to review adequately the general comprehensive plan. In addition, the commissioners and the county legislative authority may mutually agree to an extension of the deadlines in this section.

If the district includes portions or all of one or more cities or towns, the general comprehensive plan shall be submitted also to, and approved by resolution of, the legislative authorities of the cities and towns before becoming effective. The general comprehensive plan shall be deemed approved by the city or town legislative authority if the city or town legislative authority fails to reject or conditionally approve the plan within ninety days of the plan's submission to the city or town or within thirty days of a hearing on the plan when the hearing is held within ninety days of submission to the county legislative authority. However, a city or town legislative authority may extend this time limitation by up to an additional ninety days where a finding is made that insufficient time exists to adequately review the general comprehensive plan within these time limitations. In addition, the commissioners and the city or town legislative authority may mutually agree to an extension of the deadlines in this section.

Before becoming effective, the general comprehensive plan shall be approved by any state agency whose approval may be required by applicable law. Before becoming effective, any amendment to, alteration of, or addition to, a general comprehensive plan shall also be subject to such approval as if it were a new general comprehensive plan. However, only if the amendment, alteration, or addition affects a particular city or town, shall the amendment, alteration, or addition be subject to approval by such particular city or town governing body. [1996 c 230 § 501; 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 § 35; 1989 c 389 § 10; 1982 c 213 § 2; 1979 c 23 § 2; 1977 ex.s. c 299 § 3; 1959 c 108 § 6; 1959 c 18 § 6. Prior: 1939 c 128 § 2, part; 1937 c 177 § 1; 1929 c 114 § 10, part; RRS § 11588. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 10.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**Severability—Part, section headings not law—1990 1st ex.s. c 17:** See RCW 36.70A.900 and 36.70A.901.

**57.16.015 Expenditures before plan adopted and approved. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** No expenditure for carrying on any part of a general comprehensive plan shall be made other than the necessary salaries of engineers, clerical, office expenses, and other professional expenses of the district, and the cost of engineering, surveying, preparation, and collection of data necessary for making and adopting a general plan of improvements in the district, until the general comprehensive plan of improvements has been adopted by the commissioners and approved as provided in RCW 57.16.010. [1996 c 230 § 502; 1953 c 250 § 5; 1941 c 210 § 12; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 9425-21. Formerly RCW 56.08.030.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.16.020 Vote on general indebtedness. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** The commissioners may submit to the voters of the district at any general or special election, a proposition that the district incur a general indebtedness payable from annual tax levies to be made in excess of the constitutional and/or statutory tax limitations for the construction of any part or all of the general comprehensive plan. Elections shall be held as provided in RCW 39.36.050. The proposition authorizing both the bond issue and imposi-

tion of excess bond retirement levies shall be adopted by three-fifths of the voters voting thereon, at which election the total number of persons voting on the proposition shall constitute not less than forty percent of the total number of votes cast in the water district at the last preceding general election. Such bonds shall not be issued to run for a period longer than twenty years from the date of the issue. Such bonds shall be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. When the general comprehensive plan has been adopted the commissioners shall carry it out to the extent specified in the proposition to incur general indebtedness. [1984 c 186 § 51; 1974 ex.s. c 31 § 1. Prior: 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 69; 1959 c 108 § 7; 1959 c 18 § 7; prior: 1953 c 251 § 5; 1951 2nd ex.s. c 25 § 1; 1939 c 128 § 2, part; 1937 c 177 § 1, part; 1929 c 114 § 10, part; RRS § 11588, part. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 10, part.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

**Severability—Effective dates and termination dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

**Limitation on**

*levies: State Constitution Art. 7 § 2; RCW 84.52.010, 84.52.050 through 84.52.056.*

*municipal corporation indebtedness: State Constitution Art. 8 § 6.*

**57.16.030 Revenue bonds authorized—Use. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** (1) The commissioners may, without submitting a proposition to the voters, authorize by resolution the district to issue revenue bonds for the construction costs, interest during the period of construction and six months thereafter, working capital or other costs of any part or all of the general comprehensive plan or for other purposes or functions of a water district authorized by statute. The amount of the bonds to be issued shall be included in the resolution submitted.

Any resolution authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds may include provision for refunding any local improvement district bonds of a district, out of the proceeds of sale of revenue bonds, and a district may pay off any outstanding local improvement bonds with such funds either by purchase in the open market below their par value and accrued interest or by call at par value and accrued interest at the next succeeding interest payment date. The bonds may be in any form, including bearer bonds or registered bonds as provided by RCW 39.46.030.

When a resolution authorizing revenue bonds has been adopted the commissioners may forthwith carry out the general comprehensive plan to the extent specified.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1987 c 449 § 14; 1983 c 167 § 160; 1977 ex.s. c 299 § 4; 1959 c 108 § 8; 1959 c 18 § 8. Prior: 1953 c 251 § 6; 1951 c 112 § 1; 1939 c 128 § 2, part; 1937 c 177 § 1, part; 1929 c 114 § 10, part; RRS § 11588, part. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 10, part.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**57.16.035 Additional revenue bonds for increased cost of improvements. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Whenever a water district shall have adopted a general comprehensive plan and bonds to defray the cost thereof shall have been authorized by resolution of the board of

water commissioners, and before the completion of the improvements the board of water commissioners shall find by resolution that the authorized bonds are not sufficient to defray the cost of such improvements due to the increase of costs of construction subsequent to the adoption of said plan, the board of water commissioners may by resolution authorize the issuance and sale of additional water revenue bonds for such purpose in excess of those previously issued. [1977 ex.s. c 299 § 5; 1959 c 108 § 10.]

**57.16.040 Additions and betterments.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) In the same manner as provided for the adoption of the original general comprehensive plan, a plan providing for additions and betterments to the original general comprehensive plan may be adopted. Without limiting its generality "additions and betterments" shall include any necessary change in, amendment of or addition to the general comprehensive plan.

The district may incur a general indebtedness payable from annual tax levies to be made in excess of the constitutional and/or statutory tax limitations for the construction of the additions and betterments in the same way that general indebtedness may be incurred for the construction of the original general comprehensive plan after submission to the voters of the entire district in the manner the original proposition to incur indebtedness was submitted as provided in RCW 57.16.020. Upon ratification the additions and betterments may be carried out by the commissioners to the extent specified or referred to in the proposition to incur the general indebtedness.

The district may issue revenue bonds to pay for the construction of the additions and the betterments pursuant to resolution of the board of water commissioners. [1984 c 186 § 52; 1977 ex.s. c 299 § 6; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 70; 1959 c 108 § 9; 1959 c 18 § 9. Prior: 1953 c 251 § 7; 1951 2nd ex.s. c 25 § 2; 1951 c 112 § 2; 1939 c 128 § 2, part; 1937 c 177 § 1, part; 1929 c 114 § 10, part; RRS § 11588, part. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 10, part.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

**Severability—Effective dates and termination dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

**57.16.045 Additions and betterments—Annexed areas.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) Whenever an area has been annexed to a district after the adoption of a general comprehensive plan, the commissioners shall adopt by resolution a plan for additions and betterments to the original comprehensive plan to provide for the needs of the area annexed. [1996 c 230 § 503.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.16.050 Districts authorized—Special assessments—Bonds.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) (1) A district may establish local improvement districts within its territory; levy special assessments under the mode of annual installments extending over a period not exceeding twenty years, on all property specially benefited by a local improvement, on the basis of special benefits to pay in whole or in part the damage or costs of any improvements ordered in the district; and issue local improvement bonds in the local

improvement district to be repaid by the collection of special assessments. Such bonds may be of any form, including bearer bonds or registered bonds as provided in RCW 39.46.030. The levying, collection and enforcement of such special assessments and issuance of bonds shall be as provided for the levying, collection, and enforcement of special assessments and the issuance of local improvement district bonds by cities and towns insofar as consistent herewith. The duties devolving upon the city or town treasurer are hereby imposed upon the county treasurer of the county in which the real property is located for the purposes hereof. The mode of assessment shall be determined by the water commissioners by resolution. When in the petition or resolution for the establishment of a local improvement district, and in the approved comprehensive plan or approved amendment thereto or plan providing for additions and betterments to the original plan, previously adopted, it is provided that, except as set forth in this section, the special assessments shall be for the sole purpose of payment into the revenue bond fund for the payment of revenue bonds, then the local improvement district shall be designated as a "utility local improvement district." No warrants or bonds shall be issued in a utility local improvement district, but the collection of interest and principal on all special assessments in the utility local improvement district shall be paid into the revenue bond fund, except that special assessments paid before the issuance and sale of bonds may be deposited in a fund for the payment of costs of improvements in the utility local improvement district.

(2) Such bonds may also be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1987 c 169 § 2; 1983 c 167 § 161; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 15; 1953 c 251 § 13; 1939 c 128 § 1; 1929 c 114 § 9; RRS § 11587. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 9.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

*Assessments and charges against state lands:* Chapter 79.44 RCW.

*Local improvement bonds:* Chapter 35.45 RCW.

**57.16.050 Districts authorized—Special assessments—Bonds.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) (1) A district may establish local improvement districts within its territory; levy special assessments and allow annual installments on the special assessments, together with interest thereon, extending over a period not exceeding twenty years, on all property specially benefited by a local improvement, on the basis of special benefits to pay in whole or in part the damage or costs of any improvements ordered in the district; and issue local improvement bonds in the local improvement district to be repaid by the collection of special assessments. The bonds may be of any form, including bearer bonds or registered bonds as provided in RCW 39.46.030. The levying, collection, and enforcement of special assessments and the issuance of bonds shall be as provided for the levying, collection, and enforcement of special assessments and the issuance of local improvement district bonds by cities and towns insofar as is consistent with this title. The duties devolving upon the city or town treasurer are imposed upon the county treasurer of the county in which the real property is located for the purposes hereof. The mode of

assessment shall be determined by the commissioners by resolution.

(2) A district may establish a utility local improvement district, in lieu of a local improvement district, if the petition or resolution for establishing the local improvement district, and the approved comprehensive plan or approved amendment thereto or plan providing for additions and betterments to the original plan, previously adopted, provides that, except as set forth in this section, the special assessments shall be for the purpose of payment of improvements and payment into the revenue bond fund for the payment of revenue bonds. No warrants or bonds shall be issued in a utility local improvement district, but the collection of interest and principal on all special assessments in the utility local improvement district shall be paid into the revenue bond fund, except that special assessments paid before the issuance and sale of bonds may be deposited in a fund for the payment of costs of improvements in the utility local improvement district. Revenue bonds shall be issued using the procedures by which cities and towns issue revenue bonds, insofar as is consistent with this title.

Such revenue bonds may also be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1996 c 230 § 601; 1987 c 169 § 2; 1983 c 167 § 161; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 15; 1953 c 251 § 13; 1939 c 128 § 1; 1929 c 114 § 9; RRS § 11587. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 9.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

*Assessments and charges against state lands:* Chapter 79.44 RCW.

*Local improvement bonds:* Chapter 35.45 RCW.

**57.16.060 Resolution or petition to form district—Procedure—Written protest—Notice—Appeal—Improvement ordered—Divestment of power to order.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Local improvement districts or utility local improvement districts to carry out the whole or any portion of the general comprehensive plan of improvements or plan providing for additions and betterments to the original general comprehensive plan previously adopted may be initiated either by resolution of the board of water commissioners or by petition signed by the owners according to the records of the office of the applicable county auditor of at least fifty-one percent of the area of the land within the limits of the local improvement district to be created.

In case the board of water commissioners desires to initiate the formation of a local improvement district or a utility local improvement district by resolution, it shall first pass a resolution declaring its intention to order such improvement, setting forth the nature and territorial extent of such proposed improvement, designating the number of the proposed local improvement district or utility local improvement district, and describing the boundaries thereof, stating the estimated cost and expense of the improvement and the proportionate amount thereof which will be borne by the property within the proposed district, and fixing a date, time, and place for a public hearing on the formation of the proposed local district.

In case any such local improvement district or utility local improvement district is initiated by petition, such

petition shall set forth the nature and territorial extent of the proposed improvement requested to be ordered and the fact that the signers thereof are the owners according to the records of the applicable county auditor of at least fifty-one percent of the area of land within the limits of the local improvement district or utility local improvement district to be created. Upon the filing of such petition the board shall determine whether the petition is sufficient, and the board's determination thereof shall be conclusive upon all persons. No person may withdraw his or her name from the petition after it has been filed with the board of water commissioners. If the board finds the petition to be sufficient, it shall proceed to adopt a resolution declaring its intention to order the improvement petitioned for, setting forth the nature and territorial extent of the improvement, designating the number of the proposed local district and describing the boundaries thereof, stating the estimated cost and expense of the improvement and the proportionate amount thereof which will be borne by the property within the proposed local district, and fixing a date, time, and place for a public hearing on the formation of the proposed local district.

Notice of the adoption of the resolution of intention, whether the resolution was adopted on the initiative of the board or pursuant to a petition of the property owners, shall be published in at least two consecutive issues of a newspaper of general circulation in the proposed local district, the date of the first publication to be at least fifteen days prior to the date fixed by such resolution for hearing before the board of water commissioners. Notice of the adoption of the resolution of intention shall also be given each owner or reputed owner of any lot, tract, parcel of land, or other property within the proposed improvement district by mailing the notice at least fifteen days before the date fixed for the public hearing to the owner or reputed owner of the property as shown on the tax rolls of the county treasurer of the county in which the real property is located at the address shown thereon. Whenever such notices are mailed, the water commissioners shall maintain a list of such reputed property owners, which list shall be kept on file at a location within the water district and shall be made available for public perusal. The notices shall refer to the resolution of intention and designate the proposed improvement district by number. The notices shall also set forth the nature of the proposed improvement, the total estimated cost, the proportion of total cost to be borne by assessments, the date, time, and place of the hearing before the board of water commissioners. In the case of improvements initiated by resolution, the notice shall also: (1) State that all persons desiring to object to the formation of the proposed district must file their written protests with the secretary of the board of water commissioners no later than ten days after the public hearing; (2) state that if owners of at least forty percent of the area of land within the proposed district file written protests with the secretary of the board, the power of the water commissioners to proceed with the creation of the proposed district shall be divested; (3) provide the name and address of the secretary of the board; and (4) state the hours and location within the water district where the names of the property owners within the proposed district are kept available for public perusal. In the case of the notice given each owner or reputed owner by mail, the notice shall set forth the estimated amount of the cost and expense of such

improvement to be borne by the particular lot, tract, parcel of land, or other property.

Whether the improvement is initiated by petition or resolution, the board shall conduct a public hearing at the time and place designated in the notice to property owners. At this hearing the board shall hear objections from any person affected by the formation of the local district and may make such changes in the boundaries of the district or such modifications in the plans for the proposed improvement as shall be deemed necessary. The board may not change the boundaries of the district to include property not previously included in it without first passing a new resolution of intention and giving a new notice to property owners in the manner and form and within the time provided in this chapter for the original notice.

After the hearing and the expiration of the ten-day period for filing written protests, the commissioners shall have jurisdiction to overrule protests and proceed with any such improvement initiated by petition or resolution. The jurisdiction of the commissioners to proceed with any improvement initiated by resolution shall be divested by protests filed with the secretary of the board no later than ten days after the hearing, signed by the owners, according to the records of the applicable county auditor, of at least forty percent of the area of land within the proposed local district.

If the commissioners find that the district should be formed, they shall by resolution form the district and order the improvement. After execution of the resolution forming the district, the secretary of the board of commissioners shall publish, in a legal publication that serves the area subject to the district, a notice setting forth that a resolution has been passed forming the district and that a lawsuit challenging the jurisdiction or authority of the water district to proceed with the improvement and creating the district must be filed, and notice to the water district served, within thirty days of the publication of the notice. The notice shall set forth the nature of the appeal. Property owners bringing the appeal shall follow the procedures as set forth under appeal under RCW 57.16.090. Whenever a resolution forming a district has been adopted, the formation is conclusive in all things upon all parties, and cannot be contested or questioned in any manner in any proceeding whatsoever by any person not commencing a lawsuit in the manner and within the time provided in this section, except for lawsuits made under RCW 57.16.090.

Following an appeal, if it is unsuccessful or if no appeal is made under RCW 57.16.090, the commissioners may proceed with the improvement and provide the general funds of the water district to be applied thereto, adopt detailed plans of the local improvement district or utility local improvement district and declare the estimated cost thereof, acquire all necessary land therefor, pay all damages caused thereby, and commence in the name of the water district such eminent domain proceedings as may be necessary to entitle the district to proceed with the work. The board shall thereupon proceed with the work and file with the county treasurer of the county in which the real property is located its roll levying special assessments in the amount to be paid by special assessment against the property situated within the improvement district in proportion to the special benefits to be derived by the property therein from the improvement. [1991 c 190 § 7; 1986 c 256 § 3; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 16;

1977 ex.s. c 299 § 7; 1965 ex.s. c 39 § 1; 1959 c 18 § 11. Prior: 1953 c 251 § 14; 1929 c 114 § 12, part; RRS § 11590, part. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 12, part.]

**57.16.060 Resolution or petition to form district—Procedure—Written protest—Notice.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) Local improvement districts or utility local improvement districts to carry out the whole or any portion of the general comprehensive plan of improvements or plan providing for additions and betterments to an original general comprehensive plan previously adopted may be initiated either by resolution of the board of commissioners or by petition signed by the owners according to the records of the office of the applicable county auditor of at least fifty-one percent of the area of the land within the limits of the improvement district to be created.

In case the board of commissioners desires to initiate the formation of an improvement district by resolution, it first shall pass a resolution declaring its intention to order the improvement, setting forth the nature and territorial extent of such proposed improvement, designating the number of the proposed improvement district, and describing the boundaries thereof, stating the estimated cost and expense of the improvement and the proportionate amount thereof which will be borne by the property within the proposed improvement district, and fixing a date, time, and place for a public hearing on the formation of the proposed improvement district.

In case any such improvement district is initiated by petition, the petition shall set forth the nature and territorial extent of the proposed improvement requested to be ordered and the fact that the signers thereof are the owners according to the records of the applicable county auditor of at least fifty-one percent of the area of land within the limits of the improvement district to be created. Upon the filing of such petition the board shall determine whether the petition is sufficient, and the board's determination thereof shall be conclusive upon all persons. No person may withdraw his or her name from the petition after it has been filed with the board of commissioners. If the board finds the petition to be sufficient, it shall proceed to adopt a resolution declaring its intention to order the improvement petitioned for, setting forth the nature and territorial extent of the improvement, designating the number of the proposed improvement district and describing the boundaries thereof, stating the estimated cost and expense of the improvement and the proportionate amount thereof which will be borne by the property within the proposed improvement district, and fixing a date, time, and place for a public hearing on the formation of the proposed improvement district.

Notice of the adoption of the resolution of intention, whether the resolution was adopted on the initiative of the board or pursuant to a petition of the property owners, shall be published in at least two consecutive issues of a newspaper of general circulation in the proposed improvement district, the date of the first publication to be at least fifteen days prior to the date fixed by such resolution for hearing before the board of commissioners. Notice of the adoption of the resolution of intention shall also be given each owner or reputed owner of any lot, tract, parcel of land, or other property within the proposed improvement district by

mailing the notice at least fifteen days before the date fixed for the public hearing to the owner or reputed owner of the property as shown on the tax rolls of the county auditor of the county in which the real property is located at the address shown thereon. Whenever such notices are mailed, the commissioners shall maintain a list of the reputed property owners, which list shall be kept on file at a location within the district and shall be made available for public perusal. The notices shall refer to the resolution of intention and designate the proposed improvement district by number. The notices also shall set forth the nature of the proposed improvement, the total estimated cost, the proportion of total cost to be borne by assessments, and the date, time, and place of the hearing before the board of commissioners. In the case of improvements initiated by resolution, the notice also shall: (1) State that all persons desiring to object to the formation of the proposed district must file their written protests with the secretary of the board of commissioners no later than ten days after the public hearing; (2) state that if owners of at least forty percent of the area of land within the proposed improvement district file written protests with the secretary of the board, the power of the commissioners to proceed with the creation of the proposed improvement district shall be divested; (3) provide the name and address of the secretary of the board; and (4) state the hours and location within the district where the names of the property owners within the proposed improvement district are kept available for public perusal. In the case of the notice given each owner or reputed owner by mail, the notice shall set forth the estimated amount of the cost and expense of such improvement to be borne by the particular lot, tract, parcel of land, or other property. [1996 c 230 § 602; 1991 c 190 § 7; 1986 c 256 § 3; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 16; 1977 ex.s. c 299 § 7; 1965 ex.s. c 39 § 1; 1959 c 18 § 11. Prior: 1953 c 251 § 14; 1929 c 114 § 12, part; RRS § 11590, part. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 12, part.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.16.062 Hearing—Improvement ordered—Divestment of power to order—Notice—Appeal—Assessment roll.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) Whether an improvement district is initiated by petition or resolution, the board shall conduct a public hearing at the time and place designated in the notice to property owners. At this hearing the board shall hear objections from any person affected by the formation of the improvement district and may make such changes in the boundaries of the improvement district or such modifications in the plans for the proposed improvement as shall be deemed necessary. The board may not change the boundaries of the improvement district to include property not previously included in it without first passing a new resolution of intention and giving a new notice to property owners in the manner and form and within the time provided in this chapter for the original notice.

After the hearing and the expiration of the ten-day period for filing protests, the commissioners shall have jurisdiction to overrule protests and proceed with any such improvement district initiated by petition or resolution. The jurisdiction of the commissioners to proceed with any improvement district initiated by resolution shall be divested by protests filed with the secretary of the board within ten

days after the public hearing, signed by the owners, according to the records of the applicable county auditor, of at least forty percent of the area of land within the proposed improvement district.

If the commissioners find that the improvement district should be formed, they shall by resolution form the improvement district and order the improvement. After execution of the resolution forming the improvement district, the secretary of the board of commissioners shall publish, in a legal publication that serves the area subject to the improvement district, a notice setting forth that a resolution has been passed forming the improvement district and that a lawsuit challenging the jurisdiction or authority of the district to proceed with the improvement and creating the improvement district must be filed, and notice to the district served, within thirty days of the publication of the notice. The notice shall set forth the nature of the appeal. Property owners bringing the appeal shall follow the procedures set forth under RCW 57.16.090. Whenever a resolution forming an improvement district has been adopted, the formation is conclusive in all things upon all parties, and cannot be contested or questioned in any manner in any proceeding whatsoever by any person not commencing a lawsuit in the manner and within the time provided in this section, except for lawsuits made under RCW 57.16.090.

Following an appeal, if it is unsuccessful or if no appeal is made under RCW 57.16.090, the commissioners may proceed with creating the improvement district, provide the improvement and provide the general funds of the district to be applied thereto, adopt detailed plans of the improvement district and declare the estimated cost thereof, acquire all necessary land therefor, pay all damages caused thereby, and commence in the name of the district such eminent domain proceedings as may be necessary to entitle the district to proceed with the improvements. The board shall thereupon proceed with the work and file with the county treasurer of the county in which the real property is located its roll levying special assessments in the amount to be paid by special assessment against the property situated within the improvement district in proportion to the special benefits to be derived by the property therein from the improvements. [1996 c 230 § 605; 1991 c 190 § 3; 1986 c 256 § 2; 1974 ex.s. c 58 § 6; 1971 ex.s. c 272 § 9; 1953 c 250 § 18; 1941 c 210 § 28; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 9425-37. Formerly RCW 56.20.030.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.16.065 Notice must contain statement that assessments may vary from estimates.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Any notice given to the public or to the owners of specific lots, tracts, or parcels of land relating to the formation of a local improvement district or utility local improvement district shall contain a statement that actual assessments may vary from assessment estimates so long as they do not exceed a figure equal to the increased true and fair value the improvement adds to the property. [1989 c 243 § 11.]

