

**As Adopted by the Senate**

**CORRECTED VERSION**

**135th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2023-2024**

**S. C. R. No. 4**

**Senator Schuring**

**Cosponsors: Senators Antonio, Cirino, Craig, DeMora, Hackett, Hicks-Hudson,  
Johnson, Landis, Lang, McColley, Rulli, Smith, Sykes, Wilson**

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**A C O N C U R R E N T R E S O L U T I O N**

To adopt the Legislative Code of Ethics for the 1  
members and employees of both chambers of the 2  
135th General Assembly, employees of any 3  
legislative agency, and candidates for the 136th 4  
General Assembly. 5

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING):**

WHEREAS, The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee, appointed 6  
by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President 7  
of the Senate pursuant to section 101.34 of the Revised Code, is 8  
required to recommend a Code of Ethics that is consistent with 9  
the law to govern all members and employees of each chamber of 10  
the General Assembly and all candidates for the office of member 11  
of each chamber; and 12

WHEREAS, The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee is the 13  
appropriate ethics committee for matters relating to members and 14  
employees of the General Assembly, employees of any legislative 15  
agency, and candidates for the office of member of the General 16  
Assembly; now therefore be it 17

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives and the Senate 18  
of the ~~134th-135th~~ General Assembly adopt the following 19  
Legislative Code of Ethics: 20

LEGISLATIVE CODE OF ETHICS 21

FOR MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE 22

~~134th-135th~~ OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 23

EMPLOYEES OF ANY LEGISLATIVE AGENCY, 24

AND CANDIDATES FOR THE ~~135th-136th~~ GENERAL ASSEMBLY 25

Section 1. CONDUCT 26

All members of the Senate or the House of Representatives 27  
shall conduct themselves at all times so as to reflect credit 28  
upon the member's respective chamber of the General Assembly, 29  
shall obey all rules of the member's respective chamber of the 30  
General Assembly, and shall conform the member's conduct to this 31  
Code of Ethics. All employees of the Senate or House of 32  
Representatives and all employees of any legislative agency 33  
shall conduct themselves at all times so as to reflect credit 34  
upon the employee's respective chamber of the General Assembly 35  
or institution of employment, shall obey all rules of the 36  
employee's respective chamber of the General Assembly or 37  
institution of employment, and shall conform the employee's 38  
conduct to this Code of Ethics. 39

Section 2. DISCLOSURE STATEMENT 40

(A) The Office of the Legislative Inspector General shall 41  
accept disclosure statements filed by members and employees of 42  
the General Assembly and employees of any legislative agency 43  
pursuant to section 102.02 of the Revised Code and shall 44  
maintain a file of all disclosure statements that are filed 45  
pursuant to that section. Every member of the General Assembly 46  
and every employee of the General Assembly and any legislative 47

agency who is required to file a financial disclosure statement, 48  
within the period prescribed by law, shall file with the Office 49  
of the Legislative Inspector General, a disclosure statement as 50  
provided for by section 102.02 of the Revised Code. Each member 51  
and each employee of the General Assembly and employee of any 52  
legislative agency required to file a financial disclosure 53  
statement, within the period and in the manner prescribed by 54  
section 102.02 of the Revised Code, shall receive from the 55  
Office of the Legislative Inspector General the form on which 56  
the statement shall be prepared. 57

(B) Division (A) (2) (b) (iii) of section 102.02 of the 58  
Revised Code applies to members of the General Assembly who are 59  
attorneys or physicians or who otherwise engage in the practice 60  
of a profession and to the clients, patients, and other 61  
recipients of professional services of members of the General 62  
Assembly who are attorneys or physicians or who otherwise engage 63  
in the practice of a profession, even if those clients, 64  
patients, and other recipients of professional services are 65  
legislative agents. 66

(C) Division (A) (2) (h) of section 102.02 of the Revised 67  
Code requires a member of the General Assembly and an employee 68  
of the General Assembly or any legislative agency required to 69  
file a disclosure statement under section 102.02 of the Revised 70  
Code to identify on a disclosure statement the source and amount 71  
of any payment of expenses incurred for travel to destinations 72  
inside or outside this state that the member or employee 73  
receives in the member's or employee's own name or that another 74  
person receives for the member's or employee's use or benefit in 75  
connection with the member's or employee's official duties, 76  
except for expenses for travel to meetings or conventions of a 77  
national or state organization to which any state agency, 78  
including, but not limited to, any legislative agency or state 79  
institution of higher education as defined in section 3345.011 80

of the Revised Code, pays membership dues, or any political 81  
subdivision or any office or agency of a political subdivision 82  
pays membership dues. 83

(D) Division (A) (2) (i) of section 102.02 of the Revised 84  
Code requires a member of the General Assembly and an employee 85  
of the General Assembly or any legislative agency required to 86  
file a disclosure statement under section 102.02 of the Revised 87  
Code to identify on a disclosure statement the source of payment 88  
of expenses for meals and other food and beverages that are 89  
incurred in connection with the person's official duties and 90  
that exceed one hundred dollars aggregated per calendar year, 91  
except for expenses for meals and other food and beverages 92  
provided at a meeting at which the member or employee 93  
participated in a panel, seminar, or speaking engagement or at a 94  
meeting or convention of a national or state organization to 95  
which a state agency, including, but not limited to, any 96  
legislative agency or state institution of higher education as 97  
defined in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code, pays membership 98  
dues, or any political subdivision or any office or agency of a 99  
political subdivision pays membership dues. 100

(E) (1) Except as otherwise provided in division (E) (2) of 101  
this section, in accordance with section 102.02 of the Revised 102  
Code, every member of the General Assembly and every employee of 103  
the General Assembly or any legislative agency required to file 104  
an annual statement under section 102.02 of the Revised Code 105  
shall disclose the source of a gift or gifts, where the value of 106  
the gift or gifts aggregated per calendar year exceeds seventy- 107  
five dollars, except gifts received by will or by virtue of 108  
section 2105.06 of the Revised Code, or received from spouses, 109  
parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, siblings, 110  
nephews, nieces, uncles, aunts, cousins, brothers-in-law, 111  
sisters-in-law, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, fathers-in-law, 112  
mothers-in-law, step-relations, or any person to whom the member 113

or employee of the General Assembly or employee of any 114  
legislative agency stands in loco parentis, or received by way 115  
of distribution from any inter vivos or testamentary trust 116  
established by a spouse or by an ancestor. 117

