

As Adopted by the Senate

**136th General Assembly
Regular Session
2025-2026**

S. C. R. No. 4

Senator Reineke

**Cosponsors: Senators Antonio, Blackshear, Cirino, Craig, Hicks-Hudson, Ingram,
Koehler, Lang, Reynolds, Roegner, Schaffer, Weinstein, Wilson**

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 members 1
and employees of both chambers of the 136th General 2
Assembly, employees of any legislative agency, and 3
candidates for the 137th General Assembly. 4

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

WHEREAS, The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee, appointed 5
by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President 6
of the Senate pursuant to section 101.34 of the Revised Code, is 7
required to recommend a Code of Ethics that is consistent with 8
the law to govern all members and employees of each chamber of 9
the General Assembly and all candidates for the office of member 10
of each chamber; and 11

WHEREAS, The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee is the 12
appropriate ethics committee for matters relating to members and 13
employees of the General Assembly, employees of any legislative 14
agency, and candidates for the office of member of the General 15
Assembly; now therefore be it 16

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives and the Senate 17
of the ~~135th~~ 136th General Assembly adopt the following 18

Legislative Code of Ethics:	19
LEGISLATIVE CODE OF ETHICS	20
FOR MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE	21
135th - <u>136th</u> OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY,	22
EMPLOYEES OF ANY LEGISLATIVE AGENCY,	23
AND CANDIDATES FOR THE 136th - <u>137th</u> GENERAL ASSEMBLY	24
Section 1. CONDUCT	25
All members of the Senate or the House of Representatives	26
shall conduct themselves at all times so as to reflect credit	27
upon the member's respective chamber of the General Assembly,	28
shall obey all rules of the member's respective chamber of the	29
General Assembly, and shall conform the member's conduct to this	30
Code of Ethics. All employees of the Senate or House of	31
Representatives and all employees of any legislative agency	32
shall conduct themselves at all times so as to reflect credit	33
upon the employee's respective chamber of the General Assembly	34
or institution of employment, shall obey all rules of the	35
employee's respective chamber of the General Assembly or	36
institution of employment, and shall conform the employee's	37
conduct to this Code of Ethics.	38
Section 2. DISCLOSURE STATEMENT	39
(A) The Office of the Legislative Inspector General shall	40
accept disclosure statements filed by members and employees of	41
the General Assembly and employees of any legislative agency	42
pursuant to section 102.02 of the Revised Code and shall	43
maintain a file of all disclosure statements that are filed	44
pursuant to that section. Every member of the General Assembly	45
and every employee of the General Assembly and any legislative	46
agency who is required to file a financial disclosure statement,	47
within the period prescribed by law, shall file with the Office	48

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

(B) Division (A) (2) (b) (iii) of section 102.02 of the 57
Revised Code applies to members of the General Assembly who are 58
attorneys or physicians or who otherwise engage in the practice 59
of a profession and to the clients, patients, and other 60
recipients of professional services of members of the General 61
Assembly who are attorneys or physicians or who otherwise engage 62
in the practice of a profession, even if those clients, 63
patients, and other recipients of professional services are 64
legislative agents. 65

(C) Division (A) (2) (h) of section 102.02 of the Revised 66
Code requires a member of the General Assembly and an employee 67
of the General Assembly or any legislative agency required to 68
file a disclosure statement under section 102.02 of the Revised 69
Code to identify on a disclosure statement the source and amount 70
of any payment of expenses incurred for travel to destinations 71
inside or outside this state that the member or employee 72
receives in the member's or employee's own name or that another 73
person receives for the member's or employee's use or benefit in 74
connection with the member's or employee's official duties, 75
except for expenses for travel to meetings or conventions of a 76
national or state organization to which any state agency, 77
including, but not limited to, any legislative agency or state 78
institution of higher education as defined in section 3345.011 79
of the Revised Code, pays membership dues, or any political 80
subdivision or any office or agency of a political subdivision 81

pays membership dues. 82

(D) Division (A) (2) (i) of section 102.02 of the Revised 83
Code requires a member of the General Assembly and an employee 84
of the General Assembly or any legislative agency required to 85
file a disclosure statement under section 102.02 of the Revised 86
Code to identify on a disclosure statement the source of payment 87
of expenses for meals and other food and beverages that are 88
incurred in connection with the person's official duties and 89
that exceed one hundred dollars aggregated per calendar year, 90
except for expenses for meals and other food and beverages 91
provided at a meeting at which the member or employee 92
participated in a panel, seminar, or speaking engagement or at a 93
meeting or convention of a national or state organization to 94
which a state agency, including, but not limited to, any 95
legislative agency or state institution of higher education as 96
defined in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code, pays membership 97
dues, or any political subdivision or any office or agency of a 98
political subdivision pays membership dues. 99