**57.16.065 Notice must contain statement that assessments may vary from estimates.** (*Effective July 1,*

1997.) Notice given to the public or to the owners of specific lots, tracts, or parcels of land relating to the formation of an improvement district shall contain a statement that actual assessments may vary from assessment estimates so long as they do not exceed a figure equal to the increased true and fair value the improvement adds to the property. [1996 c 230 § 604; 1989 c 243 § 11.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.16.070 Hearing on assessment roll—Notice.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Before approval of the roll a notice shall be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the local district, stating that the roll is on file and open to inspection in the office of the secretary, and fixing the time, not less than fifteen or more than thirty days from the date of the first publication of the notice, within which protests must be filed with the secretary against any assessments shown thereon, and fixing a time when a hearing will be held by the commissioners on the protests. Notice shall also be given by mailing, at least fifteen days before the hearing, a similar notice to the owners or reputed owners of the land in the local district as they appear on the books of the treasurer of the county in which the real property is located. At the hearing, or any adjournment thereof, the commissioners may correct, change or modify the roll, or any part thereof, or set aside the roll and order a new assessment, and may then by resolution approve it. If an assessment is raised a new notice similar to the first shall be given, after which final approval of the roll may be made. When property has been entered originally upon the roll and the assessment thereon is not raised, no objection thereto shall be considered by the commissioners or by any court on appeal unless the objection is made in writing at, or prior, to the date fixed for the original hearing upon the roll. [1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 17; 1959 c 18 § 12. Prior: 1953 c 251 § 15; 1929 c 114 § 12, part; RRS § 11590, part. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 12, part.]

**57.16.070 Hearing on assessment roll—Notice.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) Before approval of the roll a notice shall be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the improvement district, stating that the roll is on file and open to inspection in the office of the secretary, and fixing the time, not less than fifteen or more than thirty days from the date of the first publication of the notice, within which protests must be filed with the secretary against any assessments shown thereon, and fixing a time when a hearing will be held by the commissioners on the protests. Notice shall also be given by mailing, at least fifteen days before the hearing, a similar notice to the owners or reputed owners of the land in the improvement district as they appear on the books of the treasurer of the county in which the real property is located. At the hearing, or any adjournment thereof, the commissioners may correct, change, or modify the roll, or any part thereof, or set aside the roll and order a new assessment, and may then by resolution approve it. If an assessment is raised a new notice similar to the first shall be given, after which final approval of the roll may be made. When property has been entered originally upon the roll and

the assessment thereon is not raised, no objection thereto shall be considered by the commissioners or by any court on appeal unless the objection is made in writing at, or prior to, the date fixed for the original hearing upon the roll. [1996 c 230 § 606; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 17; 1959 c 18 § 12. Prior: 1953 c 251 § 15; 1929 c 114 § 12, part; RRS § 11590, part. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 12, part.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.16.073 Potable water facilities—Notice to certain property owners.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Whenever it is proposed that a local improvement district or utility local improvement district finance potable water facilities, additional notice of the public hearing on the proposed improvement district shall be mailed to the owners of any property located outside of the proposed improvement district that would be required as a condition of federal housing administration loan qualification, at the time of notice, to be connected to the specific water facilities installed by the local improvement district. The notice shall include information about this restriction. [1987 c 315 § 6.]

**57.16.073 Sanitary sewer and potable water facilities—Notice to certain property owners.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) Whenever it is proposed that an improvement district finance sanitary sewer or potable water facilities, additional notice of the public hearing on the proposed improvement district shall be mailed to the owners of any property located outside of the proposed improvement district that would be required as a condition of federal housing administration loan qualification, at the time of notice, to be connected to the specific sewer or water facilities installed by the improvement district. The notice shall include information about this restriction. [1996 c 230 § 603; 1987 c 315 § 6.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.16.075 Exemption of farm and agricultural land from special benefit assessments.** See RCW 84.34.300 through 84.34.380 and 84.34.922.

**57.16.080 Enlarged district.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) In the event that any portion of the system after its installation is not adequate for the purpose for which it was intended, or that for any reason changes, alterations or betterments are necessary in any portion of the system after its installation then a local improvement district with boundaries which may include one or more existing local improvement districts may be created in the water district in the same manner as is provided herein for the creation of local improvement districts; that upon the organization of such a local improvement district as provided for in this paragraph the plan of the improvement and the payment of the cost of the improvement shall be carried out in the same manner as is provided herein for the carrying out of and the paying for the improvement in the local improvement districts previously provided for in \*this act. [1959 c 18 § 13. Prior: 1929 c 114 § 12, part; RRS § 11590, part. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 12.]

\*Reviser's note: For "this act," see note following RCW 57.04.080.

**57.16.080 Enlarged district. (Effective July 1, 1997.)**

If any portion of the system after its installation is not adequate for the purpose for which it was intended, or if for any reason changes, alterations, or betterments are necessary in any portion of the system after its installation, then an improvement district with boundaries which may include one or more existing improvement districts may be created in the district in the same manner as is provided herein for the creation of improvement districts. Upon the organization of such an improvement district, the plan of the improvement and the payment of the cost of the improvement shall be carried out in the same manner as is provided herein for the carrying out of and the paying for the improvement in the improvement districts previously provided for in this title. [1996 c 230 § 607; 1959 c 18 § 13. Prior: 1929 c 114 § 12, part; RRS § 11590, part. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 12.]

Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230: See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.16.090 Review. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)**

The decision of the water district commission upon any objections made within the time and in the manner herein prescribed, may be reviewed by the superior court upon an appeal thereto taken in the following manner. Such appeal shall be made by filing written notice of appeal with the secretary of said water district commission and with the clerk of the superior court in the county in which the real property is situated within ten days after publication of a notice that the resolution confirming such assessment roll has been adopted, and such notice of appeal shall describe the property and set forth the objections of such appellant to such assessment; and within ten days from the filing of such notice of appeal with the clerk of the superior court, the appellant shall file with the clerk of the court, a transcript consisting of the assessment roll and the appellant's objections thereto, together with the resolution confirming such assessment roll and the record of the water district commission with reference to the assessment, which transcript, upon payment of the necessary fees therefor, shall be furnished by the secretary of the water district commission certified by the secretary to contain full, true and correct copies of all matters and proceedings required to be included in such transcript. Such fees shall be the same as the fees payable to the county clerk for the preparation and certification of transcripts on appeal to the supreme court or the court of appeals in civil actions. At the time of the filing of the notice of appeal with the clerk of the superior court a sufficient bond in the penal sum of two hundred dollars, with at least two sureties, to be approved by the judge of said court, conditioned to prosecute such appeal without delay, and if unsuccessful to pay all costs to which the water district is put by reason of such appeal. The court may order the appellant upon application therefor, to execute and file such additional bond or bonds as the necessity of the case may require. Within three days after such transcript is filed in the superior court, the appellant shall give written notice to the secretary of such water district, that such transcript is filed. The notice shall state a time, not less than three days from the service thereof, when the appellant will

call up the cause for hearing; and the superior court shall, at said time or at such further time as may be fixed by order of the court, hear and determine such appeal without a jury; and such cause shall have preference over all civil causes pending in the court, except proceedings under an act relating to eminent domain and actions of forcible entry and detainer. The judgment of the court shall confirm, unless the court shall find from the evidence that such assessment is either founded upon the fundamentally wrong basis or a decision of the council or other legislative body thereon was arbitrary or capricious, or both; in which event the judgment of the court shall correct, modify or annul the assessment insofar as the same affects the property of the appellant. A certified copy of the decision of the court shall be filed with the officer who shall have custody of the assessment roll, who shall modify and correct such assessment roll in accordance with such decision. Appellate review of the judgment of the superior court may be sought as in other civil cases. However, the review must be sought within fifteen days after the date of the entry of the judgment of such superior court. A certified copy of the order of the supreme court or the court of appeals upon such appeal shall be filed with the officer having custody of such assessment roll, who shall thereupon modify and correct such assessment roll in accordance with such decision. [1991 c 190 § 8; 1988 c 202 § 53; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 18; 1971 c 81 § 126; 1965 ex.s. c 39 § 2; 1929 c 114 § 13; RRS § 11591. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 13.]

*Rules of court:* Cf. RAP 5.2, 18.22.

Severability—1988 c 202: See note following RCW 2.24.050.

**57.16.090 Review. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** The decision of the district board of commissioners upon any objections made within the time and in the manner herein prescribed may be reviewed by the superior court upon an appeal thereto taken in the following manner. The appeal shall be made by filing written notice of appeal with the secretary of the board of commissioners and with the clerk of the superior court in the county in which the real property is situated within ten days after publication of a notice that the resolution confirming such assessment roll has been adopted, and such notice of appeal shall describe the property and set forth the objections of such appellant to such assessment. Within ten days from the filing of such notice of appeal with the clerk of the superior court, the appellant shall file with the clerk of the court a transcript consisting of the assessment roll and the appellant's objections thereto, together with the resolution confirming the assessment roll and the record of the district commissioners with reference to the assessment. The transcript, upon payment of the necessary fees therefor, shall be furnished by the secretary of the board of commissioners and shall be certified by the secretary to contain full, true, and correct copies of all matters and proceedings required to be included in such transcript. Such fees shall be the same as the fees payable to the county clerk for the preparation and certification of transcripts on appeal to the supreme court or the court of appeals in civil actions. At the time of the filing of the notice of appeal with the clerk of the superior court, the appellant shall file a sufficient bond in the penal sum of two hundred dollars, with at least two sureties, to be approved by



the judge of the court, conditioned to prosecute such appeal without delay, and if unsuccessful to pay all costs to which the district is put by reason of such appeal. The court may order the appellant, upon application therefor, to execute and file such additional bond or bonds as the necessity of the case may require. Within three days after such transcript is filed in the superior court, the appellant shall give written notice to the secretary of the district that such transcript is filed. The notice shall state a time, not less than three days from the service thereof, when the appellant will call up the cause for hearing. The superior court shall, at such time or at such further time as may be fixed by order of the court, hear and determine such appeal without a jury. The appeal shall have preference over all civil causes pending in the court, except eminent domain proceedings and actions of forcible entry and detainer. The judgment of the court shall confirm, unless the court shall find from the evidence that such assessment is either founded upon a fundamentally wrong basis or a decision of the board of commissioners thereon was arbitrary or capricious, or both, in which event the judgment of the court shall correct, modify, or annul the assessment insofar as it affects the property of the appellant. A certified copy of the decision of the court shall be filed with the officer who shall have custody of the assessment roll, who shall modify and correct the assessment roll in accordance with such decision. Appellate review of the judgment of the superior court may be sought as in other civil cases. However, the appeal must be sought within fifteen days after the date of the entry of the judgment of such superior court. A certified copy of the order of the supreme court or the court of appeals upon such appeal shall be filed with the officer having custody of the assessment roll, who shall thereupon modify and correct the assessment roll in accordance with the decision. [1996 c 230 § 609; 1991 c 190 § 8; 1988 c 202 § 53; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 18; 1971 c 81 § 126; 1965 ex.s. c 39 § 2; 1929 c 114 § 13; RRS § 11591. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 13.]

*Rules of court:* Cf. *RAP 5.2, 18.22.*

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**Severability—1988 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.24.050.

**57.16.100 Conclusiveness of roll.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Whenever any assessment roll for local improvements shall have been confirmed by the water district commission of such water district as herein provided, the regularity, validity and correctness of the proceedings relating to such improvement, and to the assessment therefor, including the action of the water district commission upon such assessment roll and the confirmation thereof, shall be conclusive in all things upon all parties, and cannot in any manner be contested or questioned in any proceeding whatsoever by any person not filing written objections to such roll in the manner and within the time provided in this act, and not appealing from the action of the water district commission in confirming such assessment roll in the manner and within the time in \*this act provided. No proceedings of any kind shall be commenced or prosecuted for the purpose of defeating or contesting any such assessment, or the sale of any property to pay such assessment, or any certificate of delinquency issued therefor, or the foreclo-

sure of any lien issued therefor: PROVIDED, That this section shall not be construed as prohibiting the bringing of injunction proceedings to prevent the sale of any real estate upon the grounds (1) that the property about to be sold does not appear upon the assessment roll, or (2) that said assessment had been paid. [1929 c 114 § 14; RRS § 11592. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 14.]

\*Reviser's note: For "this act," see note following RCW 57.04.080.

**57.16.100 Conclusiveness of roll—Correction of errors.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) (1) Whenever any assessment roll for local improvements shall have been confirmed by the district board of commissioners, the regularity, validity, and correctness of the proceedings relating to the improvements, and to the assessment therefor, including the action of the district commissioners upon the assessment roll and the confirmation thereof, shall be conclusive in all things upon all parties, and cannot in any manner be contested or questioned in any proceeding whatsoever by any person not filing written objections to such roll in the manner and within the time provided in this chapter, and not appealing from the action of the commissioners in confirming such assessment roll in the manner and within the time in this chapter provided. No proceedings of any kind shall be commenced or prosecuted for the purpose of defeating or contesting any such assessment, or the sale of property to pay such assessment, or any certificate of delinquency issued therefor, or the foreclosure of any lien issued therefor. However, this section shall not be construed as prohibiting the bringing of injunction proceedings to prevent the sale of any real estate upon the grounds (a) that the property about to be sold does not appear upon the assessment roll, or (b) that the assessment had been paid.

(2) This section also shall not prohibit the correction of clerical errors and errors in the computation of assessments in assessment rolls by the following procedure:

(a) The board of commissioners may file a petition with the superior court of the county wherein the real property is located, asking that the court enter an order correcting such errors and directing that the county treasurer pay a portion or all of the incorrect assessment by the transfer of funds from the district's maintenance fund, if such relief be necessary.

(b) Upon the filing of the petition, the court shall set a date for hearing and upon the hearing may enter an order as provided in (a) of this subsection. However, neither the correcting order nor the corrected assessment roll shall result in an increased assessment to the property owner. [1996 c 230 § 608; 1929 c 114 § 14; RRS § 11592. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 14.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.16.110 Segregation of assessment—Procedure—Fee—Charges.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Whenever any land against which there has been levied any special assessment by any water district shall have been sold in part or subdivided, the board of water commissioners of such district shall have the power to order a segregation of the assessment.

Any person desiring to have such a special assessment against a tract of land segregated to apply to smaller parts thereof shall apply to the board of commissioners of the water district which levied the assessment. If the water commissioners determine that a segregation should be made, they shall by resolution order the treasurer of the county in which the real property is located to make segregation on the original assessment roll as directed in the resolution. The segregation shall be made as nearly as possible on the same basis as the original assessment was levied, and the total of the segregated parts of the assessment shall equal the assessment before segregation. The resolution shall describe the original tract, the amount and date of the original assessment, and shall define the boundaries of the divided parts and the amount of the assessment chargeable to each part. A certified copy of the resolution shall be delivered to the treasurer of the county in which the real property is located who shall proceed to make the segregation ordered upon being tendered a fee of three dollars for each tract of land for which a segregation is to be made. In addition to such charge the board of water commissioners may require as a condition to the order of segregation that the person seeking it pay the district the reasonable engineering and clerical costs incident to making the segregation. [1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 19; 1953 c 251 § 23.]

*Segregation duties of county treasurer: RCW 36.29.160.*

**57.16.110 Segregation of assessment—Procedure—Charges.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) Whenever any land against which there has been levied any special assessment by any district shall have been sold in part or subdivided, the board of commissioners of the district shall have the power to order a segregation of the assessment.

Any person desiring to have a special assessment against a tract of land segregated to apply to smaller parts thereof shall apply to the board of commissioners of the district that levied the assessment. If the commissioners determine that a segregation should be made, they shall by resolution order the treasurer of the county in which the real property is located to make segregation on the original assessment roll as directed in the resolution. The segregation shall be made as nearly as possible on the same basis as the original assessment was levied, and the total of the segregated parts of the assessment shall equal the assessment before segregation. The resolution shall describe the original tract and the amount and date of the original assessment, and shall define the boundaries of the divided parts and the amount of the assessment chargeable to each part. A certified copy of the resolution shall be delivered to the treasurer of the county in which the real property is located who shall proceed to make the segregation ordered upon being tendered a fee of three dollars for each tract of land for which a segregation is to be made. In addition to the charge the board of commissioners may require as a condition to the order of segregation that the person seeking it pay the district the reasonable engineering and clerical costs incident to making the segregation. [1996 c 230 § 610; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 19; 1953 c 251 § 23.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

*Segregation duties of county treasurer: RCW 36.29.160.*

**57.16.120 Acquisition of property subject to local improvement assessments—Payment.** See RCW 79.44.190.

**57.16.140 Excess water supply capacity not grounds for zoning decision challenge.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The construction of or existence of water supply capacity in excess of the needs of the density allowed by zoning shall not be grounds for any legal challenge to any zoning decision by the county. [1982 c 213 § 4.]

**57.16.140 Excess sewer capacity or water supply not grounds for zoning decision challenge.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) The construction of or existence of sewer capacity or water supply in excess of the needs of the density allowed by zoning shall not be grounds for any legal challenge to any zoning decision by the county. [1996 c 230 § 504; 1982 c 213 § 4.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.16.150 Foreclosure of assessments—Attorneys' fees.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Judgments foreclosing local improvement assessments pursuant to RCW 35.50.260 may also allow to water districts, in addition to delinquent installments, interest, penalties, and costs, such attorneys' fees as the court may adjudge reasonable. [1987 c 449 § 16.]

**57.16.150 Foreclosure of assessments—Attorneys' fees.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) Judgments foreclosing special assessments pursuant to RCW 35.50.260 may also allow to districts, in addition to delinquent installments, interest, penalties, and costs, such attorneys' fees as the court may adjudge reasonable. [1996 c 230 § 611; 1987 c 449 § 16.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

## Chapter 57.20 FINANCES

### Sections

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**57.20.010 General obligation bonds—Term—Issuance—Excess bond retirement levies.** When general district indebtedness payable from annual tax levies to be made in excess of the constitutional and/or statutory tax limitations has been authorized, the district may issue its general obligation bonds in payment thereof.

The bonds shall not have terms in excess of twenty years and shall as nearly as practicable be issued for a period which will not exceed the life of the improvement to be acquired by the issuance of the bonds. The bonds shall be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. The election at which the voters are presented with a ballot proposition authorizing both the bond issue and imposition of excess bond retirement levies shall be held as provided in RCW 39.36.050.

Whenever the proposition to issue such bonds and impose such excess bond retirement levies has been approved, there shall be levied by the officers or governing body charged with the duty of levying taxes, annual levies in excess of the constitutional and/or statutory tax limitations sufficient to meet the annual or semiannual payments of principal and interest on the bonds upon all taxable property within the district. [1984 c 186 § 53; 1983 c 167 § 162; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 71; 1970 ex.s. c 56 § 83; 1969 ex.s. c 232 § 87; 1953 c 251 § 12; 1951 2nd ex.s. c 25 § 3; 1931 c 72 § 2; 1929 c 114 § 11; RRS § 11589. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 11.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**Severability—Effective dates and termination dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

**Validation—Saving—Severability—1969 ex.s. c 232:** See notes following RCW 39.52.020.

**57.20.015 Refunding general obligation bonds. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** (1) The board of water commissioners of any water district may by resolution, without submitting the matter to the voters of the district, provide for the issuance of refunding general obligation bonds to refund any outstanding general obligation bonds, or any part thereof, at maturity thereof, or before the maturity thereof if they are subject to call for prior redemption or all of the owners thereof consent thereto.

(2) The total cost to the district over the life of the refunding bonds shall not exceed the total cost to the district which the district would have incurred but for such refunding over the remainder of the life of the bonds to be refunded thereby.

(3) The refunding bonds may be exchanged for the bonds to be refunded thereby, or may be sold in such manner as the board of water commissioners deems to be for the best interest of the district, and the proceeds of such sale used exclusively for the purpose of paying, retiring, and canceling the bonds to be refunded and interest thereon. Such bonds may be of any form, including bearer bonds or registered bonds as provided in RCW 39.46.030.

(4) The provisions of RCW 57.20.010, concerning the issuance and sale of general obligation bonds and providing for annual tax levies in excess of the constitutional and/or statutory tax limitations shall apply to the refunding general obligation bonds issued under this section. [1984 c 186 § 54; 1983 c 167 § 163; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 72; 1953 c 251 § 16.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**Severability—Effective dates and termination dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043.  
*Election to authorize revenue bonds: RCW 57.16.030.*

**57.20.015 Refunding general obligation bonds. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** (1) The board of commissioners of any district may by resolution, without submitting the matter to the voters of the district, provide for the issuance of refunding general obligation bonds to refund any outstanding general obligation bonds, or any part thereof, at maturity thereof, or before the maturity thereof if they are subject to call for prior redemption or all of the owners thereof consent thereto. Refunding bonds may be combined with an issue of bonds for other district purposes, as long as those other bonds are approved in accordance with applicable law.

(2) The total cost to the district over the life of the refunding bonds or refunding portion of an issue of bonds shall not exceed the total cost to the district which the district would have incurred but for such refunding over the remainder of the life of the bonds to be refunded thereby.

(3) The refunding bonds may be exchanged for the bonds to be refunded thereby, or may be sold in such manner as the board of commissioners deems to be for the best interest of the district, and the proceeds of such sale used exclusively for the purpose of paying, retiring, and canceling the bonds to be refunded and interest thereon. Such bonds may be of any form, including bearer bonds or registered bonds as provided in RCW 39.46.030. [1996 c 230 § 702; 1984 c 186 § 54; 1983 c 167 § 163; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 72; 1953 c 251 § 16.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**Severability—Effective dates and termination dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043.  
*Election to authorize revenue bonds: RCW 57.20.018.*

**57.20.018 Revenue bonds authorized—Use. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** (1) The commissioners may, without submitting a proposition to the voters, authorize by resolution the district to issue revenue bonds for the construction costs, interest during the period of construction and six

months thereafter, working capital or other costs of the improvements described in any part or all of a general comprehensive plan or plans, or for other purposes or functions of a district authorized by statute. The amount of the bonds to be issued shall be included in the resolution.

(2) Any resolution authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds may include provision for refunding any local improvement district bonds of a district, out of the proceeds of sale of revenue bonds, and a district may pay off any outstanding local improvement bonds with such funds either by purchase in the open market below their par value and accrued interest or by call at par value and accrued interest at the next succeeding interest payment date. The bonds may be in any form, including bearer bonds or registered bonds as provided by RCW 39.46.030.

(3) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, district revenue bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1996 c 230 § 703; 1987 c 449 § 14; 1983 c 167 § 160; 1977 ex.s. c 299 § 4; 1959 c 108 § 8; 1959 c 18 § 8. Prior: 1953 c 251 § 6; 1951 c 112 § 1; 1939 c 128 § 2, part; 1937 c 177 § 1, part; 1929 c 114 § 10, part; RRS § 11588, part. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 10, part. Formerly RCW 57.16.030.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**57.20.0181 Additional revenue bonds for increased cost of improvements. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** Whenever a district shall have adopted a general comprehensive plan and bonds to defray the cost thereof shall have been authorized by resolution of the board of commissioners, and before the completion of the improvements the board of commissioners shall find by resolution that the authorized bonds are not sufficient to defray the cost of such improvements due to the increase of costs of construction subsequent to the adoption of the plan, the board of commissioners may by resolution authorize the issuance and sale of additional revenue bonds for such purpose in excess of those previously issued. [1996 c 230 § 704; 1977 ex.s. c 299 § 5; 1959 c 108 § 10. Formerly RCW 57.16.035.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.20.019 Additions and betterments. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** In the same manner as provided for the adoption of an original general comprehensive plan, a plan providing for additions and betterments to the original general comprehensive plan may be adopted. Without limiting its generality "additions and betterments" shall include any necessary change in, amendment of, or addition to the general comprehensive plan.

The district may incur a general indebtedness payable from annual tax levies to be made in excess of the constitutional tax limitation for the construction of the additions and betterments in the same way that general indebtedness may be incurred for the construction of the original general comprehensive plan after submission to the voters of the entire district in the manner the original proposition to incur indebtedness was submitted as provided in RCW 57.20.105. Upon ratification the additions and betterments may be

carried out by the commissioners to the extent specified or referred to in the proposition to incur the general indebtedness.

