

As Introduced

134th General Assembly

Regular Session

2021-2022

H. B. No. 214

Representatives Crossman, Lepore-Hagan

**Cosponsors: Representatives Leland, Brown, Galonski, O'Brien, Boggs, Russo,
Miller, A., West, Weinstein, Sobecki, Sheehy, Lightbody**

A BILL

To enact section 2961.04 of the Revised Code to 1
prohibit a person who is currently charged with 2
a public corruption offense from taking office 3
as a member of the General Assembly, to require 4
a current member who is charged with a public 5
corruption offense to repay certain amounts to 6
the state, and to declare an emergency. 7

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 2961.04 of the Revised Code be 8
enacted to read as follows: 9

Sec. 2961.04. (A) As used in this section, "public 10
corruption offense" means any of the following: 11

(1) A violation of section 2905.11, 2921.02, 2921.03, 12
2921.41, or 2923.32 of the Revised Code; 13

(2) A felony violation of section 2921.31 or 2921.42 of 14
the Revised Code; 15

(3) Felony conspiracy, felony attempt, or felony 16

complicity with respect to an offense listed in division (A) (1) 17
or (2) of this section; 18

(4) A felony violation of a law of any other state or the 19
United States that is substantially equivalent to an offense 20
described in division (A) (1), (2), or (3) of this section. 21

(B) Subject to division (D) of this section, a person to 22
whom any of the following applies is incompetent to take office 23
as a member of the general assembly: 24

(1) The person has been indicted for a public corruption 25
offense, has not been acquitted of the charge or had the 26
indictment dismissed, and has not been convicted of the charge. 27

(2) The person has been charged with a public corruption 28
offense, a court of competent jurisdiction has determined at a 29
preliminary hearing that there is probable cause to believe that 30
the person committed the offense, the person has not been 31
acquitted of the charge or had the charge dismissed, and the 32
person has not been convicted of the charge. 33

(3) The person has been charged with a public corruption 34
offense, has waived a preliminary hearing concerning the charge, 35
has not been acquitted of the charge or had the charge 36
dismissed, and has not been convicted of the charge. 37

(C) (1) If a person is elected to the office of member of 38
the general assembly but is incompetent to take office under 39
division (B) of this section, the office shall be considered 40
vacant as of the earlier of the ninetieth day after the first 41
day the person would have been entitled to take office or, if 42
applicable, the day the person is convicted of the public 43
corruption offense. If, before the office is considered vacant, 44
the person ceases to be incompetent to take office, the person 45

shall take office. 46

(2) A person who is elected to the office of member of the 47
general assembly but is incompetent to take office under 48
division (B) of this section shall not be entitled to receive 49
any salary, employment benefits, or other benefits in connection 50
with the office of member of the general assembly during the 51
period beginning on the first day the person would have been 52
entitled to take office and ending on the earlier of the first 53
day the office is considered vacant or, if applicable, the first 54
day the person is no longer incompetent to take office. 55

(D) If a person is a member of the general assembly as of 56
the first day division (B) (1), (2), or (3) of this section 57
applies to the person, the person is not considered incompetent 58
on that basis to serve the remainder of the person's current 59
term of office in the general assembly. However, if the person 60
is convicted of the public corruption offense, the person shall 61
be liable to the state for an amount equal to the value of the 62
salary and employment benefits the person received in connection 63
with the person's office as a member of the general assembly 64
during the period beginning on the later of the first day 65
division (B) (1), (2), or (3) of this section applies to the 66
person and the effective date of this section and ending on the 67
day the person is convicted of the public corruption offense. 68

(E) The provisions of this section are in addition to, and 69
not in derogation of, the provisions of sections 2961.01 and 70
2961.02 of the Revised Code and any other provision of the 71
Revised Code pertaining to a person's eligibility to be a 72
candidate for, or member of, the general assembly. 73

Section 2. This act is hereby declared to be an emergency 74
measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public 75

peace, health, and safety. The reason for such necessity is to 76
ensure public faith in the integrity of the General Assembly. 77
Therefore, this act shall go into immediate effect. 78