(E) (1) Except as otherwise provided in division (E) (2) of 100
this section, in accordance with section 102.02 of the Revised 101
Code, every member of the General Assembly and every employee of 102
the General Assembly or any legislative agency required to file 103
an annual statement under section 102.02 of the Revised Code 104
shall disclose the source of a gift or gifts, where the value of 105
the gift or gifts aggregated per calendar year exceeds seventy- 106
five dollars, except gifts received by will or by virtue of 107
section 2105.06 of the Revised Code, or received from spouses, 108
parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, siblings, 109
nephews, nieces, uncles, aunts, cousins, brothers-in-law, 110
sisters-in-law, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, fathers-in-law, 111
mothers-in-law, step-relations, or any person to whom the member 112
or employee of the General Assembly or employee of any 113
legislative agency stands in loco parentis, or received by way 114

of distribution from any inter vivos or testamentary trust 115
established by a spouse or by an ancestor. 116

(2) In accordance with section 102.02 of the Revised Code, 117
every member of the General Assembly and every employee of the 118
General Assembly or any legislative agency required to file an 119
annual statement under section 102.02 of the Revised Code shall 120
disclose the source of a gift or gifts from a legislative agent, 121
where the value of the gift or gifts aggregated per calendar 122
year exceeds twenty-five dollars. 123

Section 3. LICENSE DISCLOSURE 124

Any member of the General Assembly who engages in the 125
conduct or practice of a particular business, profession, trade, 126
or occupation that is subject to licensing or regulation by any 127
branch, department, division, institution, instrumentality, 128
board, commission, or bureau of the state shall file a notice 129
that the member is the holder of a particular license, or is 130
engaged in such activity, as part of the financial disclosure 131
statement required by section 102.02 of the Revised Code. 132

Section 4. VOTING ABSTENTION 133

(A) A member who has reason to believe that the member has 134
a substantial personal interest in legislation may request 135
permission of the chair to abstain from voting on the 136
legislation and may state the member's reason for the request. 137
The request shall be granted by the chair or the member's 138
respective chamber of the General Assembly pursuant to the rules 139
of that chamber. The request and permission to abstain shall be 140
entered in the House or Senate Journal, as is appropriate. 141

(B) No member of the General Assembly shall vote on any 142
legislation that the member knows is then being actively 143
advocated if the member is one of the following with respect to 144
a legislative agent or employer that is then actively advocating 145

on that legislation: 146

(1) An employee, as defined in section 102.031 of the 147
Revised Code; 148

(2) A business associate, as defined in section 102.031 of 149
the Revised Code; 150

(3) A person, other than an employee, who is hired under 151
contract to perform certain services, and such position involves 152
a substantial and material exercise of administrative discretion 153
in the formulation of public policy. 154

(C) The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee may impose a 155
fine of not more than one thousand dollars upon a member of the 156
General Assembly who violates division (B) of this section. 157

Section 5. COMPENSATION 158

(A) Except as provided in division (D) of section 102.04 of 159
the Revised Code, no person elected to or employed by the 160
General Assembly or employed by any legislative agency shall 161
receive or agree to receive, directly or indirectly, 162
compensation other than from the house with which the person 163
serves or from any legislative agency, if the person is a 164
legislative agency employee, for any service rendered or to be 165
rendered by the person personally in any case, proceeding, 166
application, or other matter that is before the General Assembly 167
or any department, division, institution, instrumentality, 168
board, commission, or bureau of the state, excluding the courts. 169

Division (A) of this section shall not be construed to 170
prohibit the performance of ministerial functions, including, 171
but not limited to, the filing or amendment of tax returns, 172
applications for permits and licenses, incorporation papers, 173
security registrations, and other documents. 174

Except as provided in division (D) of section 102.04 of the 175
Revised Code, no person elected to or employed by the General 176