The district may issue revenue bonds to pay for the construction of the additions and the betterments pursuant to resolution of the board of commissioners. [1996 c 230 § 705; 1984 c 186 § 52; 1977 ex.s. c 299 § 6; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 70; 1959 c 108 § 9; 1959 c 18 § 9. Prior: 1953 c 251 § 7; 1951 2nd ex.s. c 25 § 2; 1951 c 112 § 2; 1939 c 128 § 2, part; 1937 c 177 § 1, part; 1929 c 114 § 10, part; RRS § 11588, part. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 10, part. Formerly RCW 57.16.040.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

**Severability—Effective dates and termination dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

**57.20.020 Revenue bonds—Special fund—Classification of service—Adequate rates and charges to be fixed. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** (1) Whenever any issue or issues of water revenue bonds have been authorized in compliance with the provisions of RCW 57.16.010 through 57.16.040, said bonds shall be in bearer form or registered as to principal or interest or both, as provided in RCW 39.46.030, and may provide for conversion between registered and coupon bonds; shall be in such denominations, shall be numbered, shall bear such date, and shall be payable at such time or times up to a maximum period of not to exceed thirty years as shall be determined by the board of water commissioners of the district; shall bear interest at such rate or rates payable at such time or times as authorized by the board; shall be payable at the office of the county treasurer of the county in which the water district is located and may also be payable at such other place or places as the board of water commissioners may determine; shall be executed by the president of the board of water commissioners and attested and sealed by the secretary thereof, one of which signatures may, with the written permission of the signator whose facsimile signature is being used, be a facsimile; and may have facsimile signatures of said president or secretary imprinted on any interest coupons in lieu of original signatures.

The water district commissioners shall have power and are required to create a special fund or funds for the sole purpose of paying the interest and principal of such bonds into which special fund or funds the said water district commissioners shall obligate and bind the water district to set aside and pay a fixed proportion of the gross revenues of the water supply system or any fixed amount out of and not exceeding a fixed proportion of such revenues, or a fixed amount or amounts without regard to any fixed proportion and such bonds and the interest thereof shall be payable only out of such special fund or funds, but shall be a lien and charge against all revenues and payments received from any utility local improvement district or districts pledged to secure such bonds, subject only to operating and maintenance expenses.

In creating any such special fund or funds the water district commissioners of such water district shall have due regard to the cost of operation and maintenance of the plant or system as constructed or added to and to any proportion

or part of the revenue previously pledged as a fund for the payment of bonds, warrants or other indebtedness, and shall not set aside into such special fund a greater amount or proportion of the revenue and proceeds than in their judgment will be available over and above such cost of maintenance and operation and the amount or proportion, if any, of the revenue so previously pledged. Any such bonds and interest thereon issued against any such fund as herein provided shall be a valid claim of the owner thereof only as against the said special fund and its fixed proportion or amount of the revenue pledged to such fund, and shall not constitute an indebtedness of such water district within the meaning of the constitutional provisions and limitations. Each such bond shall state upon its face that it is payable from a special fund, naming the said fund and the resolution creating it. Said bonds shall be sold in such manner, at such price and at such rate or rates of interest as the water district commissioners shall deem for the best interests of the water district, either at public or private sale, and the said commissioners may provide in any contract for the construction and acquirement of the proposed improvement (and for the refunding of outstanding local improvement district obligations, if any) that payment therefor shall be made in such bonds at par value thereof.

When any such special fund shall have been heretofore or shall be hereafter created and any such bonds shall have been heretofore or shall hereafter be issued against the same a fixed proportion or a fixed amount out of and not to exceed such fixed proportion, or a fixed amount or amounts without regard to any fixed proportion, of revenue shall be set aside and paid into said special fund as provided in the resolution creating such fund or authorizing such bonds, and in case any water district shall fail thus to set aside and pay said fixed proportion or amount as aforesaid, the owner of any bond payable from such special fund may bring suit or action against the water district and compel such setting aside and payment.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW.

(3) The water district commissioners of any water district, in the event that such water revenue bonds are issued, shall provide for revenues by fixing rates and charges for the furnishing of water supply to those receiving such service, such rates and charges to be fixed as deemed necessary by such water district commissioners, so that uniform charges will be made for the same class of customer or service.

In classifying customers served or service furnished by such water supply system, the board of water commissioners may in its discretion consider any or all of the following factors: The difference in cost of service to the various customers; the location of the various customers within and without the district; the difference in cost of maintenance, operation, repair and replacement of the various parts of the system; the different character of the service furnished various customers; the quantity and quality of the water furnished; the time of its use; the achievement of wasteful practices; capital contributions made to the system including but not limited to assessments; and any other matters which present a reasonable difference as a ground for distinction.

Such rates shall be made on a monthly basis as may be deemed proper by such commissioners and as fixed by resolution and shall produce revenues sufficient to take care of the costs of maintenance and operation, revenue bond and warrant interest and principal amortization requirements and all other charges necessary for efficient and proper operation of the system. [1991 c 347 § 20; 1983 c 167 § 164; 1975 1st ex.s. c 25 § 3; 1970 ex.s. c 56 § 84; 1969 ex.s. c 232 § 88; 1959 c 108 § 11; 1939 c 128 § 3; RRS § 11588-1.]

**Purposes—1991 c 347:** See note following RCW 90.42.005.

**Severability—1991 c 347:** See RCW 90.42.900.

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

**Validation—Saving—Severability—1969 ex.s. c 232:** See notes following RCW 39.52.020.

*Alternative authority to issue revenue bonds:* RCW 39.46.150, 39.46.160.

*Authority to adjust or delay rates or charges for low-income persons:* RCW 57.08.014.

*Funds for reserve purposes may be included in issue amount:* RCW 39.44.140.

**57.20.020 Revenue bonds—Special fund. (Effective July 1, 1997.)**

(1) The commissioners shall have power and are required to create a special fund or funds for the sole purpose of paying the interest and principal of revenue bonds into which special fund or funds the commissioners shall obligate and bind the district to set aside and pay a fixed proportion of the gross revenues of the water supply, sewer, or drainage system or any fixed amount out of and not exceeding a fixed proportion of such revenues, or a fixed amount or amounts without regard to any fixed proportion, and such bonds and the interest thereof shall be payable only out of such special fund or funds, and shall be a lien and charge against all revenues and payments received from any utility local improvement district or districts pledged to secure such bonds, subject only to operating and maintenance expenses.

In creating any such special fund or funds the commissioners shall have due regard to the cost of operation and maintenance of the plant or system as constructed or added to and to any proportion or part of the revenue previously pledged as a fund for the payment of bonds, warrants, or other indebtedness, and shall not set aside into such special fund a greater amount or proportion of the revenue and proceeds than in their judgment will be available over and above such cost of maintenance and operation and the amount or proportion, if any, of the revenue so previously pledged. Any such bonds and interest thereon issued against any such fund as provided in this section shall be a valid claim of the owner thereof only as against the special fund and its fixed proportion or amount of the revenue pledged to such fund, and shall not constitute an indebtedness of the district within the meaning of the constitutional provisions and limitations. Each such bond shall state upon its face that it is payable from a special fund, naming the fund and the resolution creating it. Such bonds shall be sold in such manner, at such price, and at such rate or rates of interest as the commissioners shall deem for the best interests of the district, either at public or private sale, and the commissioners may provide in any contract for the construction and acquirement of the proposed improvement (and for the

refunding of outstanding local improvement district obligations, if any) that payment therefor shall be made in such bonds at par value thereof.

When any such special fund shall have been heretofore or shall be hereafter created and any such bonds shall have been heretofore or shall hereafter be issued against the same a fixed proportion or a fixed amount out of and not to exceed such fixed proportion, or a fixed amount or amounts without regard to any fixed proportion, of revenue shall be set aside and paid into the special fund as provided in the resolution creating such fund or authorizing such bonds. In case any district shall fail thus to set aside and pay the fixed proportion or amount, the owner of any bond payable from such special fund may bring suit or action against the district and compel such setting aside and payment.

(2) Revenue bonds payable from a special fund may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1996 c 230 § 706; 1991 c 347 § 20; 1983 c 167 § 164; 1975 1st ex.s. c 25 § 3; 1970 ex.s. c 56 § 84; 1969 ex.s. c 232 § 88; 1959 c 108 § 11; 1939 c 128 § 3; RRS § 11588-1.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**Purposes—1991 c 347:** See note following RCW 90.42.005.

**Severability—1991 c 347:** See RCW 90.42.900.

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

**Validation—Saving—Severability—1969 ex.s. c 232:** See notes following RCW 39.52.020.

*Alternative authority to issue revenue bonds:* RCW 39.46.150, 39.46.160.

*Authority to adjust or delay rates or charges for low-income persons:* RCW 57.08.014.

*Funds for reserve purposes may be included in issue amount:* RCW 39.44.140.

**57.20.023 Covenants to guarantee payment of revenue bonds—Bonds payable from same source may be issued on parity. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** The board of water commissioners may make such covenants as it may deem necessary to secure and guarantee the payment of the principal of and interest on water revenue bonds of the district, including but not being limited to covenants for the establishment and maintenance of adequate reserves to secure or guarantee the payment of such principal and interest; the protection and disposition of the proceeds of sale of such bonds; the use and disposition of the gross revenues of the water supply system of the district and any additions or betterments thereto or extensions thereof; the use and disposition of any utility local improvement district assessments; the creation and maintenance of funds for renewals and replacements of the system; the establishment and maintenance of rates and charges adequate to pay principal and interest of such bonds and to maintain adequate coverage over debt service; the maintenance, operation and management of the system and the accounting, insuring and auditing of the business in connection therewith; the terms upon which such bonds or any of them may be redeemed at the election of the district; limitations upon the right of the district to dispose of its system or any part thereof; the appointment of trustees, depositaries and paying agents to receive, hold, disburse, invest and reinvest all or any part of

the proceeds of sale of the bonds and all or any part of the income, revenue and receipts of the district, and the board of water commissioners may make such other covenants as it may deem necessary to accomplish the most advantageous sale of such bonds. The board of water commissioners may also provide that revenue bonds payable out of the same source or sources may later be issued on a parity with any revenue bonds being issued and sold. [1959 c 108 § 12.]

**57.20.023 Covenants to guarantee payment of revenue bonds—Bonds payable from same source may be issued on parity. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** The board of commissioners may make such covenants as it may deem necessary to secure and guarantee the payment of the principal of and interest on revenue bonds of the district, including but not being limited to covenants for the establishment and maintenance of adequate reserves to secure or guarantee the payment of such principal and interest; the protection and disposition of the proceeds of sale of such bonds; the use and disposition of the gross revenues of the water supply system, sewer system, or drainage system of the district and any additions or betterments thereto or extensions thereof; the use and disposition of any utility local improvement district assessments; the creation and maintenance of funds for renewals and replacements of the system; the establishment and maintenance of rates and charges adequate to pay principal and interest of such bonds and to maintain adequate coverage over debt service; the maintenance, operation and management of the system and the accounting, insuring and auditing of the business in connection therewith; the terms upon which such bonds or any of them may be redeemed at the election of the district; limitations upon the right of the district to dispose of its system or any part thereof; the appointment of trustees, depositaries and paying agents to receive, hold, disburse, invest and reinvest all or any part of the proceeds of sale of the bonds and all or any part of the income, revenue and receipts of the district, and the commissioners may make such other covenants as it may deem necessary to accomplish the most advantageous sale of such bonds. The board of commissioners may also provide that revenue bonds payable out of the same source or sources may later be issued on a parity with any revenue bonds being issued and sold. [1996 c 230 § 707; 1959 c 108 § 12.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.20.025 Refunding revenue bonds. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** The board of water commissioners of any water district may by resolution provide for the issuance of refunding revenue bonds to refund outstanding general obligation bonds and/or revenue bonds, or any part thereof, and/or all outstanding local improvement district bonds, at maturity thereof, or before maturity thereof if they are subject to call for prior redemption or all of the holders thereof consent thereto. The total interest cost to the district over the life of the refunding bonds shall not exceed the total cost to the district which the district would have incurred but for such refunding over the remainder of the life of the bonds to be refunded thereby. The refunding bonds may be exchanged for the bonds to be refunded thereby, or may be

sold in such manner as the board of water commissioners deems to be for the best interest of the district, and the proceeds used, except as hereinafter provided, exclusively for the purpose of paying, retiring and canceling the bonds to be refunded and interest thereon.

All unpaid utility local improvement district assessments payable into the revenue bond redemption fund established for payment of the bonds to be refunded shall thereafter when collected be paid into the revenue bond redemption fund established for payment of the refunding revenue bonds.

Whenever local improvement district bonds have been refunded as provided by RCW 57.16.030 as now or hereafter amended, or pursuant to this section, all local improvement district assessments remaining unpaid shall thereafter when collected be paid into the revenue bond redemption fund established for payment of the refunding revenue bonds, and the cash balance, if any, in the local improvement guaranty fund of the district and the proceeds received from any other assets owned by such fund shall be used in whole or in part as a reserve fund for the refunding revenue bonds or be transferred in whole or in part to any other funds of the district as the board of water commissioners may determine. In the event that any warrants are outstanding against the local improvement guaranty fund of the district at the time of the issuance of such refunding revenue bonds, said bonds shall be issued in an amount sufficient also to fund and pay such outstanding warrants.

The provisions of RCW 57.20.020 shall apply to the refunding revenue bonds issued under this title. [1977 ex.s. c 299 § 8; 1959 c 108 § 13; 1953 c 251 § 17.]

**57.20.025 Refunding revenue bonds. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** The board of commissioners of any district may by resolution provide for the issuance of refunding revenue bonds to refund outstanding general obligation bonds and/or revenue bonds, or any part thereof, and/or all outstanding local improvement district bonds, at maturity thereof, or before maturity thereof if they are subject to call for prior redemption or all of the holders thereof consent thereto. The total interest cost to the district over the life of the refunding bonds shall not exceed the total cost to the district which the district would have incurred but for such refunding over the remainder of the life of the bonds to be refunded thereby. The refunding bonds may be exchanged for the bonds to be refunded thereby, or may be sold in such manner as the board of commissioners deems to be for the best interest of the district, and the proceeds used, except as hereinafter provided, exclusively for the purpose of paying, retiring, and canceling the bonds to be refunded and interest thereon.

All unpaid utility local improvement district assessments payable into the revenue bond redemption fund established for payment of the bonds to be refunded shall thereafter when collected be paid into the revenue bond redemption fund established for payment of the refunding revenue bonds.

Whenever local improvement district bonds have been refunded as provided by RCW 57.20.018, or pursuant to this section, all local improvement district assessments remaining unpaid shall thereafter when collected be paid into the revenue bond redemption fund established for payment of

the refunding revenue bonds, and the cash balance, if any, in the local improvement guaranty fund of the district and the proceeds received from any other assets owned by such fund shall be used in whole or in part as a reserve fund for the refunding revenue bonds or be transferred in whole or in part to any other funds of the district as the board of commissioners may determine. If any warrants are outstanding against the local improvement guaranty fund of the district at the time of the issuance of such refunding revenue bonds, the bonds shall be issued in an amount sufficient also to fund and pay such outstanding warrants.

The provisions of RCW 57.20.020 shall apply to the refunding revenue bonds issued under this title. [1996 c 230 § 708; 1977 ex.s. c 299 § 8; 1959 c 108 § 13; 1953 c 251 § 17.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.20.027 Revenue warrants and revenue bond anticipation warrants. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Water districts may also issue revenue warrants and revenue bond anticipation warrants for the same purposes for which such districts may issue revenue bonds. The provisions of this chapter relating to the authorization, terms, conditions, covenants, issuance and sale of revenue bonds (exclusive of provisions relating to refunding) shall be applicable to such warrants. Water districts issuing revenue bond anticipation warrants may make covenants relative to the issuance of revenue bonds to provide funds for the redemption of part or all of such warrants and may contract for the sale of such bonds and warrants. [1975 1st ex.s. c 25 § 5.]

**57.20.027 Revenue warrants and revenue bond anticipation warrants. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** Districts may also issue revenue warrants and revenue bond anticipation warrants for the same purposes for which such districts may issue revenue bonds. The provisions of this chapter relating to the authorization, terms, conditions, covenants, issuance and sale of revenue bonds (exclusive of provisions relating to refunding) shall be applicable to such warrants. Districts issuing revenue bond anticipation warrants may make covenants relative to the issuance of revenue bonds to provide funds for the redemption of part or all of such warrants and may contract for the sale of such bonds and warrants. [1996 c 230 § 709; 1975 1st ex.s. c 25 § 5.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.20.030 Local improvement guaranty fund. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Every water district in the state is hereby authorized to create a fund for the purpose of guaranteeing, to the extent of such fund, and in the manner hereinafter provided, the payment of all of its local improvement bonds issued, subsequent to June 9, 1937, to pay for any local improvement within its confines. Such fund shall be designated "Local Improvement Guaranty Fund, Water District No. . . .," and shall be established by resolution of the board of water commissioners. For the purpose of maintaining such fund, every water district, after the establishment thereof, shall at all times set aside and pay into such a fund such proportion of the monthly gross

revenues of the water supply system of such water district as the commissioners thereof may direct by resolution. This proportion may be varied from time to time as the commissioners deem expedient or necessary: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That under the existence of the conditions set forth in subsections (1) and (2) next hereunder, then the proportion must be as therein specified, to wit:

(1) Whenever any bonds of any local improvement district have been guaranteed under \*this act and the guaranty fund does not have a cash balance equal to twenty percent of all bonds originally guaranteed under \*this act, (excluding issues which have been retired in full) then twenty percent of the gross monthly revenues derived from all water users in the territory included in said local improvement district (but not necessarily from users in other parts of the water district as a whole) shall be set aside and paid into the guaranty fund: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That whenever, under the requirements of this subsection, said cash balance accumulates so that it is equal to twenty percent of all bonds guaranteed, or to the full amount of all bonds guaranteed, outstanding and unpaid (which amount might be less than twenty percent of the original total guaranteed), then no further moneys need be set aside and paid into said guaranty fund so long as said condition shall continue.

(2) Whenever any warrants issued against the guaranty fund, as hereinbelow provided, remain outstanding and uncalled for lack of funds for six months from date of issuance thereof; or whenever any coupons or bonds guaranteed under \*this act have been matured for six months and have not been redeemed either in cash or by issuance and delivery of warrants upon the guaranty fund, then twenty percent of the gross monthly revenues (or such portion thereof as the commissioners of the water district determine will be sufficient to retire said warrants or redeem said coupons or bonds in the ensuing six months) derived from all water users in the water district shall be set aside and paid into the guaranty fund: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That whenever under the requirements of this subsection all warrants, coupons, or bonds specified in this subsection above have been redeemed, no further income need be set aside and paid into said guaranty fund under the requirements of this subsection until and unless other warrants remain outstanding and unpaid for six months or other coupons or bonds default.

(3) For the purpose of complying with the requirements of setting aside and paying into the local improvement guaranty fund a proportion of the monthly gross revenues of the water supply system of any water district, as hereinabove provided, said water district shall bind and obligate itself to maintain and operate said system and further bind and obligate itself to establish, maintain and collect such rates for water as will produce gross revenues sufficient to maintain and operate said water supply system and to make necessary provision for the local improvement guaranty fund as specified by this section and RCW 57.20.080 and 57.20.090. And said water district shall alter its rates for water from time to time and shall vary the same in different portions of its territory to comply with the said requirements.

(4) Whenever any coupon or bond guaranteed by \*this act shall mature and there shall not be sufficient funds in the appropriate local improvement district bond redemption fund

to pay same, then the applicable county treasurer shall pay same from the local improvement guaranty fund of the water district; if there shall not be sufficient funds in the said guaranty fund to pay same, then the same may be paid by issuance and delivery of a warrant upon the local improvement guaranty fund.

(5) Whenever the cash balance in the local improvement guaranty fund is insufficient for the required purposes, warrants drawing interest at a rate determined by the commissioners may be issued by the applicable county auditor, against the said fund to meet any liability accrued against it and must be issued upon demand of the holders of any maturing coupons and/or bonds guaranteed by this section, or to pay for any certificates of delinquency for delinquent installments of assessments as provided in subsection (6) of this section. Guaranty fund warrants shall be a first lien in their order of issuance upon the gross revenues set aside and paid into said fund.

(6) Within twenty days after the date of delinquency of any annual installment of assessments levied for the purpose of paying the local improvement bonds of any water district guaranteed under the provisions of \*this act, it shall be mandatory for the county treasurer of the county in which the real property is located to compile a statement of all installments delinquent, together with the amount of accrued interest and penalty appurtenant to each of said installments. Thereupon the applicable county treasurer shall forthwith purchase (for the water district) certificates of delinquency for all such delinquent installments. Payment for all such certificates of delinquency shall be made from the local improvement guaranty fund and if there shall not be sufficient moneys in said fund to pay for such certificates of delinquency, the applicable county treasurer shall accept said local improvement guaranty fund warrants in payment therefor. All such certificates of delinquency shall be issued in the name of the local improvement guaranty fund and all guaranty fund warrants issued in payment therefor shall be issued in the name of the appropriate local improvement district fund. Whenever any market is available and the commissioners of the water district so direct, the applicable county treasurer shall sell any certificates of delinquency belonging to the local improvement guaranty fund: PROVIDED, That any such sale must not be for less than face value thereof plus accrued interest from date of issuance to date of sale.

Such certificates of delinquency, as above provided, shall be issued by the county treasurer of the county in which the real property is located, shall bear interest at the rate of ten percent per annum, shall be in each instance for the face value of the delinquent installment, plus accrued interest to date of issuance of certificate of delinquency, plus a penalty of five percent of such face value, and shall set forth:

- (a) Description of property assessed;
- (b) Date installment of assessment became delinquent;
- (c) Name of owner or reputed owner, if known.

Such certificates of delinquency may be redeemed by the owner of the property assessed at any time up to two years from the date of foreclosure of such certificate of delinquency.

If any such certificate of delinquency be not redeemed on the second occurring first day of January subsequent to



its issuance, the county treasurer who issued the certificate of delinquency shall then proceed to foreclose such certificate of delinquency in the manner specified for the foreclosure of the lien of local improvement assessments, pursuant to chapter 35.50 RCW and if no redemption be made within the succeeding two years shall execute and deliver a deed conveying fee simple title to the property described in the foreclosed certificate of delinquency. [1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 20; 1981 c 156 § 20; 1937 c 102 § 1; 1935 c 82 § 1; RRS § 11589-1. Formerly RCW 57.20.030 through 57.20.070.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The term "this act" first appears in 1937 c 102, codified as RCW 57.20.030, 57.20.080, and 57.20.090.

**57.20.030 Local improvement guaranty fund.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) Every district in the state is authorized to create a fund for the purpose of guaranteeing, to the extent of such fund, and in the manner hereinafter provided, the payment of all of its local improvement bonds issued to pay for any local improvement within its confines. Such fund shall be designated "Local Improvement Guaranty Fund of the " . . . . . Water-Sewer District," " . . . . . Water District," " . . . . . Sewer District," or " . . . . . District No. . . . .," and shall be established by resolution of the board of commissioners. For the purpose of maintaining such fund, every district, after the establishment thereof, shall at all times set aside and pay into such a fund such proportion of the monthly gross revenues of the water supply, sewer, or drainage system of such district as the commissioners thereof may direct by resolution. This proportion may be varied from time to time as the commissioners deem expedient or necessary. However, under the existence of the conditions set forth in subsections (1) and (2) of this section, then the proportion must be as specified in subsections (1) and (2) of this section:

(1) Whenever any bonds of any local improvement district have been guaranteed under this section and RCW 57.20.080 and 57.20.090 and the guaranty fund does not have a cash balance equal to twenty percent of all bonds originally guaranteed under this section and RCW 57.20.080 and 57.20.090 (excluding issues which have been retired in full), then twenty percent of the gross monthly revenues derived from water, sewer, and drainage systems in the territory included in the local improvement district (but not necessarily from users in other parts of the district as a whole) shall be set aside and paid into the guaranty fund, except that whenever under the requirements of this subsection, the cash balance accumulates so that it is equal to twenty percent of all bonds guaranteed, or to the full amount of all bonds guaranteed, outstanding and unpaid (which amount might be less than twenty percent of the original total guaranteed), then no further money need be set aside and paid into the guaranty fund so long as the condition shall continue.