(2) In accordance with section 102.02 of the Revised Code, 118  
every member of the General Assembly and every employee of the 119  
General Assembly or any legislative agency required to file an 120  
annual statement under section 102.02 of the Revised Code shall 121  
disclose the source of a gift or gifts from a legislative agent, 122  
where the value of the gift or gifts aggregated per calendar 123  
year exceeds twenty-five dollars. 124

Section 3. LICENSE DISCLOSURE 125

Any member of the General Assembly who engages in the 126  
conduct or practice of a particular business, profession, trade, 127  
or occupation that is subject to licensing or regulation by any 128  
branch, department, division, institution, instrumentality, 129  
board, commission, or bureau of the state shall file a notice 130  
that the member is the holder of a particular license, or is 131  
engaged in such activity, as part of the financial disclosure 132  
statement required by section 102.02 of the Revised Code. 133

Section 4. VOTING ABSTENTION 134

(A) A member who has reason to believe that the member has 135  
a substantial personal interest in legislation may request 136  
permission of the chair to abstain from voting on the 137  
legislation and may state the member's reason for the request. 138  
The request shall be granted by the chair or the member's 139  
respective chamber of the General Assembly pursuant to the rules 140  
of that chamber. The request and permission to abstain shall be 141  
entered in the House or Senate Journal, as is appropriate. 142

(B) No member of the General Assembly shall vote on any 143  
legislation that the member knows is then being actively 144

advocated if the member is one of the following with respect to 145  
a legislative agent or employer that is then actively advocating 146  
on that legislation: 147

(1) An employee, as defined in section 102.031 of the 148  
Revised Code; 149

(2) A business associate, as defined in section 102.031 of 150  
the Revised Code; 151

(3) A person, other than an employee, who is hired under 152  
contract to perform certain services, and such position involves 153  
a substantial and material exercise of administrative discretion 154  
in the formulation of public policy. 155

(C) The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee may impose a 156  
fine of not more than one thousand dollars upon a member of the 157  
General Assembly who violates division (B) of this section. 158

Section 5. COMPENSATION 159

(A) Except as provided in division (D) of section 102.04 of 160  
the Revised Code, no person elected to or employed by the 161  
General Assembly or employed by any legislative agency shall 162  
receive or agree to receive, directly or indirectly, 163  
compensation other than from the house with which the person 164  
serves or from any legislative agency, if the person is a 165  
legislative agency employee, for any service rendered or to be 166  
rendered by the person personally in any case, proceeding, 167  
application, or other matter that is before the General Assembly 168  
or any department, division, institution, instrumentality, 169  
board, commission, or bureau of the state, excluding the courts. 170

Division (A) of this section shall not be construed to 171  
prohibit the performance of ministerial functions, including, 172  
but not limited to, the filing or amendment of tax returns, 173  
applications for permits and licenses, incorporation papers, 174  
security registrations, and other documents. 175

Except as provided in division (D) of section 102.04 of the Revised Code, no person elected to or employed by the General Assembly or employed by any legislative agency shall sell or agree to sell, except through competitive bidding, any goods or services to the General Assembly or any department, division, institution, instrumentality, board, commission, or bureau of the state, excluding the courts.

(B) No member or employee of the General Assembly or employee of any legislative agency shall knowingly accept any of the following from a legislative agent:

(1) The payment of any expenses for travel or lodging except as otherwise authorized by division (H) of section 102.03 of the Revised Code;

(2) More than seventy-five dollars aggregated per calendar year as payment for meals and other food and beverages, other than for those meals and other food and beverages provided to the member or employee at a meeting at which the member or employee participates in a panel, seminar, or speaking engagement, at a meeting or convention of a national organization to which either house of the General Assembly or any state agency, including, but not limited to, any legislative agency or state institution of higher education as defined in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code, pays membership dues, or at a dinner, party, or function to which all members of the General Assembly or all members of either house of the General Assembly are invited.

(C) No member or employee of the General Assembly or employee of any legislative agency shall knowingly accept from a legislative agent a gift of any amount in the form of cash or the equivalent of cash, or a gift or gifts of any other thing of value where the value of the gift or gifts aggregated per calendar year exceeds seventy-five dollars. As used in this

division, "gift" does not include any contribution as defined in 208  
section 3517.01 of the Revised Code or any gifts of meals and 209  
other food and beverages or the payment of expenses incurred for 210  
travel to destinations either inside or outside this state that 211  
is received by a member of the General Assembly and that is 212  
incurred in connection with the member's official duties. 213

(D) It is not a violation of division (B) (2) of this 214  
section if, within sixty days after receiving notice pursuant to 215  
division (F) (2) of section 101.73 of the Revised Code from a 216  
legislative agent that the legislative agent has provided a 217  
member of the General Assembly or an employee of the General 218  
Assembly or any legislative agency with more than seventy-five 219  
dollars aggregated in a calendar year as payment for meals and 220  
other food and beverages that were purchased for consumption on 221  
the premises in which the food and beverages were sold, the 222  
member or employee of the General Assembly or employee of any 223  
legislative agency returns to that legislative agent the amount 224  
received that exceeds seventy-five dollars. 225

Section 6. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION 226

No present or former member or employee of the General 227  
Assembly or present or former employee of any legislative agency 228  
shall disclose or use for the member's or employee's personal 229  
profit, without appropriate authorization, any information 230  
acquired by the member or employee in the course of the member's 231  
or employee's official duties that has been clearly designated 232  
to the member or employee as confidential when such confidential 233  
designation is warranted because of the status of the 234  
proceedings or the circumstances under which the information was 235  
received and preserving its confidentiality is necessary to the 236  
proper conduct of government business. No present or former 237  
member or employee of the General Assembly or present or former 238  
employee of any legislative agency shall disclose or use, 239  
without appropriate authorization, any information acquired by 240



the member or employee in the course of the member's or 241  
employee's official duties that is confidential because of 242  
statutory provisions, except as provided in section 101.30 of 243  
the Revised Code or Section 12 or 13 of Article II, Ohio 244  
Constitution. 245

Section 7. IMPROPER INFLUENCE 246

(A) No member or employee of the General Assembly or 247  
employee of any legislative agency shall use or attempt to use 248  
or authorize the use of the authority or influence of the 249  
member's or employee's office or employment to secure anything 250  
of value or the promise or offer of anything of value that is of 251  
such a character as to manifest a substantial and improper 252  
influence upon the member or employee with respect to the 253  
member's or employee's duties. 254