Assembly or employed by any legislative agency shall sell or 177
agree to sell, except through competitive bidding, any goods or 178
services to the General Assembly or any department, division, 179
institution, instrumentality, board, commission, or bureau of 180
the state, excluding the courts. 181

(B) No member or employee of the General Assembly or 182
employee of any legislative agency shall knowingly accept any of 183
the following from a legislative agent: 184

(1) The payment of any expenses for travel or lodging 185
except as otherwise authorized by division (H) of section 102.03 186
of the Revised Code; 187

(2) More than seventy-five dollars aggregated per calendar 188
year as payment for meals and other food and beverages, other 189
than for those meals and other food and beverages provided to 190
the member or employee at a meeting at which the member or 191
employee participates in a panel, seminar, or speaking 192
engagement, at a meeting or convention of a national 193
organization to which either house of the General Assembly or 194
any state agency, including, but not limited to, any legislative 195
agency or state institution of higher education as defined in 196
section 3345.011 of the Revised Code, pays membership dues, or 197
at a dinner, party, or function to which all members of the 198
General Assembly or all members of either house of the General 199
Assembly are invited. 200

(C) No member or employee of the General Assembly or 201
employee of any legislative agency shall knowingly accept from a 202
legislative agent a gift of any amount in the form of cash or 203
the equivalent of cash, or a gift or gifts of any other thing of 204
value where the value of the gift or gifts aggregated per 205
calendar year exceeds seventy-five dollars. As used in this 206
division, "gift" does not include any contribution as defined in 207
section 3517.01 of the Revised Code or any gifts of meals and 208

other food and beverages or the payment of expenses incurred for 209
travel to destinations either inside or outside this state that 210
is received by a member of the General Assembly and that is 211
incurred in connection with the member's official duties. 212

(D) It is not a violation of division (B) (2) of this 213
section if, within sixty days after receiving notice pursuant to 214
division (F) (2) of section 101.73 of the Revised Code from a 215
legislative agent that the legislative agent has provided a 216
member of the General Assembly or an employee of the General 217
Assembly or any legislative agency with more than seventy-five 218
dollars aggregated in a calendar year as payment for meals and 219
other food and beverages that were purchased for consumption on 220
the premises in which the food and beverages were sold, the 221
member or employee of the General Assembly or employee of any 222
legislative agency returns to that legislative agent the amount 223
received that exceeds seventy-five dollars. 224

Section 6. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION 225

No present or former member or employee of the General 226
Assembly or present or former employee of any legislative agency 227
shall disclose or use for the member's or employee's personal 228
profit, without appropriate authorization, any information 229
acquired by the member or employee in the course of the member's 230
or employee's official duties that has been clearly designated 231
to the member or employee as confidential when such confidential 232
designation is warranted because of the status of the 233
proceedings or the circumstances under which the information was 234
received and preserving its confidentiality is necessary to the 235
proper conduct of government business. No present or former 236
member or employee of the General Assembly or present or former 237
employee of any legislative agency shall disclose or use, 238
without appropriate authorization, any information acquired by 239
the member or employee in the course of the member's or 240
employee's official duties that is confidential because of 241

statutory provisions, except as provided in section 101.30 of 242
the Revised Code or Section 12 or 13 of Article II, Ohio 243
Constitution. 244

Section 7. IMPROPER INFLUENCE 245

(A) No member or employee of the General Assembly or 246
employee of any legislative agency shall use or attempt to use 247
or authorize the use of the authority or influence of the 248
member's or employee's office or employment to secure anything 249
of value or the promise or offer of anything of value that is of 250
such a character as to manifest a substantial and improper 251
influence upon the member or employee with respect to the 252
member's or employee's duties. 253

(B) No member or employee of the General Assembly or 254
employee of any legislative agency shall solicit or accept 255
anything of value that is of such a character as to manifest a 256
substantial and improper influence upon the member or employee 257
with respect to the member's or employee's duties. 258

(C) No member of the General Assembly shall solicit or 259
receive funds from any legislative agent who is registered 260
pursuant to section 101.72 of the Revised Code, for use other 261
than by a political party, campaign committee, legislative 262
campaign fund, political action committee, or political 263
contributing entity, as defined in section 3517.01 of the 264
Revised Code, except that a member may solicit or receive funds 265
from any legislative agent on behalf of religious and benevolent 266
organizations regulated by Chapter 1716. of the Revised Code or 267
charitable organizations that have registered with the Attorney 268
General pursuant to section 109.26 or 1716.02 of the Revised 269
Code. 270