(2) Whenever any warrants issued against the guaranty fund, as provided in this section, remain outstanding and uncalled for lack of funds for six months from the date of issuance thereof; or whenever any coupons or bonds guaranteed under this section and RCW 57.20.080 and 57.20.090 have been matured for six months and have not been redeemed either in cash or by issuance and delivery of warrants upon the guaranty fund, then twenty percent of the gross monthly revenues (or such portion thereof as the

commissioners of the district determine will be sufficient to retire the warrants or redeem the coupons or bonds in the ensuing six months) derived from all water, sewer, and drainage system users in the district shall be set aside and paid into the guaranty fund. However, whenever under the requirements of this subsection all warrants, coupons, or bonds specified in this subsection have been redeemed, no further income needs to be set aside and paid into the guaranty fund under the requirements of this subsection until and unless other warrants remain outstanding and unpaid for six months or other coupons or bonds default.

(3) For the purposes of complying with the requirements of setting aside and paying into the local improvement guaranty fund a proportion of the monthly gross revenues of the water supply, sewer, or drainage system of any district, as provided in subsections (1) and (2) of this section, that district shall bind and obligate itself to maintain and operate the applicable system and further bind and obligate itself to establish, maintain, and collect such rates for water, sewer, or drainage as will produce gross revenues sufficient to maintain and operate that system and to make necessary provision for the local improvement guaranty fund as specified by this section and RCW 57.20.080 and 57.20.090. The district shall alter its rates for water, sewer, and drainage service from time to time and shall vary the same in different portions of its territory to comply with those requirements.

(4) Whenever any coupon or bond guaranteed by this section shall mature and there shall not be sufficient funds in the appropriate local improvement district bond redemption fund to pay the same, then the applicable county treasurer shall pay same from the local improvement guaranty fund of the district; if there shall not be sufficient funds in the guaranty fund to pay same, then the same may be paid by issuance and delivery of a warrant upon the local improvement guaranty fund.

(5) Whenever the cash balance in the local improvement guaranty fund is insufficient for the required purposes, warrants drawing interest at a rate determined by the commissioners may be issued by the applicable county auditor, against the fund to meet any liability accrued against it and must be issued upon demand of the holders of any maturing coupons and/or bonds guaranteed by this section, or to pay for any certificates of delinquency for delinquent installments of assessments as provided in subsection (6) of this section. Guaranty fund warrants shall be a first lien in their order of issuance upon the gross revenues set aside and paid into that fund.

(6) Within twenty days after the date of delinquency of any annual installment of assessments levied for the purpose of paying the local improvement bonds of any district guaranteed under the provisions of this section, it shall be mandatory for the county treasurer of the county in which the real property is located to compile a statement of all installments delinquent, together with the amount of accrued interest and penalty appurtenant to each of the installments. Thereupon the applicable county treasurer shall forthwith purchase (for the district) certificates of delinquency for all such delinquent installments. Payment for all such certificates of delinquency shall be made from the local improvement guaranty fund and if there shall not be sufficient money in the fund to pay for such certificates of delinquency

cy, the applicable county treasurer shall accept the local improvement guaranty fund warrants in payment therefor. All of those certificates of delinquency shall be issued in the name of the local improvement guaranty fund and all guaranty fund warrants issued in payment therefor shall be issued in the name of the appropriate local improvement district fund. Whenever any market is available and the commissioners of the district so direct, the applicable county treasurer shall sell any certificates of delinquency belonging to the local improvement guaranty fund. However, any such sale must not be for less than face value thereof plus accrued interest from date of issuance to date of sale.

(7) Certificates of delinquency, as provided in subsection (6) of this section, shall be issued by the county treasurer of the county in which the real property is located, shall bear interest at the rate of ten percent per annum, shall be in each instance for the face value of the delinquent installment, plus accrued interest to date of issuance of certificate of delinquency, plus a penalty of five percent of such face value, and shall set forth:

- (a) Description of property assessed;
- (b) Date installment of assessment became delinquent;
- (c) Name of owner or reputed owner, if known.

The certificates of delinquency may be redeemed by the owner of the property assessed at any time up to two years from the date of foreclosure of such certificate of delinquency. If any such certificate of delinquency is not redeemed on the second occurring first day of January subsequent to its issuance, the county treasurer who issued the certificate of delinquency shall then proceed to foreclose such certificate of delinquency in the manner specified for the foreclosure of the lien of local improvement assessments, pursuant to chapter 35.50 RCW and if no redemption be made within the succeeding two years shall execute and deliver a deed conveying fee simple title to the property described in the foreclosed certificate of delinquency. [1996 c 230 § 710; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 20; 1981 c 156 § 20; 1937 c 102 § 1; 1935 c 82 § 1; RRS § 11589-1. Formerly RCW 57.20.030 through 57.20.070.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.20.080 Guaranty fund—Subrogation of district as trustee. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Whenever there shall be paid out of a guaranty fund any sum on account of principal or interest upon a local improvement bond, or on account of purchase of certificates of delinquency, the water district, as trustee for the fund, shall be subrogated to all rights of the owner of the bonds, or any interest, or delinquent assessment installments, so paid; and the proceeds thereof, or of the assessment or assessments underlying the same, shall become a part of the guaranty fund. There shall also be paid into each guaranty fund the interest received from the bank deposits of the fund, as well as any surplus remaining in the local improvement funds guaranteed by the guaranty fund, after the payment of all outstanding bonds payable primarily out of such local improvement funds. As among the several issues of bonds guaranteed by the fund, no preference shall exist, but defaulted bonds and any defaulted interest payments shall be purchased out of the fund in the order of their presentation.

The commissioners of every water district operating under RCW 57.20.030, 57.20.080, and 57.20.090 shall prescribe, by resolution, appropriate rules and regulations for the guaranty fund, not inconsistent herewith. So much of the money of a guaranty fund as is necessary and is not required for other purposes under RCW 57.20.030, 57.20.080, and 57.20.090 may, at the discretion of the commissioners of the water district, be used to purchase property at county tax foreclosure sales or from the county after foreclosure in cases where such property is subject to unpaid local improvement assessments securing bonds guaranteed by the guaranty fund and such purchase is deemed necessary for the purpose of protecting the guaranty fund. In such cases the said fund shall be subrogated to all rights of the water district. After so acquiring title to real property, the water district may lease or resell and convey the same in the same manner that county property is authorized to be leased or resold and for such prices and on such terms as may be determined by resolution of the board of water commissioners. Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, all proceeds resulting from such resales shall belong to and be paid into the guaranty fund. [1983 c 167 § 165; 1937 c 102 § 2; 1935 c 82 § 2; RRS § 11589-2.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**57.20.080 Guaranty fund—Subrogation of district as trustee. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** Whenever there shall be paid out of a guaranty fund any sum on account of principal or interest upon a local improvement bond, or on account of purchase of certificates of delinquency, the district, as trustee for the fund, shall be subrogated to all rights of the owner of the bonds, or any interest, or delinquent assessment installments, so paid; and the proceeds thereof, or of the assessment or assessments underlying the same, shall become a part of the guaranty fund. There shall also be paid into such guaranty fund the interest received from the bank deposits of the fund, as well as any surplus remaining in the local improvement funds guaranteed by the guaranty fund, after the payment of all outstanding bonds payable primarily out of such local improvement funds. As among the several issues of bonds guaranteed by the fund, no preference shall exist, but defaulted bonds and any defaulted interest payments shall be purchased out of the fund in the order of their presentation.

The commissioners of every district that establishes a guaranty fund shall prescribe, by resolution, appropriate rules and regulations for the guaranty fund, not inconsistent herewith. So much of the money of a guaranty fund as is necessary and is not required for other purposes under this section and RCW 57.20.030 and 57.20.090 may, at the discretion of the commissioners of the district, be used to purchase property at county tax foreclosure sales or from the county after foreclosure in cases where such property is subject to unpaid local improvement assessments securing bonds guaranteed by the guaranty fund and such purchase is deemed necessary for the purpose of protecting the guaranty fund. In such cases the guaranty fund shall be subrogated to all rights of the district. After so acquiring title to real property, the district may lease or resell and convey the same in the same manner that county property is authorized to be leased or resold and for such prices and on such terms

as may be determined by resolution of the board of commissioners. Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, all proceeds resulting from such resales shall belong to and be paid into the guaranty fund. [1996 c 230 § 711; 1983 c 167 § 165; 1937 c 102 § 2; 1935 c 82 § 2; RRS § 11589-2.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**57.20.090 Rights and remedies of bond owner. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** The owner of any local improvement bonds guaranteed under the provisions of RCW 57.20.030, 57.20.080, and 57.20.090 shall not have any claim therefor against the water district by which the same is issued, except for payment from the special assessments made for the improvement for which said local improvement bonds were issued, and except as against the local improvement guaranty fund of said water district; and the water district shall not be liable to any owner of such local improvement bond for any loss to the guaranty fund occurring in the lawful operation thereof by the water district. The remedy of the owner of a local improvement bond, in case of nonpayment, shall be confined to the enforcement of the assessment and to the guaranty fund. A copy of the foregoing part of this section shall be plainly written, printed or engraved on each local improvement bond guaranteed by RCW 57.20.030, 57.20.080, and 57.20.090. The establishment of a local improvement guaranty fund by any water district shall not be deemed at variance from any comprehensive plan heretofore adopted by such water district.

In the event any local improvement guaranty fund hereunder authorized at any time has a balance therein in cash, and the obligations guaranteed thereby have all been paid off, then such balance shall be transferred to the maintenance fund of the water district. [1983 c 167 § 166; 1937 c 102 § 3; 1935 c 82 § 3; RRS § 11589-3.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**57.20.090 Rights and remedies of bond owner. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** The owner of any local improvement bonds guaranteed under the provisions of this section and RCW 57.20.030 and 57.20.080 shall not have any claim therefor against the district by which the same is issued, except for payment from the special assessments made for the improvement for which the local improvement bonds were issued, and except as against the local improvement guaranty fund of the district; and the district shall not be liable to any owner of such local improvement bond for any loss to the guaranty fund occurring in the lawful operation thereof by the district. The remedy of the owner of a local improvement bond, in case of nonpayment, shall be confined to the enforcement of the assessment and to the guaranty fund. A copy of the foregoing part of this section shall be plainly written, printed or engraved on each local improvement bond guaranteed by this section and RCW 57.20.030 and 57.20.080. The establishment of a local improvement guaranty fund by any district shall not be deemed at variance from any comprehensive plan heretofore adopted by that district.

(1996 Ed.)

If any local improvement guaranty fund hereunder authorized at any time has a balance therein in cash, and the obligations guaranteed thereby have all been paid off, then such balance shall be transferred to the maintenance fund of the district. [1996 c 230 § 712; 1983 c 167 § 166; 1937 c 102 § 3; 1935 c 82 § 3; RRS § 11589-3.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**57.20.100 Annual tax levy. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** A district may, in addition to the levies mentioned in RCW 57.16.020, 57.16.040 and 57.20.010, levy a general tax on all property located in the district each year not to exceed fifty cents per thousand dollars of assessed value against the assessed valuation of the property where such water district maintains a fire department as authorized by RCW 57.16.010 to 57.16.040, inclusive, but such levy shall not be made where any property within such water district lies within the boundaries of any fire protection district created under Title 52 RCW. The taxes so levied shall be certified for collection as other general taxes, and the proceeds, when collected, shall be placed in such water district funds as the commissioners may direct and paid out on warrants issued for water district purposes. [1984 c 230 § 84; 1983 c 3 § 163; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 73; 1951 2nd ex.s. c 25 § 4; 1951 c 62 § 1; 1929 c 114 § 18; RRS § 11595. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 17.]

**Severability—Effective dates and termination dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043. *Excess tax levies authorized: RCW 84.52.052.*

**57.20.105 Vote on general indebtedness. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** The commissioners may submit to the voters of the district at any general or special election, a proposition that the district incur a general indebtedness payable from annual tax levies to be made in excess of the constitutional tax limitation for the construction of any part or all of the improvements described in its general comprehensive plan or plans. Elections shall be held as provided in RCW 39.36.050. The proposition authorizing both the bond issue and imposition of excess bond retirement levies must be adopted by three-fifths of the voters voting thereon, at which election the total number of persons voting on the proposition shall constitute not less than forty percent of the total number of votes cast in the district at the last preceding general election. The bonds shall not be issued to run for a period longer than thirty years from the date of the issue. The bonds shall be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW.

Whenever the proposition to issue general obligation bonds and impose such excess bond retirement levies has been approved, there shall be levied by the officers or governing body charged with the duty of levying taxes, annual levies in excess of the constitutional tax limitation sufficient to meet the annual or semiannual payments of principal and interest on the bonds upon all taxable property within the district. [1996 c 230 § 701; 1984 c 186 § 51; 1974 ex.s. c 31 § 1. Prior: 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 69; 1959 c 108 § 7; 1959 c 18 § 7; prior: 1953 c 251 § 5; 1951 2nd ex.s. c 25 § 1; 1939 c 128 § 2, part; 1937 c 177 § 1, part;

1929 c 114 § 10, part; RRS § 11588, part. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 10, part. Formerly RCW 57.16.020.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

**Severability—Effective dates and termination dates—Construction—1973 1st ex.s. c 195:** See notes following RCW 84.52.043.

*Limitation on*

*levies: State Constitution Art. 7 § 2; RCW 84.52.010, 84.52.050 through 84.52.056.*

*municipal corporation indebtedness: State Constitution Art. 8 § 6.*

**57.20.110 Limitation of indebtedness. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Each and every water district that may hereafter be organized pursuant to \*this act is hereby authorized and empowered by and through its board of water commissioners to contract indebtedness for water purposes, and the maintenance thereof not exceeding one-half of one percent of the value of the taxable property in such water district, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in RCW 39.36.015. [1970 ex.s. c 42 § 35; 1929 c 114 § 19; RRS § 11596. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 18.]

\*Reviser's note: For "this act," see note following RCW 57.04.080.

**Severability—Effective date—1970 ex.s. c 42:** See notes following RCW 39.36.015.

*Limitation on municipal corporation indebtedness: State Constitution Art. 8 § 6.*

**57.20.110 Limitation of indebtedness. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** A district is authorized and empowered by and through its board of commissioners to contract indebtedness for its purposes, and the maintenance thereof not exceeding one-half of one percent of the value of the taxable property in the district, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in RCW 39.36.015. [1996 c 230 § 713; 1970 ex.s. c 42 § 35; 1929 c 114 § 19; RRS § 11596. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 18.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**Severability—Effective date—1970 ex.s. c 42:** See notes following RCW 39.36.015.

*Limitation on municipal corporation indebtedness: State Constitution Art. 8 § 6.*

**57.20.120 Additional indebtedness. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Each and every water district hereafter to be organized pursuant to this title, may contract indebtedness in excess of the amount named in RCW 57.20.110, but not exceeding in amount, together with existing indebtedness, two and one-half percent of the value of the taxable property in said district, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in RCW 39.36.015, whenever three-fifths of the voters voting at said election in such water district assent thereto, at which election the total number of persons voting on the proposition shall constitute not less than forty percent of the total number of votes cast in the water district at the last preceding general election, at an election to be held in said water district in the manner provided by this title and RCW 39.36.050: PROVIDED, That all bonds so to be issued shall be subject to the provisions regarding bonds as set out in RCW 57.20.010. [1984 c 186 § 55; 1970 ex.s. c

42 § 36; 1929 c 114 § 20; RRS § 11597. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 19.]

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

**Severability—Effective date—1970 ex.s. c 42:** See notes following RCW 39.36.015.

**57.20.120 Additional indebtedness. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** A district may contract indebtedness in excess of the amount named in RCW 57.20.110, but not exceeding in amount, together with existing indebtedness, two and one-half percent of the value of the taxable property in that district, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in RCW 39.36.015, and impose excess property tax levies to retire the indebtedness whenever three-fifths of the voters voting at the election in such district assent thereto, at which election the total number of persons voting on the proposition shall constitute not less than forty percent of the total number of votes cast in the district at the last preceding general election, at an election to be held in the district in the manner provided by this title and RCW 39.36.050. [1996 c 230 § 714; 1984 c 186 § 55; 1970 ex.s. c 42 § 36; 1929 c 114 § 20; RRS § 11597. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 19.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**Purpose—1984 c 186:** See note following RCW 39.46.110.

**Severability—Effective date—1970 ex.s. c 42:** See notes following RCW 39.36.015.

**57.20.130 Bonds—Payment of interest. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Any coupons for the payment of interest on said bonds shall be considered for all purposes as warrants drawn upon the general fund of the said water district issuing such bonds, and when presented to the treasurer of the county having custody of the funds of such water district at maturity, or thereafter, and when so presented, if there are not funds in the treasury to pay the said coupons, it shall be the duty of the county treasurer to endorse said coupons as presented for payment, in the same manner as county warrants are indorsed, and thereafter said coupons shall bear interest at the same rate as the bond to which it was attached. When there are no funds in the treasury to make interest payments on bonds not having coupons, the overdue interest payment shall continue bearing interest at the bond rate until it is paid, unless otherwise provided in the proceedings authorizing the sale of the bonds. [1983 c 167 § 167; 1929 c 114 § 22; RRS § 11599. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 21.]

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**57.20.130 Bonds—Payment of interest. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** Any coupons for the payment of interest on bonds of any district shall be considered for all purposes as warrants drawn upon the general fund of the district issuing such bonds, and when presented to the treasurer of the county having custody of the funds of such district at maturity, or thereafter, and when so presented, if there are not funds in the treasury to pay the coupons, it shall be the duty of the county treasurer to endorse the coupons as presented for payment, in the same manner as county warrants are indorsed, and thereafter the coupons shall bear

interest at the same rate as the bonds to which they were attached. When there are no funds in the treasury to make interest payments on bonds not having coupons, the overdue interest payment shall continue bearing interest at the bond rate until it is paid, unless otherwise provided in the proceedings authorizing the sale of the bonds. [1996 c 230 § 715; 1983 c 167 § 167; 1929 c 114 § 22; RRS § 11599. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 21.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**Liberal construction—Severability—1983 c 167:** See RCW 39.46.010 and note following.

**57.20.135 Treasurer—Designation—Approval—Powers and duties—Bond. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Upon obtaining the approval of the county treasurer, the board of commissioners of a water district with more than twenty-five hundred customers may designate by resolution some other person having experience in financial or fiscal matters as the treasurer of the district. Such a treasurer shall possess all of the powers, responsibilities, and duties of, and shall be subject to the same restrictions as provided by law for, the county treasurer with regard to a water district, and the county auditor with regard to water district financial matters. Such treasurer shall be bonded for not less than twenty-five thousand dollars. Approval by the county treasurer authorizing such a water district to designate its treasurer shall not be arbitrarily or capriciously withheld. [1988 c 162 § 11; 1983 c 57 § 4.]

**Ratification—1988 c 162 §§ 10, 11:** See note following RCW 56.16.135.

**57.20.135 Treasurer—Designation—Approval—Powers and duties—Bond. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** Upon obtaining the approval of the county treasurer, the board of commissioners of a district with more than twenty-five hundred water customers or sewer customers may designate by resolution some other person having experience in financial or fiscal matters as the treasurer of the district. Such a treasurer shall possess all of the powers, responsibilities, and duties of, and shall be subject to the same restrictions as provided by law for, the county treasurer with regard to a district, and the county auditor with regard to district financial matters. Such treasurer shall be bonded for not less than twenty-five thousand dollars. Approval by the county treasurer authorizing such a district to designate its treasurer shall not be arbitrarily or capriciously withheld. [1996 c 230 § 716; 1988 c 162 § 11; 1983 c 57 § 4.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**Ratification—1988 c 162 §§ 10, 11:** "Any action taken by a sewer district treasurer or water district treasurer prior to March 21, 1988, and consistent with sections 10 and 11 of this act is ratified and confirmed." [1988 c 162 § 12.]

**57.20.140 Maintenance or general fund and special funds. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Unless the board of commissioners of a water district designates a treasurer under RCW 57.20.135, the county treasurer shall create and maintain a separate fund designated as the maintenance fund or general fund of the district into which shall be paid all money received by him from the collection of taxes other

than taxes levied for the payment of general obligation bonds of the district and all revenues of the district other than assessments levied in local improvement districts or utility local improvement districts, and no money shall be disbursed therefrom except upon warrants of the county auditor issued by authority of the commissioners or upon a resolution of the commissioners ordering a transfer to any other fund of the district. The county treasurer shall also maintain such other special funds as may be prescribed by the water district, into which shall be placed such moneys as the board of water commissioners may by its resolution direct, and from which disbursements shall be made upon proper warrants of the county auditor issued against the same by authority of the board of water commissioners. [1983 c 57 § 3; 1959 c 108 § 14; 1929 c 114 § 23; RRS § 11600. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 22.]

**57.20.140 Maintenance or general fund and special funds. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** The treasurer designated under RCW 57.20.135 shall create and maintain a separate fund designated as the maintenance fund or general fund of the district into which shall be paid all money received by the treasurer from the collection of taxes other than taxes levied for the payment of general obligation bonds of the district and all revenues of the district other than assessments levied in local improvement districts or utility local improvement districts, and no money shall be disbursed therefrom except upon warrants of the county auditor issued by authority of the commissioners or upon a resolution of the commissioners ordering a transfer to any other fund of the district. The treasurer also shall maintain such other special funds as may be prescribed by the district, into which shall be placed such money as the board of commissioners may by its resolution direct, and from which disbursements shall be made upon proper warrants of the county auditor issued against the same by authority of the board of commissioners. [1996 c 230 § 717; 1983 c 57 § 3; 1959 c 108 § 14; 1929 c 114 § 23; RRS § 11600. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 22.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.20.150 Maintenance or general fund and special funds—Use of surplus in maintenance or general fund. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Whenever a water district has accumulated moneys in the maintenance fund or general fund of the district in excess of the requirements of such fund, the board of water commissioners may in its discretion use any of such surplus moneys for any of the following purposes: (1) Redemption or servicing of outstanding obligations of the district, (2) maintenance expenses of the district, (3) construction or acquisition of any facilities necessary to carry out the purpose of the district. [1959 c 108 § 15.]

**57.20.150 Maintenance or general fund and special funds—Use of surplus in maintenance or general fund. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** Whenever a district has accumulated money in the maintenance fund or general fund of the district in excess of the requirements of that fund, the board of commissioners may in its discretion use any of that surplus money for any of the following purposes: (1)

Redemption or servicing of outstanding obligations of the district; (2) maintenance expenses of the district; (3) construction or acquisition of any facilities necessary to carry out the purposes of the district; or (4) any other proper district purpose. [1996 c 230 § 718; 1959 c 108 § 15.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.20.160 Maintenance or general fund and special funds—Deposits and investments.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Whenever there shall have accumulated in any general or special fund of a water district moneys, the disbursement of which is not yet due, the board of water commissioners may, by resolution, authorize the county treasurer to deposit or invest such moneys in qualified public depositories, or to invest such moneys in any investment permitted at any time by RCW 36.29.020: PROVIDED, That the county treasurer may refuse to invest any district moneys the disbursement of which will be required during the period of investment to meet outstanding obligations of the district. [1986 c 294 § 13; 1983 c 66 § 22; 1981 c 24 § 4; 1973 1st ex.s. c 140 § 3; 1959 c 108 § 16.]

**Severability—1983 c 66:** See note following RCW 39.58.010.

*Public depositories: Chapter 39.58 RCW.*

**57.20.160 Maintenance or general fund and special funds—Deposits and investments.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) Whenever there shall have accumulated in any general or special fund of a district money, the disbursement of which is not yet due, the board of commissioners may, by resolution, authorize the treasurer to deposit or invest such money in qualified public depositories, or to invest such money in any investment permitted at any time by RCW 36.29.020. However, the county treasurer may refuse to invest any district money the disbursement of which will be required during the period of investment to meet outstanding obligations of the district. [1996 c 230 § 719; 1986 c 294 § 13; 1983 c 66 § 22; 1981 c 24 § 4; 1973 1st ex.s. c 140 § 3; 1959 c 108 § 16.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**Severability—1983 c 66:** See note following RCW 39.58.010.

*Public depositories: Chapter 39.58 RCW.*

**57.20.165 Deposit account requirements.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Water district moneys shall be deposited by the district in an account, which may be interest-bearing, subject to such requirements and conditions as may be prescribed by the state auditor. The account shall be in the name of the district except, upon request by the treasurer, the accounts shall be in the name of the ".....(name of county)..... county treasurer." The treasurer may instruct the financial institutions holding the deposits to transfer them to the treasurer at such times as the treasurer may deem appropriate, consistent with regulations governing and policies of the financial institution. [1981 c 24 § 2.]