(B) No member or employee of the General Assembly or 255  
employee of any legislative agency shall solicit or accept 256  
anything of value that is of such a character as to manifest a 257  
substantial and improper influence upon the member or employee 258  
with respect to the member's or employee's duties. 259

(C) No member of the General Assembly shall solicit or 260  
receive funds from any legislative agent who is registered 261  
pursuant to section 101.72 of the Revised Code, for use other 262  
than by a political party, campaign committee, legislative 263  
campaign fund, political action committee, or political 264  
contributing entity, as defined in section 3517.01 of the 265  
Revised Code, except that a member may solicit or receive funds 266  
from any legislative agent on behalf of religious and benevolent 267  
organizations regulated by Chapter 1716. of the Revised Code or 268  
charitable organizations that have registered with the Attorney 269  
General pursuant to section 109.26 or 1716.02 of the Revised 270  
Code. 271

(D) In the absence of bribery or another offense under the 272

Revised Code or a purpose to defraud, the receipt of 273  
contributions, as defined in section 3517.01 of the Revised 274  
Code, made to a campaign committee, political party, legislative 275  
campaign fund, political action committee, or political 276  
contributing entity on behalf of a member of or candidate for 277  
the General Assembly does not violate divisions (A) and (B) of 278  
this section. 279

(E) A member or employee of the General Assembly and an 280  
employee of any legislative agency may accept travel, meals, and 281  
lodging or expenses or reimbursement of expenses for travel, 282  
meals, and lodging in connection with conferences, seminars, and 283  
similar events related to the member's or employee's official 284  
duties if the travel, meals, lodging, expenses, or reimbursement 285  
is not of such a character as to manifest a substantial and 286  
improper influence upon the member or employee with respect to 287  
those duties and if, in relation to expenses or reimbursement 288  
for travel or lodging provided to a member by a legislative 289  
agent, the expenses or reimbursement are not made in violation 290  
of division (C) (1) of section 102.031 of the Revised Code. A 291  
member or employee who acts in compliance with this division 292  
does not violate division (A), (B), or (C) of this section. 293

Section 8. STAFF USE 294

(A) A member of the General Assembly shall utilize General 295  
Assembly employees only for the official purposes for which they 296  
are employed. 297

(B) (1) In accordance with section 3517.092 of the Revised 298  
Code, no member of or candidate for the General Assembly, no 299  
campaign committee of a member of or candidate for the General 300  
Assembly, no legislative caucus campaign committee, and no other 301  
person or entity shall knowingly solicit or accept a 302  
contribution on behalf of that member or candidate, that 303  
member's or candidate's campaign committee, or a legislative 304

caucus campaign committee from any of the following: 305

(a) A state employee whose appointing authority is the 306  
member of the General Assembly; 307

(b) A state employee whose appointing authority is 308  
authorized or required by law to be appointed by the member of 309  
the General Assembly; 310

(c) A state employee who functions in or is employed by the 311  
Ohio Senate, the Ohio House of Representatives, or any 312  
legislative agency; 313

(d) A state employee at the time of the solicitation, whose 314  
appointing authority will be the candidate for the General 315  
Assembly, if elected; 316

(e) A state employee at the time of the solicitation, whose 317  
appointing authority will be appointed by the candidate for the 318  
General Assembly, if elected, as authorized or required by law; 319

(f) A state employee at the time of the solicitation, who 320  
will function in or be employed in or by the same public agency, 321  
department, division, or office as the candidate for the General 322  
Assembly, if elected. 323

(2) As used in this section, "contribution" does not 324  
include services provided by individuals volunteering a portion 325  
of their time on behalf of a campaign. 326

(C) In addition to any complaint brought or penalty that 327  
may be imposed under sections 3517.152 to 3517.157 of the 328  
Revised Code, the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee may receive 329  
and initiate complaints against members and employees of, and 330  
candidates for, the General Assembly and employees of any 331  
legislative agency concerning conduct alleged to be in violation 332  
of this section. Upon a finding of a violation of this section, 333  
the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee may recommend whatever 334  
sanction is appropriate with respect to a particular member, 335

employee, or candidate as will best maintain in the minds of the public a good opinion of the conduct and character of members and employees of the General Assembly.

Section 9. SEPARATION OF FUNDS

(A) No member of or candidate for the General Assembly shall convert, receive, or accept for personal or business use anything of value from the member's or candidate's campaign fund, as defined in section 3517.01 of the Revised Code, including, without limitation, payments to the member or candidate for services personally performed by the member or candidate, except as reimbursement for any of the following:

(1) Legitimate and verifiable prior campaign expenses incurred by the member or candidate;

(2) Legitimate and verifiable, ordinary, and necessary prior expenses incurred by the member or candidate in connection with duties as the holder of a public office, including, without limitation, expenses incurred through participation in nonpartisan or bipartisan events where the participation of the holder of a public office would normally be expected;

(3) Legitimate and verifiable, ordinary, and necessary prior expenses incurred by a member or candidate while doing any of the following:

(a) Engaging in activities in support of or opposition to another candidate, political party, or ballot issue;

(b) Raising funds for a political party, political action committee, campaign committee, legislative campaign fund, political contributing entity, or other candidate;

(c) Participating in the activities of a political party, political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political contributing entity, or campaign committee;

(d) Attending a political party convention or other political meeting. 366  
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(B) For purposes of division (A) of this section, an expense is incurred whenever a member or candidate has either made payment or is obligated to make payment, as by the use of a credit card or other credit procedure, or by the use of goods or services received on account. 368  
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(C) No member of or candidate for the General Assembly shall knowingly receive or accept reimbursement for an expense under division (A) of this section to the extent that the expense previously was reimbursed or paid from another source of funds. If an expense is reimbursed under division (A) of this section and is later paid or reimbursed, wholly or in part, from another source of funds, a member or candidate shall immediately repay the reimbursement received under division (A) of this section to the extent of the payment made or reimbursement received from the other source. 373  
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(D) A member of the General Assembly may be reimbursed under division (A)(1) or (3) of this section for expenses incurred for the member's meals and lodging in Franklin County if the expenses otherwise meet the requirements for reimbursement under division (A)(1) or (3) of this section and were not incurred while the member was in Franklin County to attend floor sessions of the General Assembly or meetings of its committees, except that a member may be reimbursed under division (A)(1), (2), or (3) of this section for expenses incurred for the member's meals in Franklin County at any time if the expenses otherwise meet the requirements for reimbursement under division (A)(1), (2), or (3) of this section and were incurred for meals at which the member hosted other persons. 383  
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(E) No member of or candidate for the General Assembly 397

shall accept for personal or business use anything of value from 398  
a political party, political action committee, legislative 399  
campaign fund, political contributing entity, or campaign 400  
committee other than the member's or candidate's own campaign 401  
committee, except for the following: 402