(D) In the absence of bribery or another offense under the 271
Revised Code or a purpose to defraud, the receipt of 272
contributions, as defined in section 3517.01 of the Revised 273

Code, made to a campaign committee, political party, legislative 274
campaign fund, political action committee, or political 275
contributing entity on behalf of a member of or candidate for 276
the General Assembly does not violate divisions (A) and (B) of 277
this section. 278

(E) A member or employee of the General Assembly and an 279
employee of any legislative agency may accept travel, meals, and 280
lodging or expenses or reimbursement of expenses for travel, 281
meals, and lodging in connection with conferences, seminars, and 282
similar events related to the member's or employee's official 283
duties if the travel, meals, lodging, expenses, or reimbursement 284
is not of such a character as to manifest a substantial and 285
improper influence upon the member or employee with respect to 286
those duties and if, in relation to expenses or reimbursement 287
for travel or lodging provided to a member by a legislative 288
agent, the expenses or reimbursement are not made in violation 289
of division (C) (1) of section 102.031 of the Revised Code. A 290
member or employee who acts in compliance with this division 291
does not violate division (A), (B), or (C) of this section. 292

Section 8. STAFF USE 293

(A) A member of the General Assembly shall utilize General 294
Assembly employees only for the official purposes for which they 295
are employed. 296

(B) (1) In accordance with section 3517.092 of the Revised 297
Code, no member of or candidate for the General Assembly, no 298
campaign committee of a member of or candidate for the General 299
Assembly, no legislative caucus campaign committee, and no other 300
person or entity shall knowingly solicit or accept a 301
contribution on behalf of that member or candidate, that 302
member's or candidate's campaign committee, or a legislative 303
caucus campaign committee from any of the following: 304

(a) A state employee whose appointing authority is the 305

member of the General Assembly; 306

(b) A state employee whose appointing authority is 307
authorized or required by law to be appointed by the member of 308
the General Assembly; 309

(c) A state employee who functions in or is employed by the 310
Ohio Senate, the Ohio House of Representatives, or any 311
legislative agency; 312

(d) A state employee at the time of the solicitation, whose 313
appointing authority will be the candidate for the General 314
Assembly, if elected; 315

(e) A state employee at the time of the solicitation, whose 316
appointing authority will be appointed by the candidate for the 317
General Assembly, if elected, as authorized or required by law; 318

(f) A state employee at the time of the solicitation, who 319
will function in or be employed in or by the same public agency, 320
department, division, or office as the candidate for the General 321
Assembly, if elected. 322

(2) As used in this section, "contribution" does not 323
include services provided by individuals volunteering a portion 324
of their time on behalf of a campaign. 325

(C) In addition to any complaint brought or penalty that 326
may be imposed under sections 3517.152 to 3517.157 of the 327
Revised Code, the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee may receive 328
and initiate complaints against members and employees of, and 329
candidates for, the General Assembly and employees of any 330
legislative agency concerning conduct alleged to be in violation 331
of this section. Upon a finding of a violation of this section, 332
the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee may recommend whatever 333
sanction is appropriate with respect to a particular member, 334
employee, or candidate as will best maintain in the minds of the 335
public a good opinion of the conduct and character of members 336

and employees of the General Assembly.	337
Section 9. SEPARATION OF FUNDS	338
(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:	339 340 341 342 343 344 345
(1) Legitimate and verifiable prior campaign expenses incurred by the member or candidate;	346 347
(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;	348 349 350 351 352 353
(3) Legitimate and verifiable, ordinary, and necessary prior expenses incurred by a member or candidate while doing any of the following:	354 355 356
(a) Engaging in activities in support of or opposition to another candidate, political party, or ballot issue;	357 358
(b) Raising funds for a political party, political action committee, campaign committee, legislative campaign fund, political contributing entity, or other candidate;	359 360 361
(c) Participating in the activities of a political party, political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political contributing entity, or campaign committee;	362 363 364
(d) Attending a political party convention or other political meeting.	365 366

(B) For purposes of division (A) of this section, an 367
expense is incurred whenever a member or candidate has either 368
made payment or is obligated to make payment, as by the use of a 369
credit card or other credit procedure, or by the use of goods or 370
services received on account. 371