**57.20.165 Deposit account requirements.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) District money shall be deposited by the district in any account, which may be interest-bearing, subject to such requirements and conditions as may be

prescribed by the state auditor. The account shall be in the name of the district except upon request by the treasurer, the accounts shall be in the name of the ".....(name of county)..... county treasurer." The treasurer may instruct the financial institutions holding the deposits to transfer them to the treasurer at such times as the treasurer may deem appropriate, consistent with regulations governing and policies of the financial institution. [1996 c 230 § 720; 1981 c 24 § 2.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.20.170 Maintenance or general fund and special funds—Loans from maintenance or general funds to construction funds.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The board of water commissioners of any water district may, by resolution, authorize and direct a loan or loans from maintenance funds or general funds of the district to construction funds of the district: PROVIDED, That such loan does not, in the opinion of the board of water commissioners, impair the ability of the district to operate and maintain its water supply system. [1959 c 108 § 17.]

**57.20.170 Maintenance or general fund and special funds—Loans from maintenance or general funds to construction funds or other funds.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) The board of commissioners of any district may, by resolution, authorize and direct a loan or loans from maintenance funds or general funds of the district to construction funds or other funds of the district, so long as that loan or loans do not, in the opinion of the board of commissioners, impair the ability of the district to operate and maintain its water supply, sewer, drainage, or street lighting systems. [1996 c 230 § 721; 1959 c 108 § 17.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

## Chapter 57.22

### CONTRACTS FOR WATER SYSTEM EXTENSIONS

#### Sections

57.22.010	Contracts—Conditions.
57.22.020	Reimbursement to owner.
57.22.030	Scope of reimbursement.
57.22.040	Reimbursement—Procedures.
57.22.050	District participation in financing project.

**57.22.010 Contracts—Conditions.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) If the water district approves an extension to the water system, the district shall contract with owners of real estate located within the district boundaries, at an owner's request, for the purpose of permitting extensions to the district's water system to be constructed by such owner at such owner's sole cost where such extensions are required as a prerequisite to further property development. The contract shall contain such conditions as the district may require pursuant to the district's adopted policies and standards. The district shall request comprehensive plan approval for such extension, if required, and connection of the extension to the district system is conditioned upon:

- (1) Construction of such extension according to plans and specifications approved by the district;
- (2) Inspection and approval of such extension by the district;
- (3) Transfer to the district of such extension without cost to the district upon acceptance by the district of such extension;
- (4) Payment of all required connection charges to the district;
- (5) Full compliance with the owner's obligations under such contract and with the district's rules and regulations;
- (6) Provision of sufficient security to the district to ensure completion of the extension and other performance under the contract;
- (7) Payment by the owner to the district of all of the district's costs associated with such extension including, but not limited to, the district's engineering, legal, and administrative costs; and
- (8) Verification and approval of all contracts and costs related to such extension. [1989 c 389 § 11.]

**57.22.010 Contracts—Conditions.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) If the district approves an extension to the system, the district shall contract with owners of real estate located within the district boundaries, at an owner's request, for the purpose of permitting extensions to the district's system to be constructed by such owner at such owner's sole cost where such extensions are required as a prerequisite to further property development. The contract shall contain such conditions as the district may require pursuant to the district's adopted policies and standards. The district shall request comprehensive plan approval for such extension, if required, and connection of the extension to the district system is conditioned upon:

- (1) Construction of such extension according to plans and specifications approved by the district;
- (2) Inspection and approval of such extension by the district;
- (3) Transfer to the district of such extension without cost to the district upon acceptance by the district of such extension;
- (4) Payment of all required connection charges to the district;
- (5) Full compliance with the owner's obligations under such contract and with the district's rules and regulations;
- (6) Provision of sufficient security to the district to ensure completion of the extension and other performance under the contract;
- (7) Payment by the owner to the district of all of the district's costs associated with such extension including, but not limited to, the district's engineering, legal, and administrative costs; and
- (8) Verification and approval of all contracts and costs related to such extension. [1996 c 230 § 801; 1989 c 389 § 11.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.22.020 Reimbursement to owner.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The contract shall also provide, subject to the terms and conditions in this section, for the reimbursement

to the owner or the owner's assigns for a period not to exceed fifteen years of a portion of the costs of the water facilities constructed pursuant to such contract from connection charges received by the district from other property owners who subsequently connect to or use the water facilities within the fifteen-year period and who did not contribute to the original cost of such water facilities. [1989 c 389 § 12.]

**57.22.020 Reimbursement to owner.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) The contract shall also provide, subject to the terms and conditions in this section, for the reimbursement to the owner or the owner's assigns for a period not to exceed fifteen years of a portion of the costs of the facilities constructed pursuant to such contract from connection charges received by the district from other property owners who subsequently connect to or use the facilities within the fifteen-year period and who did not contribute to the original cost of such facilities. [1996 c 230 § 802; 1989 c 389 § 12.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.22.030 Scope of reimbursement.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The reimbursement shall be a pro rata share of construction and reimbursement of contract administration costs of the water project. Reimbursement for water projects shall include, but not be limited to, design, engineering, installation, and restoration. [1989 c 389 § 13.]

**57.22.030 Scope of reimbursement.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) The reimbursement shall be a pro rata share of construction and contract administration costs of the project. Reimbursement for projects shall include, but not be limited to, design, engineering, installation, and restoration. [1996 c 230 § 803; 1989 c 389 § 13.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.22.040 Reimbursement—Procedures.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The procedures for reimbursement contracts shall be governed by the following:

- (1) A reimbursement area shall be formulated by the board of commissioners within a reasonable time after the acceptance of the extension. The reimbursement shall be based upon a determination by the board of commissioners of which parcels would require similar water improvements upon development.
- (2) The contract must be recorded in the appropriate county auditor's office after the final execution of the agreement. [1989 c 389 § 14.]

**57.22.040 Reimbursement—Procedures.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) The procedures for reimbursement contracts shall be governed by the following:

- (1) A reimbursement area shall be formulated by the board of commissioners within a reasonable time after the acceptance of the extension. The reimbursement shall be based upon a determination by the board of commissioners of which parcels would require similar improvements upon development.

(2) The contract must be recorded in the appropriate county auditor's office after the final execution of the agreement. [1996 c 230 § 804; 1989 c 389 § 14.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.22.050 District participation in financing project. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** As an alternative to financing projects under this chapter solely by owners of real estate, a water district may join in the financing of improvement projects and may be reimbursed in the same manner as the owners of real estate who participate in the projects, if the water district has specified the conditions of its participation in a resolution. [1989 c 389 § 15.]

**57.22.050 District participation in financing project. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** As an alternative to financing projects under this chapter solely by owners of real estate, districts may join in the financing of improvement projects and may be reimbursed in the same manner as the owners of real estate who participate in the projects, if the board of commissioners has specified the conditions of its participation in a resolution. [1996 c 230 § 805; 1989 c 389 § 15.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

## Chapter 57.24

### ANNEXATION OF TERRITORY

#### Sections

- 57.24.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.
- 57.24.010 Annexation authorized—Petition—Notice of hearing.
- 57.24.020 Hearing procedure—Boundaries—Election, notice, judges.
- 57.24.040 Election—Qualification of voters.
- 57.24.050 Expense of election.
- 57.24.060 Petition method is alternative to election method.
- 57.24.070 Petition method—Petition—Signers—Content—Certain public properties excluded from local improvement districts.
- 57.24.080 Petition method—Hearing—Notice.
- 57.24.090 Petition method—Resolution providing for annexation.
- 57.24.100 Petition method—Effective date of annexation—Prior indebtedness.
- 57.24.170 Annexation of certain unincorporated territory—Authorized—Hearing.
- 57.24.180 Annexation of certain unincorporated territory—Opportunity to be heard—Effective date of annexation resolution—Notice—Referendum.
- 57.24.190 Annexation of certain unincorporated territory—Referendum authorized—Petition—Election—Effective date of annexation.
- 57.24.200 Expenditure of funds to provide certain information authorized—Limits.
- 57.24.210 Annexation of certain unincorporated territory with boundaries contiguous to two municipal corporations providing water service—Procedure.
- 57.24.220 Assumption of substandard water system—Limited immunity from liability.

**57.24.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Actions taken under chapter 57.24 RCW may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1989 c 84 § 58.]

**57.24.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** Actions taken under this chapter may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1996 c 230 § 901; 1989 c 84 § 58.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.24.010 Annexation authorized—Petition—Notice of hearing. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Territory within the county or counties in which a district is located, or territory adjoining or in close proximity to a district but which is located in another county, may be annexed to and become a part of the district. All annexations shall be accomplished in the following manner: Ten percent of the number of registered voters residing in the territory proposed to be annexed who voted in the last general municipal election may file a petition with the district commissioners and cause the question to be submitted to the voters of the territory whether such territory will be annexed and become a part of the district. If the commissioners concur in the petition, they shall file it with the county auditor of each county in which the real property proposed to be annexed is located, who shall, within ten days, examine and validate the signatures thereon and certify to the sufficiency or insufficiency thereof; and for such purpose the county auditor shall have access to all registration books in the possession of the officers of any city or town in the proposed district. If the petition contains a sufficient number of signatures, the county auditor of the county in which the real property proposed to be annexed is located shall transmit it, together with a certificate of sufficiency attached thereto to the water commissioners of the district. If there are no registered voters residing in the territory to be annexed, the petition may be signed by such a number as appear of record to own at least a majority of the acreage in the territory, and the petition shall disclose the total number of acres of land in the territory and the names of all record owners of land therein. If the commissioners are satisfied as to the sufficiency of the petition and concur therein, they shall send it, together with their certificate of concurrence attached thereto to the county legislative authority of each county in which the territory proposed to be annexed is located.

The county legislative authority, upon receipt of a petition certified to contain a sufficient number of signatures of registered voters, or upon receipt of a petition signed by such a number as own at least a majority of the acreage, together with a certificate of concurrence signed by the water commissioners, at a regular or special meeting shall cause to be published once a week for at least two weeks in a newspaper in general circulation throughout the territory proposed to be annexed a notice that the petition has been filed, stating the time of the meeting at which it shall be presented, and setting forth the boundaries of the territory proposed to be annexed. [1990 c 259 § 31; 1989 c 308 § 4; 1988 c 162 § 14; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 21; 1959 c 18 § 15. Prior: 1951 2nd ex.s. c 25 § 5; 1931 c 72 § 5, part; 1929 c 114 § 15, part; RRS § 11593, part. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 15, part.]



**57.24.010 Annexation authorized—Petition—Notice of hearing.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) Territory within the county or counties in which a district is located, or territory adjoining or in close proximity to a district but which is located in another county, may be annexed to and become a part of the district. All annexations shall be accomplished in the following manner: Ten percent of the number of registered voters residing in the territory proposed to be annexed who voted in the last municipal general election may file a petition with the district commissioners and cause the question to be submitted to the voters of the territory whether such territory will be annexed and become a part of the district. If the commissioners concur in the petition, they shall file it with the county auditor of the county in which all or the largest geographic portion of the real property proposed to be annexed is located, who shall, within ten days, examine the signatures thereon and certify to the sufficiency or insufficiency thereof. If the area proposed to be annexed is located in more than one county, the auditor of the county in which the largest geographic portion of the area proposed to be annexed is located shall be the lead auditor and shall immediately transfer a copy of the petitions to the auditor of each other county in which the area proposed to be annexed is located. Within ten days after the lead auditor received the petition, the auditors of these other counties shall certify to the lead auditor: (1) The number of voters of that county residing in the area proposed to be annexed who voted at the last municipal general election; and (2) the number of valid signatures on the petition of voters of that county residing in the area proposed to be annexed. The lead auditor shall certify the sufficiency of the petition after receiving this information. If the petition contains a sufficient number of valid signatures, the lead county auditor shall transmit it, together with a certificate of sufficiency attached thereto, to the commissioners of the district.

If there are no registered voters residing in the territory to be annexed, the petition may be signed by such a number as appear of record to own at least a majority of the acreage in the territory, and the petition shall disclose the total number of acres of land in the territory and the names of all record owners of land therein. If the commissioners are satisfied as to the sufficiency of the petition and concur therein, they shall send it, together with their certificate of concurrence attached thereto to the county legislative authority of each county in which the territory proposed to be annexed is located.

The county legislative authority, upon receipt of a petition certified to contain a sufficient number of signatures of registered voters, or upon receipt of a petition signed by such a number as own at least a majority of the acreage, together with a certificate of concurrence signed by the commissioners, at a regular or special meeting shall cause to be published once a week for at least two weeks in a newspaper in general circulation throughout the territory proposed to be annexed a notice that the petition has been filed, stating the time of the meeting at which it shall be presented, and setting forth the boundaries of the territory proposed to be annexed. [1996 c 230 § 902; 1990 c 259 § 31; 1989 c 308 § 4; 1988 c 162 § 14; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 21; 1959 c 18 § 15. Prior: 1951 2nd ex.s. c 25 § 5; 1931 c 72 § 5,

part; 1929 c 114 § 15, part; RRS § 11593, part. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 15, part.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.24.020 Hearing procedure—Boundaries—Election, notice, judges.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) When such petition is presented for hearing, the legislative authority of each county in which the territory proposed to be annexed is located shall hear the petition or may adjourn the hearing from time to time not exceeding one month in all, and any person, firm, or corporation may appear before the county legislative authority and make objections to the proposed boundary lines or to annexation of the territory described in the petition. Upon a final hearing each county legislative authority shall make such changes in the proposed boundary lines within the county as they deem to be proper and shall establish and define such boundaries and shall find whether the proposed annexation as established by the county legislative authority to the water district will be conducive to the public health, welfare and convenience and will be of special benefit to the land included within the boundaries of the territory proposed to be annexed to the water district of the territory proposed to be annexed to the water district. No lands which will not, in the judgment of the county legislative authority, be benefited by inclusion therein, shall be included within the boundaries of the territory as so established and defined. No change shall be made by the county legislative authority in the boundary lines, including any territory outside of the boundary lines described in the petition. No person having signed such petition shall be allowed to withdraw his name therefrom after the filing of the petition with the board of water commissioners.

Upon the entry of the findings of the final hearing each county legislative authority, if they find the proposed annexation to be conducive to the public health, welfare and convenience and to be of special benefit to the land proposed to be annexed and included within the boundaries of the district, shall give notice of a special election to be held within the boundaries of the territory proposed to be annexed to the water district for the purpose of determining whether the same shall be annexed to the water district. The notice shall particularly describe the boundaries established by the county legislative authority, and shall state the name of the water district to which the territory is proposed to be annexed, and the notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the territory proposed to be annexed at least once a week for a minimum of two successive weeks prior to the election and shall be posted for the same period in at least four public places within the boundaries of the territory proposed to be annexed, which notice shall designate the places within the territory proposed to be annexed where the election shall be held, and the proposition to the voters shall be expressed on ballots which contain the words:

For Annexation to Water District  
or

Against Annexation to Water District

The county legislative authority shall name the persons to act as judges at such election. [1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 22; 1959 c 18 § 16. Prior: 1931 c 72 § 5; 1929 c 114 § 15; RRS §

11593. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 15. Formerly RCW 57.24.010, 57.24.020 and 57.24.030.]

**57.24.020 Hearing procedure—Boundaries—Election, notice, judges.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) When such petition is presented for hearing, the legislative authority of each county in which the territory proposed to be annexed is located shall hear the petition or may adjourn the hearing from time to time not exceeding one month in all, and any person, firm, or corporation may appear before the county legislative authority and make objections to the proposed boundary lines or to annexation of the territory described in the petition. Upon a final hearing each county legislative authority shall make such changes in the proposed boundary lines within the county as it deems to be proper and shall establish and define such boundaries and shall find whether the proposed annexation as established by the county legislative authority to the district will be conducive to the public health, welfare and convenience and will be of special benefit to the land included within the boundaries of the territory proposed to be annexed to the district. No lands which will not, in the judgment of the county legislative authority, be benefited by inclusion therein, shall be included within the boundaries of the territory as so established and defined. No change shall be made by the county legislative authority in the boundary lines, including any territory outside of the boundary lines described in the petition. No person having signed such petition shall be allowed to withdraw such person's name therefrom after the filing of the petition with the board of commissioners.

Upon the entry of the findings of the final hearing each county legislative authority, if it finds the proposed annexation to be conducive to the public health, welfare, and convenience and to be of special benefit to the land proposed to be annexed and included within the boundaries of the district, shall give notice of a special election to be held within the boundaries of the territory proposed to be annexed to the district for the purpose of determining whether the same shall be annexed to the district. The notice shall particularly describe the boundaries established by the county legislative authority, and shall state the name of the district to which the territory is proposed to be annexed, and the notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the territory proposed to be annexed at least once a week for a minimum of two successive weeks prior to the election and shall be posted for the same period in at least four public places within the boundaries of the territory proposed to be annexed, which notice shall designate the places within the territory proposed to be annexed where the election shall be held, and the proposition to the voters shall be expressed on ballots which contain the words:

For Annexation to District  
or  
Against Annexation to District

The county legislative authority shall name the persons to act as judges at that election. [1996 c 230 § 903; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 22; 1959 c 18 § 16. Prior: 1931 c 72 § 5; 1929 c 114 § 15; RRS § 11593. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 15. Formerly RCW 57.24.010, 57.24.020 and 57.24.030.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

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**57.24.040 Election—Qualification of voters.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The said election shall be held on the date designated in such notice and shall be conducted in accordance with the general election laws of the state. In the event the original petition for annexation is signed by qualified electors then only qualified electors, at the date of election, residing in the territory proposed to be annexed, shall be permitted to vote at the said election. In the event the original petition for annexation is signed by property owners as provided for in \*this act then no person shall be entitled to vote at such election unless at the time of the filing of the original petition he owned land in the district of record and in addition thereto at the date of election shall be a qualified elector of the county in which such district is located. It shall be the duty of the county auditor, upon request of the county commissioners, to certify to the election officers of any such election, the names of all persons owning land in the district at the date of the filing of the original petition as shown by the records of his office; and at any such election the election officers may require any such landowner offering to vote to take an oath that he is a qualified elector of the county before he shall be allowed to vote; PROVIDED, That at any election held under the provisions of \*this act an officer or agent of any corporation having its principal place of business in said county and owning land at the date of filing the original petition in the district duly authorized thereto in writing may cast a vote on behalf of such corporation. When so voting he shall file with the election officers such a written instrument of his authority. The judge or judges at such election shall make return thereof to the board of water commissioners, who shall canvass such return and cause a statement of the result of such election to be entered on the record of such commissioners. If the majority of the votes cast upon the question of such election shall be for annexation, then such territory shall immediately be and become annexed to such water district and the same shall then forthwith be a part of the said water district, the same as though originally included in such district. [1929 c 114 § 16; RRS § 11593-1.]

\*Reviser's note: For "this act," see note following RCW 57.04.080.

**57.24.040 Election—Qualification of voters.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) The annexation election shall be held on the date designated in the notice and shall be conducted in accordance with the general election laws of the state. If the original petition for annexation is signed by qualified voters, then only qualified voters at the date of election residing in the territory proposed to be annexed, shall be permitted to vote at the election.

If the original petition for annexation is signed by property owners as provided for in this chapter, then no person shall be entitled to vote at that election unless at the time of the filing of the original petition he or she owned land in the district of record and in addition thereto at the date of election shall be a qualified voter of the county in which such district is located. It shall be the duty of the county auditor, upon request of the county legislative authority, to certify the names of all persons owning land in the district at the date of the filing of the original petition as shown by the records of the auditor's office; and at any such election the county auditor may require any such property

owner offering to vote to take an oath that the property owner is a qualified voter of the county before the property owner shall be allowed to vote. However, at any election held under the provisions of this chapter an officer or agent of any corporation having its principal place of business in the county and owning land at the date of filing the original petition in the district duly authorized in writing may cast a vote on behalf of such corporation. When so voting the person shall file with the county auditor such a written instrument of that person's authority.

If the majority of the votes cast upon the question of such election shall be for annexation, then the territory concerned shall immediately be and become annexed to such district and the same shall then forthwith be a part of the district, the same as though originally included in that district. [1996 c 230 § 904; 1929 c 114 § 16; RRS § 11593-1.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.24.050 Expense of election. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** All elections held pursuant to \*this act, whether general or special, shall be conducted by the county election board of the county in which the district is located.

The expense of all such elections shall be paid for out of the funds of such water district. [1929 c 114 § 17; RRS § 11594. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 16.]

**\*Reviser's note:** For "this act," see note following RCW 57.04.080.

**57.24.050 Expense of election. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** All elections held pursuant to this chapter, whether general or special, shall be conducted by the county election board of the county in which the district is located. The expense of all such elections shall be paid for out of the funds of such district. [1996 c 230 § 905; 1929 c 114 § 17; RRS § 11594. Cf. 1913 c 161 § 16.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.24.060 Petition method is alternative to election method.** The method of annexation provided for in RCW 57.24.070 through 57.24.100 shall be an alternative method to that specified in RCW 57.24.010 through 57.24.050. [1953 c 251 § 22.]

**57.24.070 Petition method—Petition—Signers—Content—Certain public properties excluded from local improvement districts. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** A petition for annexation of an area contiguous to a water district may be made in writing, addressed to and filed with the board of commissioners of the district to which annexation is desired. It must be signed by the owners, according to the records of the county auditor, of not less than sixty percent of the area of land for which annexation is petitioned, excluding county and state rights of way, parks, tidelands, lakes, retention ponds, and stream and water courses. Additionally, the petition shall set forth a description of the property according to government legal subdivisions or legal plats, and shall be accompanied by a plat which outlines the boundaries of the property sought to be annexed. Such county and state properties shall be excluded

from local improvement districts or utility local improvement districts in the annexed area and from special assessments, rates, or charges of the district except where service has been regulated and provided to such properties. The owners of such property shall be invited to be included within local improvement districts or utility local improvement districts at the time they are proposed for formation. [1985 c 141 § 8; 1953 c 251 § 18.]

**57.24.070 Petition method—Petition—Signers—Content—Certain public properties excluded from local improvement districts. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** As an alternative method of annexation, a petition for annexation of an area contiguous to a district may be made in writing, addressed to and filed with the board of commissioners of the district to which annexation is desired. It must be signed by the owners, according to the records of the county auditor, of not less than sixty percent of the area of land for which annexation is petitioned, excluding county and state rights of way, parks, tidelands, lakes, retention ponds, and stream and water courses. Additionally, the petition shall set forth a description of the property according to government legal subdivisions or legal plats, and shall be accompanied by a plat which outlines the boundaries of the property sought to be annexed. Those county and state properties shall be excluded from local improvement districts or utility local improvement districts in the annexed area and from special assessments, rates, or charges of the district except where service has been regulated and provided to such properties. The owners of such property shall be invited to be included within local improvement districts or utility local improvement districts at the time they are proposed for formation. [1996 c 230 § 906; 1985 c 141 § 8; 1953 c 251 § 18.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.24.080 Petition method—Hearing—Notice.** If the petition for annexation filed with the board of commissioners complies with the requirements of law, as proved to the satisfaction of the board of commissioners, it may entertain the petition, fix the date for public hearing thereon, and cause notice of the hearing to be published in one issue of a newspaper of general circulation in the area proposed to be annexed and also posted in three public places within the area proposed for annexation. The notice shall specify the time and place of hearing and invite interested persons to appear and voice approval or disapproval of the annexation. The expense of publication and posting of the notice shall be borne by the signers of the petition. [1953 c 251 § 19.]

**57.24.090 Petition method—Resolution providing for annexation. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Following the hearing the board of commissioners shall determine by resolution whether annexation shall be made. It may annex all or any portion of the proposed area but may not include in the annexation any property not described in the petition. Upon passage of the resolution a certified copy shall be filed with the board of county commissioners of the county in which the annexed property is located. [1953 c 251 § 20.]