(1) Reimbursement for legitimate and verifiable, ordinary, 403  
and necessary prior expenses not otherwise prohibited by law 404  
incurred by the member or candidate while engaged in any 405  
legitimate activity of the political party, political action 406  
committee, legislative campaign fund, political contributing 407  
entity, or such campaign committee. Without limitation, 408  
reimbursable expenses under this division include those incurred 409  
while doing any of the following: 410

(a) Engaging in activities in support of or opposition to 411  
another candidate, political party, or ballot issue; 412

(b) Raising funds for a political party, campaign 413  
committee, legislative campaign fund, or another candidate; 414

(c) Attending a political party convention or other 415  
political meeting. 416

(2) Compensation not otherwise prohibited by law for actual 417  
and valuable personal services rendered under a written contract 418  
to the political party, political action committee, legislative 419  
campaign fund, political contributing entity, or the member's or 420  
candidate's own campaign committee for any legitimate activity 421  
of the political party, political action committee, legislative 422  
campaign fund, political contributing entity, or such campaign 423  
committee. 424

Reimbursable expenses under this division do not include, 425  
and it is a violation of this division for a member or candidate 426  
to accept from a political party, political action committee, 427  
legislative campaign fund, political contributing entity, or 428

campaign committee other than the member's or candidate's own 429  
campaign committee, anything of value for activities primarily 430  
related to the member's or candidate's own campaign for 431  
election, except for contributions to the member's or 432  
candidate's campaign committee. 433

For purposes of this division, an expense is incurred 434  
whenever a member or candidate has either made payment or is 435  
obligated to make payment, as by the use of a credit card or 436  
other credit procedure, or by the use of goods or services 437  
received on account. 438

(F) (1) Divisions (A) and (C) of this section do not 439  
prohibit a member's or candidate's campaign committee from 440  
making a direct advance or post payment from the member's or 441  
candidate's campaign fund to vendors for goods and services for 442  
which reimbursement is permitted under division (A) of this 443  
section, except that no campaign committee shall pay a member or 444  
candidate for services personally performed by the member or the 445  
candidate. 446

(2) When any expense that may be reimbursed under division 447  
(A), (C), or (E) of this section is part of other expenses that 448  
may not be paid or reimbursed, the separation of the two types 449  
of expenses for the purpose of allocating for payment or 450  
reimbursement those expenses that may be paid or reimbursed may 451  
be by any reasonable accounting method, considering all of the 452  
surrounding circumstances. 453

(3) For purposes of divisions (A), (C), and (E) of this 454  
section, mileage allowance at a rate not greater than that 455  
allowed by the Internal Revenue Service at the time the travel 456  
occurs may be paid instead of reimbursement for actual travel 457  
expenses allowable. 458

(G) The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee shall report 459  
violations of this section to the Elections Commission pursuant 460

to division (E) (1) of Section 13 of this Code of Ethics. 461

Section 10. HONORARIA AND TESTIMONIALS 462

(A) No member of the General Assembly, employee of the 463  
General Assembly who is required to file a financial disclosure 464  
statement under section 102.02 of the Revised Code, or employee 465  
of any legislative agency who is required to file a financial 466  
disclosure statement under section 102.02 of the Revised Code 467  
shall solicit or accept an honorarium. This division and 468  
divisions (A), (B), and (C) of Section 7 of this Code of Ethics 469  
do not prohibit a member or employee who is required to file a 470  
financial disclosure statement under section 102.02 of the 471  
Revised Code from accepting the payment of actual travel 472  
expenses, including any expenses incurred in connection with the 473  
travel for lodging, and meals, food, and beverages provided to 474  
the member or employee at a meeting at which the member or 475  
employee participates in a panel, seminar, or speaking 476  
engagement or provided to the member or employee at a meeting or 477  
convention of a national organization to which either house of 478  
the General Assembly, or any state agency, including, but not 479  
limited to, any legislative agency or state institution of 480  
higher education as defined in section 3345.011 of the Revised 481  
Code, pays membership dues. This division and divisions (A), 482  
(B), and (C) of Section 7 of this Code of Ethics do not prohibit 483  
an employee of the General Assembly or employee of any 484  
legislative agency who is not required to file a financial 485  
disclosure statement under section 102.02 of the Revised Code 486  
from accepting an honorarium or the payment of travel, meal, and 487  
lodging expenses if the honorarium, expenses, or both were paid 488  
in recognition of demonstrable business, professional, or 489  
esthetic interests of the employee that exist apart from the 490  
employee's public employment, including, but not limited to, 491  
such a demonstrable interest in public speaking and were not 492  
paid by any person or other entity, or by any representative or 493



association of such person or entities, that is regulated by, 494  
doing business with, or seeking to do business with the General 495  
Assembly or any legislative agency. 496

(B) No member of the General Assembly shall conduct a 497  
public or private fund raising event that seeks to provide money 498  
for the member's personal use. 499

(C) As used in this section, "honorarium" means any payment 500  
made in consideration for any speech given, article published, 501  
or attendance at any public or private conference, convention, 502  
meeting, social event, meal, or similar gathering. "Honorarium" 503  
does not include ceremonial gifts or awards that have 504  
insignificant monetary value; unsolicited gifts of nominal value 505  
or trivial items of informational value; or earned income from 506  
any person, other than a legislative agent, for personal 507  
services that are customarily provided in connection with the 508  
practice of a bona fide business, if that business initially 509  
began before the member or employee conducting that business was 510  
elected or appointed to the member's or employee's office or 511  
position of employment. 512

Section 11. IMPROPER INDUCEMENT 513

If any person attempts to induce a member or employee of or 514  
candidate for the General Assembly or employee of any 515  
legislative agency to violate any provision of this Code of 516  
Ethics, the member, employee, or candidate shall report the 517  
matter to the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee. 518