(C) No member of or candidate for the General Assembly 372
shall knowingly receive or accept reimbursement for an expense 373
under division (A) of this section to the extent that the 374
expense previously was reimbursed or paid from another source of 375
funds. If an expense is reimbursed under division (A) of this 376
section and is later paid or reimbursed, wholly or in part, from 377
another source of funds, a member or candidate shall immediately 378
repay the reimbursement received under division (A) of this 379
section to the extent of the payment made or reimbursement 380
received from the other source. 381

(D) A member of the General Assembly may be reimbursed 382
under division (A) (1) or (3) of this section for expenses 383
incurred for the member's meals and lodging in Franklin County 384
if the expenses otherwise meet the requirements for 385
reimbursement under division (A) (1) or (3) of this section and 386
were not incurred while the member was in Franklin County to 387
attend floor sessions of the General Assembly or meetings of its 388
committees, except that a member may be reimbursed under 389
division (A) (1), (2), or (3) of this section for expenses 390
incurred for the member's meals in Franklin County at any time 391
if the expenses otherwise meet the requirements for 392
reimbursement under division (A) (1), (2), or (3) of this section 393
and were incurred for meals at which the member hosted other 394
persons. 395

(E) No member of or candidate for the General Assembly 396
shall accept for personal or business use anything of value from 397
a political party, political action committee, legislative 398
campaign fund, political contributing entity, or campaign 399

committee other than the member's or candidate's own campaign 400
committee, except for the following: 401

(1) Reimbursement for legitimate and verifiable, ordinary, 402
and necessary prior expenses not otherwise prohibited by law 403
incurred by the member or candidate while engaged in any 404
legitimate activity of the political party, political action 405
committee, legislative campaign fund, political contributing 406
entity, or such campaign committee. Without limitation, 407
reimbursable expenses under this division include those incurred 408
while doing any of the following: 409

(a) Engaging in activities in support of or opposition to 410
another candidate, political party, or ballot issue; 411

(b) Raising funds for a political party, campaign 412
committee, legislative campaign fund, or another candidate; 413

(c) Attending a political party convention or other 414
political meeting. 415

(2) Compensation not otherwise prohibited by law for actual 416
and valuable personal services rendered under a written contract 417
to the political party, political action committee, legislative 418
campaign fund, political contributing entity, or the member's or 419
candidate's own campaign committee for any legitimate activity 420
of the political party, political action committee, legislative 421
campaign fund, political contributing entity, or such campaign 422
committee. 423

Reimbursable expenses under this division do not include, 424
and it is a violation of this division for a member or candidate 425
to accept from a political party, political action committee, 426
legislative campaign fund, political contributing entity, or 427
campaign committee other than the member's or candidate's own 428
campaign committee, anything of value for activities primarily 429
related to the member's or candidate's own campaign for 430

election, except for contributions to the member's or 431
candidate's campaign committee. 432

For purposes of this division, an expense is incurred 433
whenever a member or candidate has either made payment or is 434
obligated to make payment, as by the use of a credit card or 435
other credit procedure, or by the use of goods or services 436
received on account. 437

(F) (1) Divisions (A) and (C) of this section do not 438
prohibit a member's or candidate's campaign committee from 439
making a direct advance or post payment from the member's or 440
candidate's campaign fund to vendors for goods and services for 441
which reimbursement is permitted under division (A) of this 442
section, except that no campaign committee shall pay a member or 443
candidate for services personally performed by the member or the 444
candidate. 445

(2) When any expense that may be reimbursed under division 446
(A), (C), or (E) of this section is part of other expenses that 447
may not be paid or reimbursed, the separation of the two types 448
of expenses for the purpose of allocating for payment or 449
reimbursement those expenses that may be paid or reimbursed may 450
be by any reasonable accounting method, considering all of the 451
surrounding circumstances. 452

(3) For purposes of divisions (A), (C), and (E) of this 453
section, mileage allowance at a rate not greater than that 454
allowed by the Internal Revenue Service at the time the travel 455
occurs may be paid instead of reimbursement for actual travel 456
expenses allowable. 457

(G) The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee shall report 458
violations of this section to the Elections Commission pursuant 459
to division (E) (1) of Section 13 of this Code of Ethics. 460