**57.24.090 Petition method—Resolution providing for annexation.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) Following the hearing the board of commissioners shall determine by resolution whether annexation shall be made. It may annex all or any portion of the proposed area but may not include in the annexation any property not described in the petition. Upon passage of the resolution a certified copy shall be filed with the legislative authority of the county in which the annexed property is located. [1996 c 230 § 907; 1953 c 251 § 20.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.24.100 Petition method—Effective date of annexation—Prior indebtedness.** Upon the date fixed in the resolution the area annexed shall become a part of the district.

No property within the limits of the territory so annexed shall ever be taxed or assessed to pay any portion of the indebtedness of the district to which it is annexed contracted prior to or existing at the date of annexation; nor shall any such property be released from any taxes or assessments levied against it or from liability for payment of outstanding bonds or warrants issued prior to such annexation. [1953 c 251 § 21.]

**57.24.170 Annexation of certain unincorporated territory—Authorized—Hearing.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) When there is, within a water district, unincorporated territory containing less than one hundred acres and having at least eighty percent of the boundaries of such area contiguous to the water district, the board of commissioners may resolve to annex such territory to the water district. The resolution shall describe the boundaries of the area to be annexed, state the number of voters residing therein as nearly as may be, and set a date for a public hearing on such resolution for annexation. Notice of the hearing shall be given by publication of the resolution at least once a week for two weeks prior to the date of the hearing, in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the water district and one or more newspapers of general circulation within the area to be annexed. [1982 c 146 § 4.]

**57.24.170 Annexation of certain unincorporated territory—Authorized—Hearing.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) When there is, within a district, unincorporated territory containing less than one hundred acres and having at least eighty percent of the boundaries of such area contiguous to the district, the board of commissioners may resolve to annex that territory to the district. The resolution shall describe the boundaries of the area to be annexed, state the number of voters residing therein as nearly as may be, and set a date for a public hearing on such resolution for annexation. Notice of the hearing shall be given by publication of the resolution at least once a week for two weeks prior to the date of the hearing, in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the district and one or more newspapers of general circulation within the area to be annexed. [1996 c 230 § 908; 1982 c 146 § 4.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.24.180 Annexation of certain unincorporated territory—Opportunity to be heard—Effective date of annexation resolution—Notice—Referendum.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) On the date set for hearing under RCW 57.24.170, residents or property owners of the area included in the resolution for annexation shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard. The board of commissioners may provide by resolution for annexation of the territory described in the resolution, but the effective date of the resolution shall be not less than forty-five days after the passage thereof. The board of commissioners shall cause notice of the proposed effective date of the annexation, together with a description of the property to be annexed, to be published at least once each week for two weeks subsequent to passage of the resolution, in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the water district and in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the area to be annexed. Upon the filing of a timely and sufficient referendum petition under RCW 57.24.190, a referendum election shall be held under RCW 57.24.190, and the annexation shall be deemed approved by the voters unless a majority of the votes cast on the proposition are in opposition thereto. After the expiration of the forty-fifth day from, but excluding the date of passage of the annexation resolution, if no timely and sufficient referendum petition has been filed, under RCW 57.24.190, the area annexed shall become a part of the water district upon the date fixed in the resolution of annexation. [1982 c 146 § 5.]

**57.24.180 Annexation of certain unincorporated territory—Opportunity to be heard—Effective date of annexation resolution—Notice—Referendum.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) On the date set for hearing under RCW 57.24.170, residents or property owners of the area included in the resolution for annexation shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard. The board of commissioners may provide by resolution for annexation of the territory described in the resolution, but the effective date of the resolution shall be not less than forty-five days after the passage thereof. The board of commissioners shall cause notice of the proposed effective date of the annexation, together with a description of the property to be annexed, to be published at least once each week for two weeks subsequent to passage of the resolution, in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the district and in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the area to be annexed. Upon the filing of a timely and sufficient referendum petition under RCW 57.24.190, a referendum election shall be held under RCW 57.24.190, and the annexation shall be deemed approved by the voters unless a majority of the votes cast on the proposition are in opposition thereto. After the expiration of the forty-fifth day from but excluding the date of passage of the annexation resolution, if no timely and sufficient referendum petition has been filed, under RCW 57.24.190, the area annexed shall become a part of the district upon the date fixed in the resolution of annexation. [1996 c 230 § 909; 1982 c 146 § 5.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.24.190 Annexation of certain unincorporated territory—Referendum authorized—Petition—Election—Effective date of annexation.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Such annexation resolution under RCW 57.24.180 shall be subject to referendum for forty-five days after the passage thereof. Upon the filing of a timely and sufficient referendum petition with the board of commissioners, signed by registered voters in number equal to not less than ten percent of the registered voters in the area to be annexed who voted in the last general municipal election, the question of annexation shall be submitted to the voters of such area in a general election if one is to be held within ninety days or at a special election called for that purpose by the board of commissioners in accordance with RCW 29.13.010 and 29.13.020. Notice of such election shall be given under RCW 57.24.020 and the election shall be conducted under RCW 57.24.040. The annexation shall be deemed approved by the voters unless a majority of the votes cast on the proposition are in opposition thereto.

After the expiration of the forty-fifth day from but excluding the date of passage of the annexation resolution, if no timely and sufficient referendum petition has been filed, the area annexed shall become a part of the water district upon the date fixed in the resolution of annexation upon transmitting the resolution to the county legislative authority. [1990 c 259 § 32; 1982 c 146 § 6.]

**57.24.190 Annexation of certain unincorporated territory—Referendum authorized—Petition—Election—Effective date of annexation.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) The annexation resolution under RCW 57.24.180 shall be subject to referendum for forty-five days after the passage thereof. Upon the filing of a timely and sufficient referendum petition with the board of commissioners, signed by registered voters in number equal to not less than ten percent of the registered voters in the area to be annexed who voted in the last municipal general election, the question of annexation shall be submitted to the voters of such area in a general election if one is to be held within ninety days or at a special election called for that purpose by the board of commissioners in accordance with RCW 29.13.010 and 29.13.020. Notice of that election shall be given under RCW 57.24.020 and the election shall be conducted under RCW 57.24.040. The annexation shall be deemed approved by the voters unless a majority of the votes cast on the proposition are in opposition thereto.

After the expiration of the forty-fifth day from but excluding the date of passage of the annexation resolution, if no timely and sufficient referendum petition has been filed, the area annexed shall become a part of the district upon the date fixed in the resolution of annexation upon transmitting the resolution to the county legislative authority. [1996 c 230 § 910; 1990 c 259 § 32; 1982 c 146 § 6.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.24.200 Expenditure of funds to provide certain information authorized—Limits.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Water districts may expend funds to inform residents in areas proposed for annexation into the district of the following:

- (1) Technical information and data;
- (2) The fiscal impact of the proposed improvement;
- (3) The types of improvements planned.

Expenditures under this section shall be limited to research, preparation, printing, and mailing of the information. [1986 c 258 § 2.]

**57.24.200 Expenditure of funds to provide certain information authorized—Limits.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) A district may expend funds to inform residents in areas proposed for annexation into the district of the following:

- (1) Technical information and data;
- (2) The fiscal impact of the proposed improvement; and
- (3) The types of improvements planned.

Expenditures under this section shall be limited to research, preparation, printing, and mailing of the information. [1996 c 230 § 911; 1986 c 258 § 2.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.24.210 Annexation of certain unincorporated territory with boundaries contiguous to two municipal corporations providing water service—Procedure.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) When there is unincorporated territory containing less than one hundred acres and having at least eighty percent of the boundaries of such area contiguous to two municipal corporations providing water service, one of which is either a water or sewer district, the legislative authority of either of the contiguous municipal corporations may resolve to annex such territory to that municipal corporation, provided a majority of the legislative authority of the other contiguous municipal corporation concurs. In such event, the municipal corporation resolving to annex such territory may proceed to effect the annexation by complying with RCW 57.24.170 through 57.24.190. For purposes of this section, "municipal corporation" means a water district, sewer district, city, or town. [1995 c 279 § 2; 1987 c 449 § 17.]

**57.24.210 Annexation of certain unincorporated territory with boundaries contiguous to two municipal corporations providing water service—Procedure.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) When there is unincorporated territory containing less than one hundred acres and having at least eighty percent of the boundaries of such area contiguous to two municipal corporations providing water service, one of which is a water-sewer district, the legislative authority of either of the contiguous municipal corporations may resolve to annex such territory to that municipal corporation, provided a majority of the legislative authority of the other contiguous municipal corporation concurs. In such event, the municipal corporation resolving to annex such territory may proceed to effect the annexation by complying with RCW 57.24.170 through 57.24.190. For purposes of this section, "municipal corporation" means a water-sewer district, city, or town. [1996 c 230 § 912; 1995 c 279 § 2; 1987 c 449 § 17.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.24.220 Assumption of substandard water system—Limited immunity from liability.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) A water district assuming responsibility for a water system that is not in compliance with state or federal requirements for public drinking water systems, and its agents and employees, are immune from lawsuits or causes of action, based on noncompliance with state or federal requirements for public drinking water systems, which predate the date of assuming responsibility and continue after the date of assuming responsibility, provided that the water district has submitted and is complying with a plan and schedule of improvements approved by the department of health. This immunity shall expire on the earlier of the date the plan of improvements is completed or four years from the date of assuming responsibility. This immunity does not apply to intentional injuries, fraud, or bad faith. [1994 c 292 § 8.]

**Findings—Intent—1994 c 292:** See note following RCW 57.04.050.

**57.24.220 Assumption of substandard water system—Limited immunity from liability.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) A district assuming responsibility for a water system that is not in compliance with state or federal requirements for public drinking water systems, and its agents and employees, are immune from lawsuits or causes of action, based on noncompliance with state or federal requirements for public drinking water systems, which predate the date of assuming responsibility and continue after the date of assuming responsibility, provided that the district has submitted and is complying with a plan and schedule of improvements approved by the department of health. This immunity shall expire on the earlier of the date the plan of improvements is completed or four years from the date of assuming responsibility. This immunity does not apply to intentional injuries, fraud, or bad faith. [1996 c 230 § 913; 1994 c 292 § 8.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**Findings—Intent—1994 c 292:** See note following RCW 57.04.050.

## Chapter 57.28

### WITHDRAWAL OF TERRITORY

#### Sections

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57.28.070	Notice of hearing before county legislative authority.
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57.28.090	Election on withdrawal.
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**57.28.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Actions taken under chapter 57.28 RCW may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1989 c 84 § 59.]

**57.28.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) Actions taken under this chapter may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1996 c 230 § 1001; 1989 c 84 § 59.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.28.010 Withdrawal authorized—Petition.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Territory within an established water district for public supply systems may be withdrawn therefrom in the following manner and upon the following conditions: The petition for withdrawal shall be in writing and shall designate the boundaries of the territory proposed to be withdrawn from the district and shall be signed by at least twenty-five percent of the qualified electors residing within the territory so designated who are qualified electors on the date of filing such petition. The petition shall set forth that the territory proposed to be withdrawn is of such location or character that water cannot be furnished to it by such water district at reasonable cost, and shall further set forth that the withdrawal of such territory will be of benefit to such territory and conducive to the general welfare of the balance of the district. [1941 c 55 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11604-1.]

**57.28.010 Withdrawal authorized—Petition.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) Territory within a district may be withdrawn therefrom in the following manner and upon the following conditions: The petition for withdrawal shall be in writing and shall designate the boundaries of the territory proposed to be withdrawn from the district and shall be signed by at least twenty-five percent of the qualified voters residing within the territory so designated who are qualified voters on the date of filing such petition. The petition shall set forth that the territory proposed to be withdrawn is of such location or character that water and sewer services cannot be furnished to it by the district at reasonable cost, and shall further set forth that the withdrawal of such territory will be of benefit to such territory and conducive to the general welfare of the balance of the district. [1996 c 230 § 1002; 1941 c 55 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11604-1.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.28.020 Petition of residents.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The petition for withdrawal shall be filed with the county election officer of each county in which the water district is located, and after the filing no person having signed the petition shall be allowed to withdraw his name therefrom. Within ten days after such filing, each county election officer shall examine and verify the signatures of signers residing in the county. For such purpose the county election officer shall have access to all appropriate registration books in the possession of the election officers of any incorporated city or town within the water district. The petition shall be transmitted to the election officer of the county in which the largest land area of the district is located, who shall certify to the sufficiency or insufficiency of the signatures. If such petition be found by such county election officer to contain sufficient signatures, the petition,

together with a certificate of sufficiency attached thereto, shall be transmitted to the commissioners of the water district. [1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 23; 1941 c 55 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11604-2.]

**57.28.020 Petition of residents.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) The petition for withdrawal shall be filed with the county auditor of each county in which the district is located, and after the filing no person having signed the petition shall be allowed to withdraw the person's name therefrom. Within ten days after such filing, each county auditor shall examine and verify the signatures of signers residing in the respective county. The petition shall be transmitted to the auditor of the county in which all or the major geographic portion of the district is located, who shall certify to the sufficiency or insufficiency of the signatures. If the area proposed to be withdrawn is located in more than one county, the auditor of the county in which the largest geographic portion of the area proposed to be withdrawn is located shall be the lead auditor and shall immediately transfer a copy of the petitions to the auditor of each other county in which the area proposed to be withdrawn is located. Within ten days after the lead auditor received the petition, the auditors of these other counties shall certify to the lead auditor: (1) The number of voters of that county residing in the area proposed to be withdrawn who voted at the last municipal general election; and (2) the number of valid signatures on the petition of voters of that county residing in the area proposed to be withdrawn. The lead auditor shall certify the sufficiency of the petition after receiving this information. If such petition be found by such county auditor to contain sufficient signatures, the petition, together with a certificate of sufficiency attached thereto, shall be transmitted to the board of commissioners of the district. [1996 c 230 § 1003; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 23; 1941 c 55 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11604-2.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.28.030 Petition of landowners.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) In the event there are no qualified electors residing within the territory proposed to be withdrawn, then the petition for withdrawal may be signed by such persons as appear of record to own at least a majority of the acreage within such territory, in which event the petition shall also state the total number of acres and the names of all record owners of the land within such territory. The petition so signed shall be filed with the commissioners of the water district, and after such filing no person having signed the same shall be allowed to withdraw his name. [1941 c 55 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11604-3.]

**57.28.030 Petition of landowners.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) In the event there are no qualified voters residing within the territory proposed to be withdrawn, the petition for withdrawal may be signed by such persons as appear of record to own at least a majority of the acreage within such territory, in which event the petition shall also state the total number of acres and the names of all record owners of the land within such territory. The petition so signed shall be filed with the board of commissioners of the district, and

after such filing no person having signed the same shall be allowed to withdraw that person's name. [1996 c 230 § 1004; 1941 c 55 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11604-3.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.28.035 Alternative procedure—Resolution.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) As an alternative procedure to those set forth in RCW 57.28.010 through 57.28.030, the withdrawal of territory within a water district may be commenced by a resolution of the board of commissioners that sets forth boundaries of the territory to be withdrawn and sets a date for the public hearing required under RCW 57.28.050. Upon the final hearing, the commissioners shall make such changes in the proposed boundaries as they deem proper, except that no changes in the boundary lines may be made by the commissioners to include lands not within the boundaries of the territory as described in such resolution.

Whenever the board of commissioners proposes to commence the withdrawal of any portion of their territory located within a city or town using the alternative procedures herein authorized, they shall first notify such city or town of their [its] intent to withdraw said territory. If the legislative authority of the city or town takes no action within sixty days of receipt of notification, the district may proceed with the resolution method.

If the city or town legislative authority disapproves of use of the alternative procedures, the board of commissioners may proceed using the process established pursuant to RCW 57.28.010 through 57.28.030.

A withdrawal procedure commenced under this section shall be subject to the procedures and requirements set forth in RCW 57.28.040 through 57.28.110. [1985 c 153 § 1.]

**57.28.035 Alternative procedure—Resolution.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) As an alternative procedure to those set forth in RCW 57.28.010 through 57.28.030, the withdrawal of territory within a district may be commenced by a resolution of the board of commissioners that sets forth boundaries of the territory to be withdrawn and sets a date for the public hearing required under RCW 57.28.050. Upon the final hearing, the board of commissioners shall make such changes in the proposed boundaries as they deem proper, except that no changes in the boundary lines may be made by the board of commissioners to include lands not within the boundaries of the territory as described in such resolution.

Whenever the board of commissioners proposes to commence the withdrawal of any portion of its territory located within a city or town using the alternative procedures herein authorized, it shall first notify such city or town of their [its] intent to withdraw the territory. If the legislative authority of the city or town takes no action within sixty days of receipt of notification, the district may proceed with the resolution method.

If the city or town legislative authority disapproves of use of the alternative procedures, the board of commissioners may proceed using the process established under RCW 57.28.010 through 57.28.030.

A withdrawal procedure commenced under this section shall be subject to the procedures and requirements set forth

in RCW 57.28.040 through 57.28.110. [1996 c 230 § 1005; 1985 c 153 § 1.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.28.040 Notice of hearing—Bond for costs.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Upon receipt by the commissioners of a petition and certificate of sufficiency of the auditor, or if the petition is signed by landowners and the commissioners are satisfied as to the sufficiency of the signatures thereon, they shall at a regular or special meeting fix a date for hearing on the petition and give notice that the petition has been filed, stating the time and place of the meeting of the commissioners at which the petition will be heard and setting forth the boundaries of the territory proposed to be withdrawn. The notice shall be published at least once a week for two successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation therein, and if no such newspaper is printed in the county, then in some newspaper of general circulation in the county and district. Any additional notice of the hearing may be given as the commissioners may by resolution direct.

Prior to fixing the time for a hearing on any such petition, the commissioners in their discretion may require the petitioners to furnish a satisfactory bond conditioned that the petitioners shall pay all costs incurred by the water district in connection with the petition, including the cost of an election if one is held pursuant thereto, and should the petitioners fail or refuse to post such a bond, if one is required by the water commissioners, then there shall be no duty on the part of the commissioners to act upon the petition. [1985 c 469 § 59; 1951 c 112 § 3; 1941 c 55 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11604-4.]

**57.28.040 Notice of hearing—Bond for costs.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) Upon receipt by the board of commissioners of a petition and certificate of sufficiency of the auditor, or if the petition is signed by landowners and the board of commissioners is satisfied as to the sufficiency of the signatures thereon, it shall at a regular or special meeting fix a date for hearing on the petition and give notice that the petition has been filed, stating the time and place of the meeting of the board of commissioners at which the petition will be heard and setting forth the boundaries of the territory proposed to be withdrawn. The notice shall be published at least once a week for two successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation therein, and if no such newspaper is printed in the county, then in some newspaper of general circulation in the county and district. Any additional notice of the hearing may be given as the board of commissioners may by resolution direct.

Prior to fixing the time for a hearing on any such petition, the board of commissioners in its discretion may require the petitioners to furnish a satisfactory bond conditioned that the petitioners shall pay all costs incurred by the district in connection with the petition, including the cost of an election if one is held pursuant thereto, and should the petitioners fail or refuse to post such a bond, if one is required by the district board of commissioners, then there shall be no duty on the part of the board of commissioners to act upon the petition. [1996 c 230 § 1006; 1985 c 469 §

59; 1951 c 112 § 3; 1941 c 55 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11604-4.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.28.050 Hearing—Findings.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The petition for withdrawal shall be heard at the time and place specified in such notice or the hearing may be adjourned from time to time, not exceeding one month in all, and any person may appear at such hearing and make objections to the withdrawal of such territory or to the proposed boundary lines thereof. Upon final hearing on the petition for withdrawal, the commissioners of the water district shall make such changes in the proposed boundary lines as they deem to be proper, except that no changes in the boundary lines shall be made by the commissioners to include lands not within the boundaries of the territory as described in such petition. In establishing and defining such boundaries the commissioners shall exclude any property which is then being furnished with water by the water district or which is included in any distribution system the construction of which has been duly authorized or which is included within any duly established local improvement district or utility local improvement district, and the territory as finally established and defined must be substantial in area and consist of adjoining or contiguous properties. The commissioners shall thereupon make and by resolution adopt findings of fact as to the following questions:

(1) Would the withdrawal of such territory be of benefit to such territory?

(2) Would such withdrawal be conducive to the general welfare of the balance of the district?

Such findings shall be entered in the records of the water district, together with any recommendations the commissioners may by resolution adopt. [1986 c 109 § 1; 1941 c 55 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11604-5.]

**57.28.050 Hearing—Findings.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) The petition for withdrawal shall be heard at the time and place specified in such notice or the hearing may be adjourned from time to time, not exceeding one month in all, and any person may appear at such hearing and make objections to the withdrawal of such territory or to the proposed boundary lines thereof. Upon final hearing on the petition for withdrawal, the board of commissioners of the district shall make such changes in the proposed boundary lines as it deems to be proper, except that no changes in the boundary lines shall be made by the board of commissioners to include lands not within the boundaries of the territory as described in such petition. In establishing and defining such boundaries the board of commissioners shall exclude any property which is then being furnished with water or sewer service by the district or which is included in any distribution or collection system the construction of which is included within any duly established local improvement district or utility local improvement district, and the territory as finally established and defined must be substantial in area and consist of adjoining or contiguous properties. The board of commissioners shall thereupon make and by resolution adopt findings of fact as to the following questions:



(1) Would the withdrawal of such territory be of benefit to such territory?

(2) Would such withdrawal be conducive to the general welfare of the balance of the district?

Such findings shall be entered in the records of the district, together with any recommendations the board of commissioners may by resolution adopt. [1996 c 230 § 1007; 1986 c 109 § 1; 1941 c 55 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11604-5.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.28.060 Transmission to county legislative authorities.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Within ten days after the final hearing the commissioners of the water district shall transmit to the county legislative authority of each county in which the water district is located the petition for withdrawal together with a copy of the findings and recommendations of the commissioners of the water district certified by the secretary of the water district to be a true and correct copy of such findings and recommendations as the same appear on the records of the water district. [1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 24; 1941 c 55 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11604-6.]

**57.28.060 Transmission to county legislative authorities.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) Within ten days after the final hearing the board of commissioners of the district shall transmit to the county legislative authority of each county in which the district is located the petition for withdrawal, together with a copy of the findings and recommendations of the board of commissioners of the district certified by the secretary of the district to be a true and correct copy of such findings and recommendations as the same appear on the records of the district. [1996 c 230 § 1008; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 24; 1941 c 55 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11604-6.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.28.070 Notice of hearing before county legislative authority.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Upon receipt of the petition and certified copy of the findings and recommendation adopted by the water commissioners, the county legislative authority of each county in which the district is located at a regular or special meeting shall fix a time and place for hearing thereon and shall cause to be published at least once a week for two or more weeks in successive issues of a newspaper of general circulation in the water district, a notice that such petition has been presented to the county legislative authority stating the time and place of the hearing thereon, setting forth the boundaries of the territory proposed to be withdrawn as such boundaries are established and defined in the findings or recommendations of the commissioners of the water district. [1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 25; 1941 c 55 § 7; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11604-7.]

**57.28.070 Notice of hearing before county legislative authority.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) Upon receipt of the petition and certified copy of the findings and recommendations adopted by the district commissioners, the county legislative authority of each county in which the district is located at a regular or special meeting shall fix a time and

place for hearing thereon and shall cause to be published at least once a week for two or more weeks in successive issues of a newspaper of general circulation in the district, a notice that such petition has been presented to the county legislative authority stating the time and place of the hearing thereon, setting forth the boundaries of the territory proposed to be withdrawn as such boundaries are established and defined in the findings or recommendations of the board of commissioners of the district. [1996 c 230 § 1009; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 25; 1941 c 55 § 7; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11604-7.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.28.080 Hearing—Findings.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Such petition shall be heard at the time and place specified in such notice, or the hearing may be adjourned from time to time, not exceeding one month in all, and any person may appear at such hearing and make objections to the withdrawal of such territory. Upon final hearing on such petition the said county commissioners shall thereupon make, enter and by resolution adopt their findings of fact on the questions above set forth. If such findings of fact answer said questions affirmatively, and if they are the same as the findings made by the water district commissioners, then the county commissioners shall by resolution declare that such territory be withdrawn from such water district, and thereupon such territory shall be withdrawn and excluded from such water district the same as if it had never been included therein except for the lien of taxes as hereinafter set forth, provided, that the boundaries of the territory withdrawn shall be the boundaries established and defined by the said water district commissioners and shall not be altered or changed by the county commissioners unless the unanimous consent of the water district commissioners be given in writing to any such alteration or change. [1941 c 55 § 8; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11604-8.]