Section 12. ADVISORY BODY 519

(A) The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee may recommend 520  
legislation relating to ethics, conflicts of interest, and 521  
financial disclosure and, upon a vote of a majority of its 522  
members, may render advisory opinions with regard to questions 523  
concerning these matters for members and employees of and 524

candidates for the General Assembly and for employees of any legislative agency. 525  
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(B) When the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee renders an advisory opinion that has been publicly sought and that relates to a special set of circumstances involving ethics, conflicts of interest, or financial disclosure under Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, the person to whom the opinion was directed or who was similarly situated may reasonably rely upon such opinion and shall be immune from criminal prosecutions, civil suits, or actions for removal from the person's office or position of employment for a violation of Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code based on facts and circumstances covered by the opinion, if the opinion states that there is no violation of Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code. The committee shall include in every advisory opinion it renders a statement as to whether the set of circumstances described in the advisory opinion constitutes a violation of section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code. When the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee renders an opinion that has been publicly sought, the advisory opinion is a public record available under section 149.43 of the Revised Code. 527  
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(C) When the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee renders a written opinion that has been privately sought and that relates to a special set of circumstances involving ethics, conflicts of interest, or financial disclosure under Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, the written opinion does not have the legal effect of an advisory opinion issued under division (B) of this section. When the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee renders a written opinion that has been privately sought, the written opinion is not a public record available under section 149.43 of the Revised Code. 547  
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The person to whom a written opinion is issued under this 557

division may request the committee to issue the written opinion 558  
as an advisory opinion. The person may make the request at any 559  
time within thirty days after the written opinion is issued and 560  
prior to committing any proposed action discussed in the written 561  
opinion. Upon receiving a timely request and with the approval 562  
of a majority of the members of the committee, the committee may 563  
issue the written opinion as an advisory opinion. If the 564  
committee issues the written opinion as an advisory opinion, the 565  
advisory opinion has the same legal effect as an advisory 566  
opinion issued under division (B) of this section and is a 567  
public record available under section 149.43 of the Revised 568  
Code. If the person commits any proposed action discussed in the 569  
written opinion before the committee issues the written opinion 570  
as an advisory opinion, the advisory opinion grants no immunity 571  
to the person regarding any action that is discussed in the 572  
written opinion and that the person commits before the committee 573  
issues the written opinion as an advisory opinion. 574

(D) The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee shall issue an 575  
advisory opinion under division (B) of this section or a written 576  
opinion under division (C) of this section, whether it is 577  
publicly or privately sought, only at a meeting of the committee 578  
and only with the approval of a majority of the members of the 579  
committee. 580

(E) All requests for an opinion shall be submitted in 581  
writing by the member or employee of or candidate for the 582  
General Assembly or employee of any legislative agency who 583  
desires the opinion and shall state in the request whether the 584  
opinion is being publicly or privately sought. If the request 585  
fails to state whether the opinion is being publicly or 586  
privately sought, the committee shall consider the opinion to be 587  
privately sought. The committee shall issue in writing all 588  
advisory opinions that have been publicly sought, appropriately 589  
number them, and make them available for public inspection. The 590

Joint Legislative Ethics Committee shall conduct all of its 591  
proceedings surrounding the rendering of an opinion so as to 592  
protect the confidentiality of those named in the request for 593  
the opinion. 594

Section 13. CONSIDERATION AND HEARING OF COMPLAINTS 595

(A) (1) The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee shall 596  
receive, and may initiate, complaints concerning breach of 597  
privilege and complaints against members and employees of and 598  
candidates for the General Assembly and employees of any 599  
legislative agency concerning conduct alleged to be misconduct, 600  
a violation of Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the 601  
Revised Code, or this Code of Ethics. All complaints except 602  
those by the committee shall be by affidavit made on personal 603  
knowledge, subject to the penalties of perjury. A complaint by 604  
the committee shall be by affidavit, based upon facts that 605  
constitute reasonable cause to believe that a breach of 606  
privilege, misconduct, or a violation of this Code of Ethics or 607  
Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code 608  
has occurred. The complaint shall not contain innuendo, 609  
speculative assertions, or conclusory statements. 610

At the first meeting of the committee in each calendar 611  
year, the chairperson of the committee for that year shall 612  
appoint an investigation subcommittee. The subcommittee shall 613  
consist of the chairperson of the committee for that year and a 614  
member of the committee who is a member of the chamber and 615  
political party of which the chairperson is not a member. This 616  
subcommittee shall have the authority to issue subpoenas 617  
regarding complaints referred to it and approve depositions by 618  
the Office of the Legislative Inspector General. 619

(2) A complaint other than a complaint by the committee 620  
shall be filed with the executive director of the Office of the 621  
Legislative Inspector General of the Joint Legislative Ethics 622

Committee. Upon receiving the complaint, the executive director 623  
or the executive director's designee shall gather, if necessary, 624  
preliminary facts surrounding the complaint for presentation to 625  
the chairperson or committee. Thereafter, the executive director 626  
shall seal the complaint and deliver it to the chairperson of 627  
the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee. A complaint by the 628  
committee shall be drafted by the legal counsel of the Office of 629  
the Legislative Inspector General, and, if at least eight 630  
members of the committee approve the draft complaint, the draft 631  
complaint shall be a complaint by the committee and shall be 632  
filed with the Office of the Legislative Inspector General and 633  
delivered to the chairperson of the committee. 634

Within fourteen days after the filing of a complaint by a 635  
complainant, the chairperson shall notify the complainant that 636  
the complaint has been filed with the committee, that all 637  
further proceedings of the committee are confidential, that the 638  
committee is required to dismiss the complaint if it is not 639  
disposed of within six months after the complaint is filed, and 640  
that, if a report dealing with the complaint has not been 641  
published in the House or Senate Journal, as appropriate, within 642  
that time, the complaint has been dismissed because no violation 643  
was found to have been committed by the accused person. Within 644  
fourteen days after the filing of any complaint, the chairperson 645  
shall deliver a copy of the complaint to the accused person and 646  
shall notify the accused person that the accused person may 647  
file, within twenty days after receiving the copy, a written 648  
response to the complaint with the executive director of the 649  
Office of the Legislative Inspector General and, if desired, may 650  
file in addition to the written response a request to appear 651  
personally before the committee to answer to the complaint. The 652  
executive director immediately shall seal the written response 653  
to the complaint, the request, or both and deliver the written 654  
response, the request, or both to the chairperson. 655