Section 10. HONORARIA AND TESTIMONIALS 461

(A) No member of the General Assembly, employee of the 462
General Assembly who is required to file a financial disclosure 463
statement under section 102.02 of the Revised Code, or employee 464
of any legislative agency who is required to file a financial 465
disclosure statement under section 102.02 of the Revised Code 466
shall solicit or accept an honorarium. This division and 467
divisions (A), (B), and (C) of Section 7 of this Code of Ethics 468
do not prohibit a member or employee who is required to file a 469
financial disclosure statement under section 102.02 of the 470
Revised Code from accepting the payment of actual travel 471
expenses, including any expenses incurred in connection with the 472
travel for lodging, and meals, food, and beverages provided to 473
the member or employee at a meeting at which the member or 474
employee participates in a panel, seminar, or speaking 475
engagement or provided to the member or employee at a meeting or 476
convention of a national organization to which either house of 477
the General Assembly, or any state agency, including, but not 478
limited to, any legislative agency or state institution of 479
higher education as defined in section 3345.011 of the Revised 480
Code, pays membership dues. This division and divisions (A), 481
(B), and (C) of Section 7 of this Code of Ethics do not prohibit 482
an employee of the General Assembly or employee of any 483
legislative agency who is not required to file a financial 484
disclosure statement under section 102.02 of the Revised Code 485
from accepting an honorarium or the payment of travel, meal, and 486
lodging expenses if the honorarium, expenses, or both were paid 487
in recognition of demonstrable business, professional, or 488
esthetic interests of the employee that exist apart from the 489
employee's public employment, including, but not limited to, 490
such a demonstrable interest in public speaking and were not 491
paid by any person or other entity, or by any representative or 492
association of such person or entities, that is regulated by, 493
doing business with, or seeking to do business with the General 494
Assembly or any legislative agency. 495

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

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

Section 11. IMPROPER INDUCEMENT

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

Section 12. ADVISORY BODY

(A) The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee may recommend legislation relating to ethics, conflicts of interest, and financial disclosure and, upon a vote of a majority of its members, may render advisory opinions with regard to questions concerning these matters for members and employees of and candidates for the General Assembly and for employees of any legislative agency.

(B) When the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee renders an

advisory opinion that has been publicly sought and that relates 527
to a special set of circumstances involving ethics, conflicts of 528
interest, or financial disclosure under Chapter 102. or section 529
2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, the person to whom the 530
opinion was directed or who was similarly situated may 531
reasonably rely upon such opinion and shall be immune from 532
criminal prosecutions, civil suits, or actions for removal from 533
the person's office or position of employment for a violation of 534
Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code 535
based on facts and circumstances covered by the opinion, if the 536
opinion states that there is no violation of Chapter 102. or 537
section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code. The committee 538
shall include in every advisory opinion it renders a statement 539
as to whether the set of circumstances described in the advisory 540
opinion constitutes a violation of section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of 541
the Revised Code. When the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee 542
renders an opinion that has been publicly sought, the advisory 543
opinion is a public record available under section 149.43 of the 544
Revised Code. 545

(C) When the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee renders a 546
written opinion that has been privately sought and that relates 547
to a special set of circumstances involving ethics, conflicts of 548
interest, or financial disclosure under Chapter 102. or section 549
2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, the written opinion does 550
not have the legal effect of an advisory opinion issued under 551
division (B) of this section. When the Joint Legislative Ethics 552
Committee renders a written opinion that has been privately 553
sought, the written opinion is not a public record available 554
under section 149.43 of the Revised Code. 555

The person to whom a written opinion is issued under this 556
division may request the committee to issue the written opinion 557
as an advisory opinion. The person may make the request at any 558
time within thirty days after the written opinion is issued and 559

prior to committing any proposed action discussed in the written opinion. Upon receiving a timely request and with the approval of a majority of the members of the committee, the committee may issue the written opinion as an advisory opinion. If the committee issues the written opinion as an advisory opinion, the advisory opinion has the same legal effect as an advisory opinion issued under division (B) of this section and is a public record available under section 149.43 of the Revised Code. If the person commits any proposed action discussed in the written opinion before the committee issues the written opinion as an advisory opinion, the advisory opinion grants no immunity to the person regarding any action that is discussed in the written opinion and that the person commits before the committee issues the written opinion as an advisory opinion.