**57.28.080 Hearing—Findings.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) The petition shall be heard at the time and place specified in the notice, or the hearing may be adjourned from time to time, not exceeding one month in all, and any person may appear at the hearing and make objections to the withdrawal of the territory. Upon final hearing on the petition the county legislative authority shall thereupon make, enter, and by resolution adopt its findings of fact on the questions set forth in RCW 57.28.050. If the findings of fact answer the questions affirmatively, and if they are the same as the findings made by the district commissioners, then the county legislative authority shall by resolution declare that the territory be withdrawn from that district, and thereupon the territory shall be withdrawn and excluded from that district the same as if it had never been included therein except for the lien of taxes as hereinafter set forth. However, the boundaries of the territory withdrawn shall be the boundaries established and defined by the district board of commissioners and shall not be altered or changed by the county legislative authority unless the unanimous consent of the district commissioners be given in writing to any such alteration or change. [1996 c 230 § 1010; 1941 c 55 § 8; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11604-8.]

Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230: See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.28.090 Election on withdrawal.** (Effective until July 1, 1997.) If the findings of any county legislative authority answer any of such questions of fact in the negative, or if any of the findings of the county legislative authority are not the same as the findings of the water district commissioners upon the same question, then in either of such events, the petition for withdrawal shall be deemed denied. Thereupon, and in such event, the county legislative authority of each county in which the district is located shall by resolution cause a special election to be held not less than thirty days or more than sixty days from the date of the final hearing of any county legislative authority upon the petition for withdrawal, at which election the proposition expressed on the ballots shall be substantially as follows:

"Shall the territory established and defined by the water district commissioners at their meeting held on the . . . . . (insert date of final hearing of water district commissioners upon the petition for withdrawal) be withdrawn from water district . . . . . (naming it).

YES  NO

[1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 26; 1941 c 55 § 9; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11604-9.]

**57.28.090 Election on withdrawal.** (Effective July 1, 1997.) If the findings of any county legislative authority answer any of the questions of fact set forth in RCW 57.28.050 in the negative, or if any of the findings of the county legislative authority are not the same as the findings of the district board of commissioners upon the same question, then in either of such events, the petition for withdrawal shall be deemed denied. Thereupon, and in such event, the county legislative authority of each county in which the district is located shall by resolution cause a special election to be held not less than thirty days or more than sixty days from the date of the final hearing of any county legislative authority upon the petition for withdrawal, at which election the proposition expressed on the ballots shall be substantially as follows:

"Shall the territory established and defined by the district board of commissioners at its meeting held on the . . . . . (insert date of final hearing of district board of commissioners upon the petition for withdrawal) be withdrawn from district . . . . . (naming it).

YES  NO

[1996 c 230 § 1011; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 26; 1941 c 55 § 9; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11604-9.]

Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230: See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.28.100 Notice of election—Election—Canvass.** (Effective until July 1, 1997.) Notice of such election shall be posted and published in the same manner provided by law for the posting and publication of notice of elections to annex territory to water districts. The territory described in the notice shall be that established and defined by the water district commissioners. All qualified voters residing within

the water district shall have the right to vote at the election. If a majority of the votes cast favor the withdrawal from the water district of such territory, then within ten days after the official canvass of such election the county legislative authority of each county in which the district is located, shall by resolution establish that the territory has been withdrawn, and the territory shall thereupon be withdrawn and excluded from the water district the same as if it had never been included therein except for the lien of any taxes as hereinafter set forth. [1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 27; 1941 c 55 § 10; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11604-10.]

**57.28.100 Notice of election—Election—Canvass.** (Effective July 1, 1997.) Notice of the election shall be posted and published in the same manner provided by law for the posting and publication of notice of elections to annex territory to districts. The territory described in the notice shall be that established and defined by the district board of commissioners. All qualified voters residing within the district shall have the right to vote at the election. If a majority of the votes cast favor the withdrawal from the district of such territory, then within ten days after the official canvass of the election the county legislative authority of each county in which the district is located shall by resolution establish that the territory has been withdrawn, and the territory shall thereupon be withdrawn and excluded from the district the same as if it had never been included therein except for the lien of any taxes as hereinafter set forth. [1996 c 230 § 1012; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 27; 1941 c 55 § 10; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11604-10.]

Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230: See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.28.110 Taxes and assessments unaffected.** (Effective until July 1, 1997.) Any and all taxes or assessments levied or assessed against property located in territory withdrawn from a water district shall remain a lien and be collectible as by law provided when such taxes or assessments are levied or assessed prior to such withdrawal or when such levies or assessments are duly made to provide revenue for the payment of general obligations or general obligation bonds of the water district duly incurred or issued prior to such withdrawal. [1941 c 55 § 11; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11604-11.]

**57.28.110 Taxes and assessments unaffected.** (Effective July 1, 1997.) Taxes or assessments levied or assessed against property located in territory withdrawn from a district shall remain a lien and be collected as by law provided when the taxes or assessments are levied or assessed prior to the withdrawal or when the levies or assessments are duly made to provide revenue for the payment of general obligations or general obligation bonds of the district duly incurred or issued prior to the withdrawal. [1996 c 230 § 1013; 1941 c 55 § 11; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 11604-11.]

Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230: See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

## Chapter 57.32

## CONSOLIDATION OF DISTRICTS—TRANSFER OF PART OF DISTRICT

## Sections

- 57.32.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.  
 57.32.010 Consolidation authorized—Petition method—Resolution method.  
 57.32.020 Certificate of sufficiency.  
 57.32.021 Procedure upon receipt of certificate of sufficiency—Agreement, contents—Comprehensive plan.  
 57.32.022 Certification of agreement—Election, notice and conduct.  
 57.32.023 Consolidation effected—Cessation of former districts—Rights and powers of consolidated district.  
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 57.32.130 Commissioners—Number.  
 57.32.160 Transfer of part of district—Procedure.

*Assumption of jurisdiction over water or sewer district by city: Chapter 35.13A RCW.*

**57.32.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Actions taken under chapter 57.32 RCW may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1989 c 84 § 60.]

**57.32.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) Actions taken under this chapter may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1996 c 230 § 1101; 1989 c 84 § 60.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.32.010 Consolidation authorized—Petition method—Resolution method.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Two or more water districts may be joined into one consolidated water district. The consolidation may be initiated in either of the following ways: Ten percent of the legal electors residing within each of the water districts proposed to be consolidated may petition the board of water commissioners of each of their respective water districts to cause the question to be submitted to the legal electors of the water districts proposed to be consolidated; or the boards of water commissioners of each of the water districts proposed to be consolidated may by resolution determine that the consolidation of the districts shall be conducive to the public health, welfare, and convenience and to be of special benefit to the lands of the districts. [1989 c 308 § 11; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 28; 1967 ex.s. c 39 § 1; 1943 c 267 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 11604-20.]

**57.32.010 Consolidation authorized—Petition method—Resolution method.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) Two or more districts may be joined into one consolidated district. The consolidation may be initiated in either of the following ways: (1) Ten percent of the voters residing within each of the districts proposed to be consolidated may petition the board of commissioners of their respective districts to cause the question to be submitted to the voters of the districts proposed to be consolidated; or (2) the board of commissioners of each of the districts proposed to be

consolidated may by resolution determine that the consolidation of the districts shall be conducive to the public health, welfare, and convenience and to be of special benefit to the lands of the districts. [1996 c 230 § 1102; 1989 c 308 § 11; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 28; 1967 ex.s. c 39 § 1; 1943 c 267 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 11604-20.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.32.020 Certificate of sufficiency.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) If the consolidation proceedings are initiated by petition, upon the filing of such petitions with the boards of water commissioners of the water districts, the boards of water commissioners of each district shall file such petitions with the election officer of each county in which any district is located who shall within ten days examine and verify the signatures of the signers residing in the county. The petition shall be transmitted by the other county election officers to the county election officer of the county in which the largest land area involved in the petitions is located, who shall certify to the sufficiency or insufficiency of the signatures. If all of such petitions shall be found to contain a sufficient number of signatures, the county election officer shall transmit the same, together with a certificate of sufficiency attached thereto, to the boards of water commissioners of each of the districts proposed for consolidation. In the event that there are no legal electors residing in one or more of the water districts proposed to be consolidated, such petitions may be signed by such a number as appear of record to own at least a majority of the acreage in the pertinent water district, and the petitions shall disclose the total number of acres of land in the said water district and shall also contain the names of all record owners of land therein. [1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 30; 1967 ex.s. c 39 § 2; 1943 c 267 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 11604-21.]

**57.32.020 Certificate of sufficiency.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) If the consolidation proceedings are initiated by petitions, upon the filing of such petitions with the boards of commissioners of the districts, the boards of commissioners of each district shall file such petitions with the auditor of the county in which all or the largest geographic portion of the respective districts is located, who shall within ten days examine and verify the signatures of the signers residing in the county. If the districts proposed to be consolidated include areas located in more than one county, the auditor of the county in which the largest geographic portion of the consolidating districts is located shall be the lead auditor and shall immediately transfer a copy of the petitions to the auditor of each other county in which the consolidating districts are located. Within ten days after the lead auditor received the petition, the auditors of these other counties shall certify to the lead auditor: (1) The number of voters of that county residing in each consolidating district; and (2) the number of valid signatures on the petition of voters of that county residing in each consolidating district. The lead auditor shall certify the sufficiency of the petition after receiving this information. If all of such petitions shall be found to contain a sufficient number of signatures, the county auditor shall transmit the same, together with a certificate of sufficiency attached thereto, to the board of

commissioners of each of the districts proposed for consolidation.

If there are no voters residing in one or more of the districts proposed to be consolidated, such petitions may be signed by such a number of landowners as appear of record to own at least a majority of the acreage in the pertinent district, and the petitions shall disclose the total number of acres of land in that district and shall also contain the names of all record owners of land therein. [1996 c 230 § 1103; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 30; 1967 ex.s. c 39 § 2; 1943 c 267 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 11604-21.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.32.021 Procedure upon receipt of certificate of sufficiency—Agreement, contents—Comprehensive plan. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Upon receipt by the boards of water commissioners of the districts proposed for consolidation, hereinafter referred to as the "consolidating districts", of the county auditor's certificate of sufficiency of the petitions, or upon adoption by the boards of water commissioners of the consolidating districts of their resolutions for consolidation, the boards of water commissioners of the consolidating districts shall, within ninety days, enter into an agreement providing for consolidation. The agreement shall set forth the method and manner of consolidation, a comprehensive plan or scheme of water supply for the consolidated district and, if the comprehensive plan or scheme of water supply provides that one or more of the consolidating districts or the proposed consolidated district issue revenue bonds for the construction and/or other costs of any part or all of said comprehensive plan, then the details thereof shall be set forth. The requirement that a comprehensive plan or scheme of water supply for the consolidated district be set forth in the agreement for consolidation, shall be satisfied if the existing comprehensive plans or schemes of the consolidating districts are incorporated therein by reference and any changes or additions thereto are set forth in detail. [1967 ex.s. c 39 § 8.]

**57.32.021 Procedure upon receipt of certificate of sufficiency—Agreement, contents—Comprehensive plan. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** Upon receipt by the boards of commissioners of the districts proposed for consolidation, hereinafter referred to as the "consolidating districts", of the lead county auditor's certificate of sufficiency of the petitions, or upon adoption by the boards of commissioners of the consolidating districts of their resolutions for consolidation, the boards of commissioners of the consolidating districts shall, within ninety days, enter into an agreement providing for consolidation. The agreement shall set forth the method and manner of consolidation, a comprehensive plan or scheme of water supply, sewer, and drainage services for the consolidated district, and if the comprehensive plan or scheme of water supply, sewer, and drainage services provides that one or more of the consolidating districts or the proposed consolidated district issue revenue bonds for either the construction or other costs of any part or all of the comprehensive plan, or both, then the details thereof shall be set forth. The requirement that a comprehensive plan or scheme of water supply, sewer, and drainage services for the

consolidated district be set forth in the agreement for consolidation shall be satisfied if the existing comprehensive plans or schemes of the consolidating districts are incorporated therein by reference and any changes or additions thereto are set forth in detail. [1996 c 230 § 1104; 1967 ex.s. c 39 § 8.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.32.022 Certification of agreement—Election, notice and conduct. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** The respective boards of water commissioners of the consolidating districts shall certify the agreement to the county election officer of each county in which the districts are located. A special election shall be called by the county election officer for the purpose of submitting to the voters of each of the consolidating districts the proposition of whether or not the several districts shall be consolidated into one water district. The proposition shall give the title of the proposed consolidated district. Notice of the election shall be given and the election conducted in accordance with the general election laws. [1994 c 223 § 71; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 31; 1967 ex.s. c 39 § 9.]

**57.32.022 Certification of agreement—Election, notice and conduct. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** The boards of commissioners of the consolidating districts shall certify the agreement to the county auditors of the respective counties in which the districts are located. A special election shall be called by the county auditors for the purpose of submitting to the voters of each of the consolidating districts the proposition of whether or not the several districts shall be consolidated into one district. The proposition shall give the title of the proposed consolidated district. Notice of the election shall be given and the election conducted in accordance with the general election laws. [1996 c 230 § 1105; 1994 c 223 § 71; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 31; 1967 ex.s. c 39 § 9.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.32.023 Consolidation effected—Cessation of former districts—Rights and powers of consolidated district. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** If at the election a majority of the voters in each of the consolidating districts vote in favor of the consolidation, the county canvassing board shall so declare in its canvass and the return of such election shall be made within ten days after the date thereof. Upon the return the consolidation shall be effective and the consolidating districts shall cease to exist and shall then be and become a new water district and municipal corporation of the state of Washington. The name of such new water district shall be "Water District No. . . . .", which shall be the name appearing on the ballot. The district shall have all and every power, right, and privilege possessed by other water districts of the state of Washington. The district may issue revenue bonds to pay for the construction of any additions and betterments set forth in the comprehensive plan of water supply contained in the agreement for consolidation and any future additions and betterments to the comprehensive plan of water supply, as its board of water commission-

ers shall by resolution adopt, without submitting a proposition therefor to the voters of the district. [1994 c 223 § 72; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 32; 1967 ex.s. c 39 § 10.]

**57.32.023 Consolidation effected—Cessation of former districts—Rights and powers of consolidated district.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) If at the election a majority of the voters in each of the consolidating districts vote in favor of the consolidation, the county canvassing board shall so declare in its canvass and the return of such election shall be made within ten days after the date thereof. Upon the return the consolidation shall be effective and the consolidating districts shall cease to exist and shall then be and become a new district and municipal corporation of the state of Washington. The name of the new district shall be ". . . . Water-Sewer District," ". . . . Water District," ". . . . Sewer District," or ". . . . District No. . . . .," which shall be the name appearing on the ballot. The district shall have all and every power, right, and privilege possessed by other water-sewer, sewer, or water districts of the state of Washington. The district may issue revenue bonds to pay for the construction of any additions and betterments set forth in the comprehensive plan of water supply, sewer, and drainage services contained in the agreement for consolidation and any future additions and betterments to the comprehensive plan of water supply, sewer, and drainage services, as its board of district commissioners shall by resolution adopt, without submitting a proposition therefor to the voters of the district. [1996 c 230 § 1106; 1994 c 223 § 72; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 32; 1967 ex.s. c 39 § 10.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.32.024 Vesting of funds and property in consolidated district—Outstanding indebtedness.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Upon the formation of any consolidated water district, all funds, rights and property, real and personal, of the former districts, shall vest in and become the property of the consolidated district. Unless the agreement for consolidation provides to the contrary, any outstanding indebtedness of any form, owed by the districts, shall remain the obligation of the area of the original debtor district and the water commissioners of the consolidated water district shall make such levies, assessments or charges for service upon that area or the water users therein as shall pay off the indebtedness at maturity. [1967 ex.s. c 39 § 11.]

**57.32.024 Vesting of funds and property in consolidated district—Outstanding indebtedness.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) Upon the formation of any consolidated district, all funds, rights, and property, real and personal, of the former districts, shall vest in and become the property of the consolidated district. Unless the agreement for consolidation provides to the contrary, any outstanding indebtedness of any form, owed by the districts, shall remain the obligation of the area of the original debtor district and the board of commissioners of the consolidated district shall make such levies, assessments, or charges for service upon that area or the users therein as shall pay off the indebtedness at maturity. [1996 c 230 § 1107; 1967 ex.s. c 39 § 11.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.32.130 Commissioners—Number.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) The water commissioners of all water districts consolidated into any new consolidated water district shall become water commissioners thereof until their respective terms of office expire. At each election of water commissioners following the consolidation, only one position shall be filled, so that as the terms of office expire the total number of water commissioners in the consolidated water district shall be reduced to three. [1985 c 141 § 9; 1943 c 267 § 13; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 11604-32.]

**57.32.130 Commissioners—Number.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) The commissioners of the districts consolidated into any new consolidated district shall become commissioners thereof until their respective terms of office expire or until they resign from office if the resignation is before the expiration of their terms of office. At each election of commissioners following the consolidation, only one position shall be filled, so that as the terms of office expire, the total number of commissioners in the consolidated district shall be reduced to three. However, if the agreement provides that the consolidated district eventually will be governed by a five-member board of commissioners, one commissioner shall be elected to a six-year term of office at the first district general election following the consolidation, two commissioners shall be elected to six-year terms of office at the second district general election following the consolidation, and two commissioners shall be elected to six-year terms of office at the third district general election following the consolidation. [1996 c 230 § 1108; 1985 c 141 § 9; 1943 c 267 § 13; Rem. Supp. 1943 § 11604-32.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.32.160 Transfer of part of district—Procedure.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) A part of one water or sewer district may be transferred into an adjacent water district if the area can be better served thereby. Such transfer can be accomplished by a petition, directed to both districts, signed by the owners according to the records of the county auditor of not less than sixty percent of the area of land to be transferred. If a majority of the commissioners of each district approves the petition, copies of the approving resolutions shall be filed with the county legislative authority which shall act upon the petition as a proposed action in accordance with RCW 57.02.040. [1987 c 449 § 18.]

**57.32.160 Transfer of part of district—Procedure.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) A part of one district may be transferred into an adjacent district if the area can be better served thereby. Such transfer can be accomplished by a petition, directed to both districts, signed by the owners according to the records of the county auditor of not less than sixty percent of the area of land to be transferred. If a majority of the commissioners of each district approves the petition, copies of the approving resolutions shall be filed with the county legislative authority which shall act upon the

petition as a proposed action in accordance with RCW 57.02.040. [1996 c 230 § 1109; 1987 c 449 § 18.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

## Chapter 57.36 MERGER OF DISTRICTS

### Sections

57.36.001	Actions subject to review by boundary review board.
57.36.010	Merger of districts authorized.
57.36.020	Initiation of merger—Procedure.
57.36.030	Agreement—Certification to county election officer— Election in merging district, notice, conduct.
57.36.040	Return of election—When merger effective—Cessation of merging district—Commissioners—Terms.
57.36.050	Vesting of funds and property in merger district— Outstanding indebtedness.
57.36.060	Persons serving on both boards to hold only one position after merger.

**57.36.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Actions taken under chapter 57.36 RCW may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1989 c 84 § 61.]

**57.36.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) Actions taken under this chapter may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1996 c 230 § 1201; 1989 c 84 § 61.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.36.010 Merger of districts authorized.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Whenever two water districts desire to merge, either district, hereinafter referred to as the "merging district", may merge into the other district, hereinafter referred to as the "merger district", and the merger district will survive under its original number. [1989 c 308 § 12; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 29; 1967 ex.s. c 39 § 3; 1961 c 28 § 1.]

**57.36.010 Merger of districts authorized.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) Whenever one or more districts desire to merge into another district, the district or districts desiring to merge into the other district shall be referred to as the "merging district" or "merging districts" and the district into which the merging district or districts desire to merge shall be referred to as the "merger district." After the merger, the merger district shall survive under its original name or number. [1996 c 230 § 1202; 1989 c 308 § 12; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 29; 1967 ex.s. c 39 § 3; 1961 c 28 § 1.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.36.020 Initiation of merger—Procedure.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) A merger of two water districts may be initiated in either of the following ways:

(1) Whenever the boards of water commissioners of both such districts determine by resolution that the merger of

such districts shall be conducive to the public health, welfare and convenience and to be of special benefit to the lands of such districts.

(2) Whenever ten percent of the legal electors residing within the merging district petition the board of water commissioners of the merging water district for a merger, and the board of water commissioners of the merger district determines by resolution that the merger of the districts shall be conducive to the public health, welfare and convenience of the two districts. [1967 ex.s. c 39 § 4; 1961 c 28 § 2.]

**57.36.020 Initiation of merger—Procedure.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) A merger of districts may be initiated in either of the following ways:

(1) Whenever the boards of commissioners of districts determine by resolution that the merger of such districts shall be conducive to the public health, welfare, and convenience and to be of special benefit to the lands of such districts.

(2) Whenever ten percent of the voters residing within the merging district or districts petition the board of commissioners of the merging district or districts for a merger, and the board of commissioners of the merger district determines by resolution that the merger of the districts shall be conducive to the public health, welfare, and convenience of the districts. [1996 c 230 § 1203; 1967 ex.s. c 39 § 4; 1961 c 28 § 2.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.36.030 Agreement—Certification to county election officer—Election in merging district, notice, conduct.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Whenever a merger is initiated in either of the two ways provided under this chapter, the boards of water commissioners of the two districts shall enter into an agreement providing for the merger. Said agreement must be entered into within ninety days following completion of the last act in initiation of the merger.

The respective boards of water commissioners shall certify the agreement to the county election officer of each county in which the districts are located. The county election officer shall call a special election for the purpose of submitting to the voters of the merging district the proposition of whether the merging district shall be merged into the merger district. Notice of the election shall be given and the election conducted in accordance with the general election laws. [1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 33; 1967 ex.s. c 39 § 5; 1961 c 28 § 3.]

**57.36.030 Agreement—Certification to county auditor—Election—Notice, conduct.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) Whenever a merger is initiated in either of the two ways provided under this chapter, the boards of commissioners of the districts shall enter into an agreement providing for the merger. The agreement must be entered into within ninety days following completion of the last act in initiation of the merger.

The respective boards of commissioners shall certify the agreement to the county auditor of each county in which the districts are located. Each county auditor shall call a special election for the purpose of submitting to the voters of the

respective districts the proposition of whether the merging district or districts shall be merged into the merger district. Notice of the elections shall be given and the elections conducted in accordance with the general election laws. [1996 c 230 § 1204; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 33; 1967 ex.s. c 39 § 5; 1961 c 28 § 3.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.36.040 Return of election—When merger effective—Cessation of merging district—Commissioners—Terms.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) If at such election a majority of the voters of the merging water district shall vote in favor of the merger, the county canvassing board shall so declare in its canvass and the return of such election shall be made within ten days after the date thereof, and upon such return the merger shall be effective and the merging water district shall cease to exist and shall become a part of the merger water district. The water commissioners of the merging district shall hold office as commissioners of the new consolidated water district until their respective terms of office expire or until they resign from office if the resignation is before the expiration of their terms of office. At the district election immediately preceding the time when the total number of remaining water commissioners is reduced to two through expiration of terms of office, one water commissioner shall be elected for a four year term of office. At the next district election, one water commissioner shall be elected for a four year term of office and one shall be elected for a six year term of office. Thereafter, each water commissioner shall be elected for a six-year term of office in the manner provided by RCW 57.12.020 and 57.12.030 for elections in an existing district. [1982 c 104 § 2; 1967 ex.s. c 39 § 6; 1961 c 28 § 4.]