Within forty-five days after the filing of any complaint 656  
and at least twenty days after the chairperson has delivered a 657  
copy of the complaint to the accused person, the chairperson 658  
shall convene a meeting of the committee regarding the 659  
complaint. If at least eight members of the committee find that 660  
the complaint before the committee is not frivolous and that the 661  
facts alleged constitute on their face a breach of privilege, 662  
misconduct, a violation of this Code of Ethics, or a violation 663  
of Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised 664  
Code, the committee shall refer the complaint to the Office of 665  
the Legislative Inspector General for further investigation and 666  
may delegate to the investigation subcommittee appointed 667  
pursuant to division (A) (1) of this section the authority to 668  
issue subpoenas regarding a given complaint or other matter. The 669  
chairperson of the committee shall notify the accused of the 670  
referral. Unless eight members of the committee find that the 671  
complaint before the committee alleges facts that, on their 672  
face, constitute a breach of privilege, misconduct, a violation 673  
of this Code of Ethics, or a violation of Chapter 102. or 674  
sections 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, the committee 675  
shall dismiss the complaint. 676

(B) The Office of the Legislative Inspector General shall 677  
investigate each complaint referred to it by the committee and 678  
shall investigate any other matters as directed by the 679  
committee. The Office of the Legislative Inspector General may 680  
request further information from the complainant, any person 681  
presenting charges to the committee, the accused person if the 682  
information sought is directly relevant to a complaint or 683  
charges received by the committee pursuant to this section, and 684  
any other person it believes may have information pertaining to 685  
the complaint or other matter referred for investigation to the 686  
Office of the Legislative Inspector General. It may request the 687  
committee to issue a subpoena to obtain any necessary 688

information. Upon the approval of the investigation subcommittee 689  
appointed pursuant to division (A)(1) of this section, the 690  
Office of the Legislative Inspector General may depose any 691  
person. Any person interviewed or deposed by the Office of the 692  
Legislative Inspector General may be represented by an attorney. 693  
The substance of any request for further information and the 694  
information provided pursuant to any request are confidential. 695  
Except as otherwise provided in this section, the person from 696  
whom information is requested shall not divulge the substance of 697  
the committee's request to any person other than the person's 698  
attorney and shall not divulge the information provided in 699  
response to the request to any person other than the person's 700  
attorney and any person necessary to prepare the information for 701  
delivery to the committee. Except as otherwise provided in this 702  
section, no attorney or person who prepares information for 703  
delivery to the committee shall divulge the substance of the 704  
committee's request or the information provided in response to 705  
the request. 706

Upon the completion of an investigation based on a 707  
complaint referred to the Office of the Legislative Inspector 708  
General, the executive director, or the executive director's 709  
designee, shall present to the committee the executive 710  
director's or designee's preliminary findings with respect to 711  
the facts and evidence gathered regarding the complaint. Upon 712  
receiving the preliminary findings, the committee, upon a vote 713  
of at least eight members of the committee, may refer the 714  
complaint back to the Office of the Legislative Inspector 715  
General for further investigation, hold a hearing pursuant to 716  
divisions (E) and (G) of this section, order remedial action 717  
pursuant to division (E) of this section, or dismiss the 718  
complaint. 719

Upon the completion of an investigation of any other matter 720  
referred to the Office of the Legislative Inspector General, the 721

executive director or the executive director's designee shall 722  
present to the committee the executive director's or designee's 723  
preliminary findings with respect to the facts and evidence 724  
gathered regarding the matter referred. Upon receiving the 725  
preliminary findings, the committee, upon a vote of at least 726  
eight members of the committee, may refer the matter back to the 727  
Office of the Legislative Inspector General for further 728  
investigation, request that a complaint be drafted by the legal 729  
counsel of the Office of the Legislative Inspector General, 730  
terminate the investigation, or hold a hearing pursuant to 731  
division (E) of this section. 732

Before the fifth day of each month, the executive director 733  
of the Office of the Legislative Inspector General shall make a 734  
report, in writing, to the committee regarding the status of any 735  
ongoing investigation that the committee referred to the Office 736  
of the Legislative Inspector General. 737

(C) Before the committee takes any formal action against a 738  
person who is the subject of an investigation based upon a 739  
complaint filed with the committee, the committee shall consider 740  
the complaint. 741

(D) The committee may defer action on a complaint against 742  
members and employees of and candidates for the General Assembly 743  
and employees of any legislative agency when the complaint 744  
alleges conduct that at least eight members of the committee 745  
find reason to believe is being reviewed by appropriate law 746  
enforcement or regulatory authorities, or when at least eight 747  
members of the committee determine that it is appropriate for 748  
the conduct alleged in the complaint to be reviewed initially by 749  
law enforcement or regulatory authorities. 750

(E) (1) If, in any case in which a complaint is filed with 751  
the committee, at least eight members of the committee find that 752  
the complaint is not frivolous and there is reasonable cause to 753



believe that the facts alleged in the complaint constitute a 754  
breach of privilege, misconduct, or a violation of Chapter 102. 755  
or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, or this Code 756  
of Ethics, the committee shall hold a hearing. At the hearing, 757  
the legal counsel of the Office of the Legislative Inspector 758  
General shall present to the committee the case against the 759  
accused person, introduce evidence, call witnesses, and cross- 760  
examine witnesses. The chairperson of the committee shall make 761  
all rulings regarding procedure and the admissibility of 762  
evidence. The hearing and all related proceedings of the 763  
committee are absolutely confidential as provided under this 764  
Code of Ethics and section 102.06 of the Revised Code. No member 765  
or employee of the committee, person who staffs or otherwise 766  
serves the committee, witness, or other person shall divulge any 767  
information about the hearing or related proceedings, except 768  
that a witness and the complainant may consult with an attorney 769  
before and after the hearing and any related proceeding, any 770  
witness may be represented by an attorney while the witness is 771  
being examined or cross-examined, the accused person may be 772  
represented by an attorney at all stages of the proceedings, and 773  
the attorney of the accused person may attend all hearings and 774  
related proceedings of the committee. 775

(2) If, in any case in which a complaint is filed with the 776  
committee, at least eight members of the committee find that the 777  
complaint is frivolous or that there is no reasonable cause to 778  
believe that the charge or complaint constitutes a breach of 779  
privilege, misconduct, or a violation of Chapter 102. or section 780  
2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, or this Code of Ethics, 781  
the committee shall dismiss the complaint and notify the accused 782  
person in writing of the dismissal of the complaint. If the 783  
committee so dismisses the complaint, the committee shall not 784  
issue a report of its findings unless the accused person 785  
requests a report. If the accused person requests a report, the 786

committee shall issue a report in accordance with division (F) 787  
(2) of this section. 788

