



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 5643
December 10, 2019
Regular Business**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 5643: Code of Ethics Revisions (Third Reading and Adoption)	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed:
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Adopt Ordinance No. 19C-20 and Resolution No. 1572 revising the Code of Ethics and Code of Ethics Statement	<input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resolution

DEPARTMENT:	City Manager
STAFF:	Ali Spietz, Chief of Administration
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. Ordinance No. 19C-20 2. Resolution No. 1572
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

SUMMARY

At the November 19 (AB 5628) and December 3 (AB 5639) City Council meetings, staff presented revisions to the code of ethics for public officials to clarify the process for responding to a complaint and adding guidance on prohibited conduct. Following Council questions and discussion, staff was directed to further revise the proposed amendments.

Staff has incorporated the Council’s changes from the matrix presented at the December 3 Study Session. Of note are the following (highlighted in yellow in Exhibit 1):

- 2.60.030(A): “the official’s spouse” and “employee” must be listed in the City code for financial interest per state law.
- 2.60.030(A): under the minimum standards neither vote nor participation is allowed if an official has a conflict of interest, as such, Councilmember Bassett’s suggested language has been deleted.
- 2.60.080(G): this section has been amended to include reimbursement parameters. **Staff is seeking Council direction on the maximum amount the City will reimburse an official for the defense of an ethics complaint that results in a dismissal of the complaint by the city council without penalties subsequent to a hearing by the hearing examiner.**

- 2.60.090: this section has been amended to clarify that complaints can only be brought against current members and if that official resigns or their term ends, no further action will be taken with the complaint.

Attached as Exhibit 2 is Resolution No. 1572 adopting a revised Code of Ethics Statement for officials to sign when they take office or are appointed.

RECOMMENDATION

Provide direction on the maximum amount the City will reimburse an official for the defense of an ethics complaint that results in a dismissal of the complaint by the city council without penalties subsequent to a hearing by the hearing examiner

MOVE TO: Adopt Ordinance No. 19C-20 to amend chapter 2.60 of the Mercer Island City Code revising the Code of Ethics and pass Resolution No. 1572 revising the Code of Ethics Statement.