**57.36.040 Return of election—When merger effective—Cessation of merging district—Commissioners.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) If at such election a majority of the voters of the merging district or districts shall vote in favor of the merger, the county canvassing board shall so declare in its canvass and the return of such election shall be made within ten days after the date thereof, and upon such return the merger shall be effective and the merging district or districts shall cease to exist and shall become a part of the merger district. The commissioners of the merging district or districts shall hold office as commissioners of the new merged district until their respective terms of office expire or until they resign from office if the resignation is before the expiration of their terms of office. The election of commissioners in the merger district after the merger shall occur as provided in RCW 57.32.130 in a consolidated district after the consolidation. [1996 c 230 § 1205; 1982 c 104 § 2; 1967 ex.s. c 39 § 6; 1961 c 28 § 4.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.36.050 Vesting of funds and property in merger district—Outstanding indebtedness.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) All funds and property, real and personal, of the merging district, shall vest in and become the property of the merger district. Unless the agreement of merger provides to

the contrary, any outstanding indebtedness of any form, owed by the districts, shall remain the obligation of the area of the original debtor district; and the water commissioners of the merger water district shall make such levies, assessments or charges for service upon said area or the water users therein as shall pay off such indebtedness at maturity. [1967 ex.s. c 39 § 7; 1961 c 28 § 5.]

**57.36.050 Vesting of funds and property in merger district—Outstanding indebtedness.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) All funds and property, real and personal, of the merging district or districts, shall vest in and become the property of the merger district. Unless the agreement of merger provides to the contrary, any outstanding indebtedness of any form, owed by the districts, shall remain the obligation of the area of the original debtor district; and the commissioners of the merger district shall make such levies, assessments, or charges for service upon such area or the users therein as shall pay off such indebtedness at maturity. [1996 c 230 § 1207; 1967 ex.s. c 39 § 7; 1961 c 28 § 5.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.36.060 Persons serving on both boards to hold only one position after merger.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) A person who serves on the board of commissioners of a merging district and a merger district shall hold only one position on the board of commissioners of the merger district and shall only receive compensation, expenses, and benefits that are available to a single commissioner. [1996 c 230 § 1206; 1988 c 162 § 4. Formerly RCW 57.40.135.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

## Chapter 57.40

### MERGER OF WATER DISTRICTS INTO SEWER DISTRICTS—MERGER OF SEWER DISTRICTS INTO WATER DISTRICTS

#### Sections

- 57.40.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.
- 57.40.100 Merger of sewer districts into water districts—Authorized.
- 57.40.110 Initiating merger—Alternative methods.
- 57.40.120 Agreement of merger—Board review—Special election.
- 57.40.130 Election—Results—Effect—Commissioners—Terms.
- 57.40.135 Persons serving on both boards to hold only one position after merger.
- 57.40.140 Disposition of funds, rights, and property—Indebtedness of merged sewer districts.
- 57.40.150 Powers of water district.

**57.40.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.** Actions taken under chapter 57.40 RCW may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1989 c 84 § 62.]

**57.40.100 Merger of sewer districts into water districts—Authorized.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Any sewer district, acting alone or in conjunction with any other sewer district or districts similarly situated as hereafter described, the territory of which lies wholly or partly within, or which is adjoining or in proximity to a water district, may

merge into the water district, and the water district will survive under its original name. The term "in proximity to" as used herein shall mean within one mile of each other, measured in a straight line between the closest points of approach of the territorial boundaries of the respective districts. [1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 34; 1971 ex.s. c 146 § 1.]

**57.40.110 Initiating merger—Alternative methods.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) A merger of one or more sewer districts into a water district may be initiated in any one of the following ways:

(1) Whenever the board of commissioners of the water district, on the one hand, and the board of commissioners of the sewer district or of the respective sewer districts seeking to merge into the water district, on the other hand, each determine by resolution that the merger of such sewer district or sewer districts into the water district shall be conducive to the public health, welfare and convenience and to be of special benefit to the lands of such district so desiring to merge.

(2) Whenever ten percent of the qualified electors residing within each of the water districts and the sewer district or districts involved petition the board of commissioners of their respective districts for a merger of such district into the water district.

(3) Whenever ten percent of the qualified electors residing within the water district petition the board of water commissioners for such a merger, and the board of sewer commissioners of the district or each sewer district to be merged determines by resolution that the merger of such district into the water district will be conducive to the public health, welfare and convenience of the two districts. [1971 ex.s. c 146 § 2.]

**57.40.120 Agreement of merger—Board review—Special election.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Whenever a merger is initiated in any of the three ways provided in RCW 57.40.110, the boards of the water and sewer commissioners of the respective districts involved shall enter into an agreement providing for the merger. The agreement must be entered into within ninety days following completion of the last act required for initiation of the merger by any one of the means above specified, as provided in RCW 57.40.110. Where two or more sewer districts seek to merge into a water district at or about the same time, there need be but one agreement of merger signed by the water district and such two or more sewer districts if the parties so agree.

Upon entry of such agreement, the boards of the water and sewer commissioners shall file a notice of intention to merge together with a copy of said agreement with the boundary review board, if any, of the county and the board shall review the proposed merger under the provisions of RCW 36.93.150 through 36.93.180.

The respective boards of water and sewer commissioners of such districts shall certify such agreement to the county auditor of the county in which the districts are located within twenty days from date of execution of such agreement, with a certified copy thereof filed with the clerk of the board of county commissioners of such county. Thereupon, unless the boundary review board has disapproved the proposed merger the county auditor shall call a

special election for the purpose of submitting to the voters of the sewer district or of each of the two or more sewer districts involved the proposition of whether the sewer district shall be merged into the water district. Notice of the election shall be given, and the election conducted, in accordance with the general election laws. [1971 ex.s. c 146 § 3.]

**57.40.130 Election—Results—Effect—Commissioners—Terms.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) If at such election a majority of the voters in the sewer district or all or either of the sewer districts involved, shall vote in favor of the merger, the county election canvassing board shall so declare in its canvass, and the return of the election shall be made within ten days after the date of such election. Upon completion of the return the merger shall be effective as to the water district and each sewer district in which the majority of voters voted in favor of the merger, and each such sewer district shall cease to exist as a separate entity and the area within such sewer district shall become a part of the water district. The sewer commissioners of any sewer district so merged shall hold office as commissioners of the water district into which the sewer district was merged until their respective terms of office expire or until they resign from office if the resignation is before the expiration of their terms of office. At the district election immediately preceding the time when the total number of remaining water commissioners is reduced to two through expiration of terms of office or resignations, one water commissioner shall be elected for a four year term of office. At the next district election, one water commissioner shall be elected for a four [year] term of office and one shall be elected for a six year term of office. Thereafter, each water commissioner shall be elected for a six-year term of office in the manner provided by RCW 57.12.020 and 57.12.030 for elections in an existing district. [1982 c 104 § 3; 1981 c 45 § 12; 1971 ex.s. c 146 § 4.]

**Legislative declaration—"District" defined—Severability—1981 c 45:** See notes following RCW 56.36.060.

**57.40.135 Persons serving on both boards to hold only one position after merger.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) A person who serves on the board of commissioners of a sewer district that merges under this chapter into a water district, for which the person also serves on the board of commissioners, shall only hold one position on the board of commissioners of the district that results from the merger and shall only receive compensation, expenses, and benefits that are available to a single commissioner. [1988 c 162 § 4.]

**57.40.140 Disposition of funds, rights, and property—Indebtedness of merged sewer districts.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) All funds, rights and property, real and personal, of any sewer district merging into a water district shall vest in and become the property of the water district. Unless the agreement of merger provides to the contrary, any outstanding indebtedness of any form, owned by the sewer district, shall remain the obligation of and, as applicable, a lien upon the land, assets and/or revenue of the original district. The board of commissioners of the water district



shall make such levies, assessments or charges upon said land or the sewer or water users therein as are necessary to pay any indebtedness of the merged sewer districts as and when the same mature. [1971 ex.s. c 146 § 5.]

**57.40.150 Powers of water district.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Following merger, the water district and the board of commissioners thereof shall have all powers granted water districts by RCW 57.08.045 and 57.08.065 and shall have all other powers granted water districts by Title 57 RCW in any area within its boundaries which is not part of another existing district duly authorized to exercise water district powers in such area and shall have all powers granted sewer districts by RCW 56.08.060 and 56.20.015 and shall have all other power granted sewer districts by Title 56 RCW in any area within its boundaries which is not part of another existing district duly authorized to exercise sewer district powers in such area. The water district shall have the power to issue revenue bonds to which are pledged sewer revenue, water revenue, or both sewer and water revenue, as well as the power to levy assessments against property specially benefited in local improvement districts or utility local improvement districts, for improvements to the sewer system or the water system or both. [1981 c 45 § 13; 1971 ex.s. c 146 § 6.]

**Legislative declaration—"District" defined—Severability—1981 c 45:** See notes following RCW 56.36.060.

## Chapter 57.42

### DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY TO PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

#### Sections

- 57.42.010 Authorized.  
57.42.020 Disposition must be in public interest—Filings—Indebtedness.  
57.42.030 Hearing—Notice—Decree.

**57.42.010 Authorized.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Subject to the provisions of RCW 57.42.020 and 57.42.030, any water district created under the provisions of this title may sell, transfer, exchange, lease or otherwise dispose of any property, real or personal, or property rights, including but not limited to the title to real property, to a public utility district in the same county on such terms as may be mutually agreed upon by the commissioners of each district. [1973 1st ex.s. c 56 § 1.]

**57.42.010 Authorized.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) Subject to the provisions of RCW 57.42.020 and 57.42.030, any district created under the provisions of this title may sell, transfer, exchange, lease or otherwise dispose of any property, real or personal, or property rights, including but not limited to the title to real property, to a public utility district in the same county on such terms as may be mutually agreed upon by the board of commissioners of each district. [1996 c 230 § 1301; 1973 1st ex.s. c 56 § 1.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.42.020 Disposition must be in public interest—Filings—Indebtedness.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) No water district shall dispose of its property to a public utility district unless the respective commissioners of each district shall determine by resolution that such disposition is in the public interest and conducive to the public health, welfare and convenience. Copies of each resolution together with copies of the proposed disposition agreement shall be filed with the legislative authority of the county in which the water district is located, and with the superior court of that county. Unless the proposed agreement provides otherwise, any outstanding indebtedness of any form, owed by the water district, shall remain the obligation of the area of the water district and the public utility district commissioners shall be empowered to make such levies, assessments or charges upon that area or the water users therein as shall pay off the indebtedness at maturity. [1973 1st ex.s. c 56 § 2.]

**57.42.020 Disposition must be in public interest—Filings—Indebtedness.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) No district shall dispose of its property to a public utility district unless the respective board of commissioners of each district shall determine by resolution that such disposition is in the public interest and conducive to the public health, welfare, and convenience. Copies of each resolution, together with copies of the proposed disposition agreement, shall be filed with the legislative authority of the county in which the district is located and with the superior court of that county. Unless the proposed agreement provides otherwise, any outstanding indebtedness of any form owed by the water district shall remain the obligation of the area of the district, and the board of commissioners of the public utility district shall be empowered to make such levies, assessments, or charges upon that area or the water, sewer, or drainage users therein as shall pay off the indebtedness at maturity. [1996 c 230 § 1302; 1973 1st ex.s. c 56 § 2.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.42.030 Hearing—Notice—Decree.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Within ninety days after the resolutions and proposed agreement have been filed with the court, the court shall fix a date for a hearing and shall direct that notice of the hearing be given by publication. After reviewing the proposed agreement and considering other evidence presented at the hearing, the court may determine by decree that the proposed disposition is in the public interest and conducive to the public health, welfare and convenience. In addition, the decree shall authorize the payment of all or a portion of the indebtedness of the water district relating to property disposed of under such decree. Pursuant to the court decree, the water district shall dispose of its property under the terms of the disposition agreement with the public utility district. [1973 1st ex.s. c 56 § 3.]

**57.42.030 Hearing—Notice—Decree.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) Within ninety days after the resolutions and proposed agreement have been filed with the court, the court shall fix a date for a hearing and shall direct that notice of the hearing be given by publication. After reviewing the proposed agreement and considering other evidence present-

ed at the hearing, the court may determine by decree that the proposed disposition is in the public interest and conducive to the public health, welfare, and convenience. In addition, the decree shall authorize the payment of all or a portion of the indebtedness of the district relating to property disposed of under such decree. Pursuant to the court decree, the district shall dispose of its property under the terms of the disposition agreement with the public utility district. [1996 c 230 § 1303; 1973 1st ex.s. c 56 § 3.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

### Chapter 57.46

## VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO ASSIST LOW-INCOME CUSTOMERS

#### Sections

- 57.46.010 Voluntary contributions to assist low-income residential customers—Administration.
- 57.46.020 Disbursement of contributions—Quarterly report.
- 57.46.030 Contributions not considered commingling of funds.

**57.46.010 Voluntary contributions to assist low-income residential customers—Administration.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) A water district may include along with, or as part of its regular customer billings, a request for voluntary contributions to assist qualified low-income residential customers of the district in paying their water district bills. All funds received by the district in response to such requests shall be transmitted to the grantee of the department of community, trade, and economic development which administers federally funded energy assistance programs for the state in the district's service area or to a charitable organization within the district's service area. All such funds shall be used solely to supplement assistance to low-income residential customers of the district in paying their water district bills. The grantee or charitable organization shall be responsible to determine which of the district's customers are qualified for low-income assistance and the amount of assistance to be provided to those who are qualified. [1995 c 399 § 149; 1993 c 45 § 5.]

**57.46.010 Voluntary contributions to assist low-income residential customers—Administration.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) A district may include along with, or as part of its regular customer billings, a request for voluntary contributions to assist qualified low-income residential customers of the district in paying their district bills. All funds received by the district in response to such requests shall be transmitted to the grantee of the department of community, trade, and economic development which administers federally funded energy assistance programs for the state in the district's service area or to a charitable organization within the district's service area. All such funds shall be used solely to supplement assistance to low-income residential customers of the district in paying their district bills. The grantee or charitable organization shall be responsible to determine which of the district's customers are qualified for low-income assistance and the amount of assistance to be provided to those who are qualified. [1996 c 230 § 1401; 1995 c 399 § 149; 1993 c 45 § 5.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.46.020 Disbursement of contributions—Quarterly report.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) All assistance provided under this chapter shall be disbursed by the grantee or charitable organization. Where possible the water district will be paid on behalf of the customer by the grantee or the charitable organization. When direct vendor payment is not feasible, a check will be issued jointly payable to the customer and the water district. The availability of funds for assistance to a district's low-income customers as a result of voluntary contributions shall not reduce the amount of assistance for which the district's customers are eligible under the federally funded energy assistance programs administered by the grantee of the department of community, trade, and economic development within the district's service area. The grantee or charitable organization shall provide the district with a quarterly report on January 15th, April 15th, July 15th, and October 15th which includes information concerning the total amount of funds received from the district, the names of all recipients of assistance from these funds, the amount received by each recipient, and the amount of funds received from the district currently on hand and available for future low-income assistance. [1995 c 399 § 150; 1993 c 45 § 6.]

**57.46.020 Disbursement of contributions—Quarterly report.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) All assistance provided under this chapter shall be disbursed by the grantee or charitable organization. Where possible the district shall be paid on behalf of the customer by the grantee or the charitable organization. When direct vendor payment is not feasible, a check shall be issued jointly payable to the customer and the district. The availability of funds for assistance to a district's low-income customers as a result of voluntary contributions shall not reduce the amount of assistance for which the district's customers are eligible under the federally funded energy assistance programs administered by the grantee of the department of community, trade, and economic development within the district's service area. The grantee or charitable organization shall provide the district with a quarterly report on January 15th, April 15th, July 15th, and October 15th which includes information concerning the total amount of funds received from the district, the names of all recipients of assistance from these funds, the amount received by each recipient, and the amount of funds received from the district currently on hand and available for future low-income assistance. [1996 c 230 § 1402; 1995 c 399 § 150; 1993 c 45 § 6.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.46.030 Contributions not considered commingling of funds.** (*Effective until July 1, 1997.*) Contributions received under a program implemented by a water district in compliance with this chapter shall not be considered a commingling of funds. [1993 c 45 § 7.]

**57.46.030 Contributions not considered commingling of funds.** (*Effective July 1, 1997.*) Contributions

received under a program implemented by a district in compliance with this chapter shall not be considered a commingling of funds. [1996 c 230 § 1403; 1993 c 45 § 7.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

### Chapter 57.90

#### DISINCORPORATION OF WATER AND OTHER DISTRICTS IN COUNTIES WITH A POPULATION OF TWO HUNDRED TEN THOUSAND OR MORE

##### Sections

- 57.90.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.
- 57.90.010 Disincorporation authorized.
- 57.90.020 Proceedings, how commenced—Public hearings.
- 57.90.030 Findings—Order—Supervision of liquidation.
- 57.90.040 Distribution of assets.
- 57.90.050 Assessments to retire indebtedness.
- 57.90.100 Disposal of real property on abandonment of irrigation district right of way—Right of adjacent owners.

##### Dissolution of

port districts: RCW 53.46.060.

water-sewer districts: Chapter 57.04 RCW.

**57.90.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Actions taken under chapter 57.90 RCW may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1989 c 84 § 63.]

**57.90.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** Actions taken under this chapter may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1996 c 230 § 1501; 1989 c 84 § 63.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.90.010 Disincorporation authorized. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Water, sewer, park and recreation, metropolitan park, county rural library, cemetery, flood control, mosquito control, diking and drainage, irrigation or reclamation, weed, health, or fire protection districts, and any air pollution control authority, hereinafter referred to as "special districts", which are located wholly or in part within a county with a population of two hundred ten thousand or more may be disincorporated when the district has not actively carried out any of the special purposes or functions for which it was formed within the preceding consecutive five year period. [1991 c 363 § 137; 1979 ex.s. c 30 § 11; 1963 c 55 § 1.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**57.90.010 Disincorporation authorized. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** Water-sewer, sewer, water, park and recreation, metropolitan park, county rural library, cemetery, flood control, mosquito control, diking and drainage, irrigation or reclamation, weed, health, or fire protection districts, and any air pollution control authority, hereinafter referred to as "special districts," which are located wholly or in part within a county with a population of two hundred ten thousand or

more may be disincorporated when the district has not actively carried out any of the special purposes or functions for which it was formed within the preceding consecutive five-year period. [1996 c 230 § 1502; 1991 c 363 § 137; 1979 ex.s. c 30 § 11; 1963 c 55 § 1.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

**57.90.020 Proceedings, how commenced—Public hearings. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Upon the filing with the county legislative authority of each county in which the district is located of a resolution of any governmental unit calling for the disincorporation of a special district, or upon the filing with the county legislative authority of each county in which the district is located of the petition of twenty percent of the qualified electors within a special district calling for the disincorporation of a special district the county legislative authority shall hold public hearings to determine whether or not any services have been provided within a consecutive five year period and whether the best interests of all persons concerned will be served by the proposed dissolution of the special district. [1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 35; 1963 c 55 § 2.]

**57.90.020 Proceedings, how commenced—Public hearings. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** Upon the filing with the county legislative authority of each county in which the district is located of a resolution of any governmental unit calling for the disincorporation of a special district, or upon the filing with the county legislative authority of each county in which the district is located of the petition of twenty percent of the voters within a special district calling for the disincorporation of the special district, the county legislative authority shall hold public hearings to determine whether or not any services have been provided within a consecutive five year period and whether the best interests of all persons concerned will be served by the proposed dissolution of the special district. [1996 c 230 § 1503; 1982 1st ex.s. c 17 § 35; 1963 c 55 § 2.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.90.030 Findings—Order—Supervision of liquidation. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** If the board of county commissioners finds that no services have been provided within the preceding consecutive five year period and that the best interests of all persons concerned will be served by disincorporating the special district it shall order that such action be taken, specify the manner in which it is to be accomplished and supervise the liquidation of any assets and the satisfaction of any outstanding indebtedness. [1963 c 55 § 3.]

**57.90.030 Findings—Order—Supervision of liquidation. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** If the county legislative authority finds that no services have been provided within the preceding consecutive five-year period and that the best interests of all persons concerned will be served by disincorporating the special district, it shall order that such action be

taken, specify the manner in which it is to be accomplished and supervise the liquidation of any assets and the satisfaction of any outstanding indebtedness. [1996 c 230 § 1504; 1963 c 55 § 3.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.90.040 Distribution of assets. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** In the event a special district is discontinued the proceeds of the sale of any of its assets, together with moneys on hand in the treasury of the special district, shall after payment of all costs and expenses and all outstanding indebtedness be paid to the county treasurer to be placed to the credit of the school district, or districts, in which such special district is situated. [1963 c 55 § 4.]

**57.90.040 Distribution of assets. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** If a special district is discontinued the proceeds of the sale of any of its assets, together with money on hand in the treasury of the special district, shall after payment of all costs and expenses and all outstanding indebtedness be paid to the county treasurer to be placed to the credit of the school district, or districts, in which such special district is situated. [1996 c 230 § 1505; 1963 c 55 § 4.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.90.050 Assessments to retire indebtedness. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** In the event a special district is discontinued and the proceeds of the sale of any of its assets, together with moneys on hand in the treasury of the special district are insufficient to retire any outstanding indebtedness together with all costs and expenses of liquidation, the board of county commissioners shall levy assessments in the manner provided by law against the property in the special district in amounts sufficient to retire said indebtedness and pay such costs and expenses. [1963 c 55 § 5.]

**57.90.050 Assessments to retire indebtedness. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** If a special district is discontinued and the proceeds of the sale of any of its assets, together with money on hand in the treasury of the special district, are insufficient to retire any outstanding indebtedness, together with all costs and expenses of liquidation, the county legislative authority shall levy assessments in the manner provided by law against the property in the special district in amounts sufficient to retire the indebtedness and pay the costs and expenses. [1996 c 230 § 1506; 1963 c 55 § 5.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.

**57.90.100 Disposal of real property on abandonment of irrigation district right of way—Right of adjacent owners. (Effective until July 1, 1997.)** Whenever as the result of abandonment of an irrigation district right of way real property held by an irrigation district is to be sold or otherwise disposed of, notice shall be given to the owners of lands adjoining that real property and such owners shall have a right of first refusal to purchase at the appraised price

all or any part of the real property to be sold or otherwise disposed of which adjoins or is adjacent to their land.

Real property to be sold or otherwise disposed of under this section shall have been first appraised by the county assessor or by a person designated by him.

Notice under this section shall be sufficient if sent by registered mail to the owner, and at the address, as shown in the tax records of the county in which the land is situated. Notice under this section shall be in addition to any other notice required by law.

After sixty days from the date of sending of notice, if no applications for purchase have been received by the irrigation district or other person or entity sending notice, the rights of first refusal of owners of adjoining lands shall be deemed to have been waived, and the real property may be sold or otherwise disposed of.

If two or more owners of adjoining lands apply to purchase the same real property, or apply to purchase overlapping parts of the real property, the respective rights of the applicants may be determined in the superior court of the county in which the real property is situated; and the court may divide the real property in question between some or all of the applicants or award the whole to one applicant, as justice may require. [1971 ex.s. c 125 § 1.]

**57.90.100 Disposal of real property on abandonment of irrigation district right of way—Right of adjacent owners. (Effective July 1, 1997.)** Whenever as the result of abandonment of an irrigation district right of way real property held by an irrigation district is to be sold or otherwise disposed of, notice shall be given to the owners of the lands adjoining that real property and such owners shall have the right of first refusal to purchase at the appraised price all or any part of the real property to be sold or otherwise disposed of which adjoins or is adjacent to their land.

Real property to be sold or otherwise disposed of under this section shall have been first appraised by the county assessor or by a person designated by the county assessor.

Notice under this section shall be sufficient if sent by registered mail to the owner at the address shown in the tax records of the county in which the land is situated. Notice under this section shall be in addition to any notice required by law.

After sixty days from the date of sending of notice, if no applications for purchase have been received by the irrigation district or other person or entity sending notice, the rights of first refusal of owners of adjoining lands shall be deemed to have been waived, and the real property may be disposed of or sold.

If two or more owners of adjoining lands apply to purchase the same real property, or apply to purchase overlapping parts of the real property, the respective rights of the applicants may be determined in the superior court of the county in which the real property is situated. The court may divide the real property in question between some or all of the applicants or award the whole to one applicant, as justice may require. [1996 c 230 § 1507; 1971 ex.s. c 125 § 1.]

**Part headings not law—Effective date—1996 c 230:** See notes following RCW 57.02.001.