(3) If, in any case in which a complaint is filed with the 789  
committee, the committee finds by unanimous concurrence of its 790  
membership that there is reasonable cause to believe that the 791  
charges presented constitute a breach of privilege, misconduct, 792  
or a violation of this Code of Ethics but do not constitute a 793  
violation of Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the 794  
Revised Code and also finds by unanimous concurrence of its 795  
membership that the breach of privilege, misconduct, or 796  
violation was in good faith and without wrongful intent and the 797  
person has taken or will take suitable remedial action, it may 798  
order the person to take any further remedial action it 799  
considers necessary and, upon satisfaction that any order it 800  
makes is complied with, terminate the investigation, with the 801  
concurrence of the accused person. If an investigation is so 802  
terminated, the committee shall not issue a report of its 803  
findings unless the accused person requests a report. If the 804  
accused person requests a report, the committee shall issue a 805  
report in accordance with division (F) (2) of this section. If 806  
the accused person fails to comply with an order of the 807  
committee, the committee, upon concurrence of at least eight of 808  
its members, shall proceed with the original complaint filed 809  
against the person. 810

(F) (1) If, upon the basis of the hearing, at least eight 811  
members of the committee find, based upon a preponderance of the 812  
evidence, that the facts alleged in the complaint are true and 813  
constitute a violation of Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 814  
2921.43 of the Revised Code, the committee, upon concurrence of 815  
at least eight of its members, shall order the Office of the 816  
Legislative Inspector General to prepare a report of the 817  
committee's findings to the appropriate prosecuting authority or 818  
other appropriate body for proceedings in prosecution of the 819

violations and, in accordance with division (F)(1) of this 820  
section, issue a report to the General Assembly recommending 821  
reprimand, censure, expulsion, or other sanction the committee 822  
considers appropriate. Upon acceptance by at least eight members 823  
of the committee of the report to the appropriate prosecuting 824  
authority or other appropriate body, the committee shall report 825  
its findings to the appropriate prosecuting authority, the 826  
Elections Commission, or other appropriate body. This report is 827  
the investigative report described in division (E) of section 828  
101.34 of the Revised Code and shall contain any findings of 829  
fact and conclusions of law made by the committee. This report 830  
shall not contain any papers, records, affidavits, or documents 831  
upon any complaint, inquiry, or investigation relating to the 832  
proceedings of the committee. If at least eight members of the 833  
committee find, based upon a preponderance of the evidence, that 834  
the facts alleged in the complaint are true and constitute a 835  
violation of division (B) of section 102.031 of the Revised 836  
Code, the committee may impose a fine of not more than one 837  
thousand dollars upon the member. 838

(2) If, upon the basis of the hearing, at least eight 839  
members of the committee find, based upon a preponderance of the 840  
evidence, that a breach of privilege has been committed or that 841  
a member or employee of or candidate for the General Assembly or 842  
employee of any legislative agency has violated a provision of 843  
this Code of Ethics that is not a violation of Chapter 102. or 844  
section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, or has committed 845  
misconduct, the committee, upon concurrence of at least eight of 846  
its members and in accordance with division (F)(1) of this 847  
section, may issue a report recommending reprimand, censure, 848  
expulsion, or other sanction the committee considers appropriate 849  
or, upon a finding by unanimous concurrence of its membership 850  
that the breach of privilege, misconduct, or violation was in 851  
good faith and without wrongful intent and the person has taken 852

or will take suitable remedial action, may order the person to 853  
take any further remedial action it considers necessary and, 854  
upon satisfaction that any order it makes is complied with, 855  
dismiss the complaint without issuing a report of its findings, 856  
unless the accused person requests a report. If the accused 857  
person requests a report, the committee shall issue a report in 858  
accordance with division (F) (2) of this section. If the person 859  
fails to comply with an order of the committee, the committee, 860  
upon concurrence of eight of its members, shall recommend some 861  
sanction. 862

(3) If, upon the basis of the hearing, at least eight 863  
members of the committee do not find, based upon a preponderance 864  
of the evidence, that the facts alleged in a complaint 865  
constitute a breach of privilege, misconduct, or a violation of 866  
Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code 867  
or this Code of Ethics, the committee shall dismiss the 868  
complaint. The complaint shall also be dismissed if the 869  
committee has not conducted a hearing within ninety days after 870  
the complaint is filed with the committee, or if the committee 871  
has not finally disposed of the complaint within six months 872  
after the complaint is filed with the committee. The committee 873  
shall notify the accused person in writing of the dismissal of 874  
the complaint. The committee shall not issue a report of its 875  
findings unless the accused person requests a report. If the 876  
accused person requests a report, the committee shall issue a 877  
report in accordance with division (F) (2) of this section. If 878  
the committee issues the report, all evidence and the record of 879  
the hearing shall remain confidential unless the accused person 880  
also requests that the evidence and record be made public. Upon 881  
request by the accused person, the committee shall make the 882  
evidence and the record available for public inspection. 883

(G) (1) Any report of the committee that is issued pursuant 884  
to division (E) (1) of this section and contains a finding that 885

the facts in the complaint are true and constitute a violation 886  
of Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised 887  
Code, or that is issued pursuant to division (E) (2) of this 888  
section and contains a finding that a breach of privilege, 889  
misconduct, or violation of this Code of Ethics has occurred and 890  
recommends reprimand, censure, expulsion, or another appropriate 891  
sanction, shall be entered in the House Journal and the Senate 892  
Journal. The House of Representatives and the Senate shall vote 893  
on approval of any report entered in the House or Senate Journal 894  
in accordance with this division. Concurrence of two-thirds of 895  
the members of both the House and the Senate shall be necessary 896  
for approval of the report, and, upon approval, any recommended 897  
sanction shall be imposed immediately. 898

(2) If the investigation of the committee results in a 899  
finding that a complaint that is filed is frivolous or that no 900  
misconduct, breach of privilege, or violation of Chapter 102. or 901  
section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code or this Code of 902  
Ethics has been committed or if the committee terminates an 903  
investigation or dismisses a complaint pursuant to division (E) 904  
(2) or (3) of this section, the committee shall not issue a 905  
report of its findings unless the accused person requests a 906  
report. If the accused person requests a report, the committee 907  
shall issue a report and publish it in the House Journal, if the 908  
accused person is a member or employee of, or candidate for, the 909  
House of Representatives, or the Senate Journal, if the accused 910  
person is a member or employee of, or candidate for, the Senate 911  
or an employee of any legislative agency. A report published in 912  
the House or Senate Journal under division (F) (2) of this 913  
section does not require a vote by the House or Senate. 914

(H) A person against whom a complaint is filed shall be 915  
given by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by 916  
personal service reasonable notice of the date, time, and place 917  
of the hearing and a statement of the charges and the law or 918

provision directly involved, and shall be granted the following 919  
rights: to be represented by counsel, to have counsel appointed 920  
for the person if the person is unable to afford counsel without 921  
undue hardship, to examine the evidence against the person, to 922  
have access to all information relative to the complaint that is 923  
in the possession or knowledge of the committee or the Office of 924  
the Legislative Inspector General, to produce evidence and to 925  
call and subpoena witnesses in the person's defense, to confront 926  
the person's accusers, to cross-examine witnesses, to have a 927  
stenographic record made of the hearing, to have the hearing 928  
follow the rules of evidence applicable to the courts of this 929  
state, and to have the hearing closed to the public. A person, 930  
with the approval of the committee, may waive any or all of such 931  
rights by executing a written waiver and filing it with the 932  
committee. 933

(I) The chairperson of the committee and the executive 934  
director and chief legal counsel of the Office of the 935  
Legislative Inspector General may administer oaths, and the 936  
committee or the investigation subcommittee appointed pursuant 937  
to division (A) (1) of this section may issue subpoenas to any 938  
person in the state compelling the attendance of witnesses and 939  
the production of relevant papers, books, accounts, and records. 940  
The committee or the investigation subcommittee shall issue 941  
subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the 942  
production of documents upon the request of an accused person. 943  
Section 101.42 of the Revised Code shall govern the issuance of 944  
such subpoenas insofar as applicable. Upon the refusal of any 945  
person to obey a subpoena, be sworn, or answer as a witness, the 946  
committee or the investigation subcommittee may apply to the 947  
Court of Common Pleas of Franklin County under section 2705.03 948  
of the Revised Code. The court shall hold proceedings in 949  
accordance with Chapter 2705. of the Revised Code. The 950  
committee, the Office of the Legislative Inspector General, or 951

the accused person may take the depositions of witnesses 952  
residing within or without the state in the same manner as 953  
prescribed by law for the taking of depositions in civil actions 954  
in the court of common pleas. 955

(J) (1) All complaints, papers, records, affidavits, and 956  
documents upon any complaint, inquiry, or investigation relating 957  
to the proceedings of the committee shall be sealed and are 958  
private and confidential, except as otherwise provided in this 959  
section. The substance of any charges received by the committee 960  
and of any request made by the committee for further 961  
information, any information received by the committee, all 962  
testimony and other evidence presented during a hearing, and all 963  
committee discussions are private and confidential, except as 964  
otherwise provided in this section. No person serving on or 965  
employed in the service of the committee, or employee of the 966  
Office of the Legislative Inspector General who staffs or 967  
otherwise assists the committee or the Office of the Legislative 968  
Inspector General employee who staffs the committee shall 969  
divulge any of the following: 970

(a) Any matter concerning a complaint after it is filed 971  
with the executive director of the Office of the Legislative 972  
Inspector General; 973

(b) In the case of complaints initiated by the committee, 974  
any matter concerning a complaint after the matter is under 975  
investigation by the committee, whether before or after a 976  
complaint is filed; 977

(c) Any other information that is made private and 978  
confidential by this section. 979

(2) The requirement of confidentiality set forth in 980  
division (I) (1) of this section includes without limitation 981  
divulging any matter to members or employees of the House or 982  
Senate or employees of any legislative agency who are not 983

members of or assigned to the committee or to any employees of 984  
the Office of the Legislative Inspector General who are not 985  
assigned to staff the committee or do not assist any Office of 986  
the Legislative Inspector General employee assigned to staff the 987  
committee, but does not prevent any of the following: 988

(a) The issuance of a final report by the committee or any 989  
commentary upon the contents of the final report; 990

(b) Discussion of any complaint, request for an advisory 991  
opinion, charges presented to the committee, information related 992  
to a complaint, to an advisory opinion request, or to charges 993  
presented to the committee, proceedings of the committee, or 994  
other papers, records, affidavits, documents, or proceedings 995  
that are made private and confidential by this section between 996  
the members of the committee and any of the following: 997

(i) Any employees or staff of the committee; 998

(ii) Any employees of the General Assembly assigned to 999  
serve the committee, and any employee who serves as legal 1000  
counsel for a caucus of the General Assembly; 1001

(iii) Any employees of the Office of the Legislative 1002  
Inspector General assigned to staff the committee; 1003

(iv) Any other persons employed by or assigned to serve the 1004  
committee. 1005

(c) The preparation of any documents necessary for the 1006  
operation of the committee by employees of the General Assembly 1007  
assigned to the committee chairperson, employees of the General 1008  
Assembly assigned to staff the committee, or employees of the 1009  
Office of the Legislative Inspector General who assist the 1010  
Office of the Legislative Inspector General employee assigned to 1011  
staff the committee, except that any confidentiality 1012  
requirements of this section applicable to the members of the 1013  
committee shall apply to the employees of the General Assembly, 1014



committee, or Office of the Legislative Inspector General who 1015  
prepare those documents. 1016

(K) If a complaint filed with the committee alleges a 1017  
violation by a member of the committee, the member against whom 1018  
the allegation is made shall not vote on the matter. The 1019  
committee shall conduct no business concerning complaints unless 1020  
a majority of its members are present. 1021

(L) The committee shall deliver all notices and other 1022  
documents by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by 1023  
personal service. 1024

(M) Within fourteen days after the final disposition of a 1025  
complaint, either by dismissal or by referral to the appropriate 1026  
prosecuting authority, the committee shall notify the 1027  
complainant of the dismissal or referral by certified mail, 1028  
return receipt requested, or by personal service. 1029

Section 14. AMENDMENTS TO THE ETHICS CODE 1030

The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee may recommend 1031  
amendments to this Code of Ethics at any time by proposing to 1032  
the General Assembly a concurrent resolution containing the 1033  
desired amendments. 1034

Section 15. DISTRIBUTION OF ETHICS CODE 1035

Each member and employee of the General Assembly and each 1036  
employee of any legislative agency shall be given a copy of this 1037  
Code of Ethics within ten days after its adoption. 1038

Section 16. APPLICATION TO ~~135th-136th~~ GENERAL ASSEMBLY 1039

The Code of Ethics for the ~~134th-135th~~ General Assembly 1040  
shall be effective until the ~~135th-136th~~ General Assembly adopts 1041  
the Code of Ethics for the ~~135th-136th~~ General Assembly. 1042