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

(E) All requests for an opinion shall be submitted in writing by the member or employee of or candidate for the General Assembly or employee of any legislative agency who desires the opinion and shall state in the request whether the opinion is being publicly or privately sought. If the request fails to state whether the opinion is being publicly or privately sought, the committee shall consider the opinion to be privately sought. The committee shall issue in writing all advisory opinions that have been publicly sought, appropriately number them, and make them available for public inspection. The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee shall conduct all of its proceedings surrounding the rendering of an opinion so as to protect the confidentiality of those named in the request for

the opinion. 593

Section 13. CONSIDERATION AND HEARING OF COMPLAINTS 594

(A) (1) The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee ~~shall~~ 595
~~receive, and may initiate,~~ complaints concerning breach of 596
privilege and complaints against members and employees of and 597
candidates for the General Assembly and employees of any 598
legislative agency concerning conduct alleged to be misconduct, 599
a violation of Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the 600
Revised Code, or this Code of Ethics. ~~All~~ The committee shall 601
receive complaints from any person concerning conduct alleged to 602
be a violation of Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of 603
the Revised Code. The committee shall receive complaints only 604
from members and employees of the General Assembly and from 605
employees of any legislative agency concerning breach of 606
privilege, conduct alleged to be misconduct, or conduct alleged 607
to be a violation of this Code of Ethics. 608

All complaints except those by the committee shall be by 609
affidavit made on personal knowledge, subject to the penalties 610
of perjury. A complaint by the committee shall be by affidavit, 611
based upon facts that constitute reasonable cause to believe 612
that a breach of privilege, misconduct, or a violation of this 613
Code of Ethics or Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of 614
the Revised Code has occurred. The complaint shall not contain 615
innuendo, speculative assertions, or conclusory statements. 616

At the first meeting of the committee in each calendar 617
year, the chairperson of the committee for that year shall 618
appoint an investigation subcommittee. The subcommittee shall 619
consist of the chairperson of the committee for that year and a 620
member of the committee who is a member of the chamber and 621
political party of which the chairperson is not a member. This 622
subcommittee shall have the authority to issue subpoenas 623
regarding complaints referred to it and approve depositions by 624

the Office of the Legislative Inspector General. 625

(2) A complaint other than a complaint by the committee 626
shall be filed with the executive director of the Office of the 627
Legislative Inspector General of the Joint Legislative Ethics 628
Committee. Upon receiving the complaint, the executive director 629
or the executive director's designee shall gather, if necessary, 630
preliminary facts surrounding the complaint for presentation to 631
the chairperson or committee. Thereafter, the executive director 632
shall seal the complaint and deliver it to the chairperson of 633
the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee. A complaint by the 634
committee shall be drafted by the legal counsel of the Office of 635
the Legislative Inspector General, and, if at least eight 636
members of the committee approve the draft complaint, the draft 637
complaint shall be a complaint by the committee and shall be 638
filed with the Office of the Legislative Inspector General and 639
delivered to the chairperson of the committee. 640

Within fourteen days after the filing of a complaint by a 641
complainant, the chairperson shall notify the complainant that 642
the complaint has been filed with the committee, that all 643
further proceedings of the committee are confidential, that the 644
committee is required to dismiss the complaint if it is not 645
disposed of within six months after the complaint is filed, and 646
that, if a report dealing with the complaint has not been 647
published in the House or Senate Journal, as appropriate, within 648
that time, the complaint has been dismissed because no violation 649
was found to have been committed by the accused person. Within 650
fourteen days after the filing of any complaint, the chairperson 651
shall deliver a copy of the complaint to the accused person and 652
shall notify the accused person that the accused person may 653
file, within twenty days after receiving the copy, a written 654
response to the complaint with the executive director of the 655
Office of the Legislative Inspector General and, if desired, may 656
file in addition to the written response a request to appear 657

personally before the committee to answer to the complaint. The 658
executive director immediately shall seal the written response 659
to the complaint, the request, or both and deliver the written 660
response, the request, or both to the chairperson. 661

Within forty-five days after the filing of any complaint 662
and at least twenty days after the chairperson has delivered a 663
copy of the complaint to the accused person, the chairperson 664
shall convene a meeting of the committee regarding the 665
complaint. If at least eight members of the committee find that 666
the complaint before the committee is not frivolous and that the 667
facts alleged constitute on their face a breach of privilege, 668
misconduct, a violation of this Code of Ethics, or a violation 669
of Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised 670
Code, the committee shall refer the complaint to the Office of 671
the Legislative Inspector General for further investigation and 672
may delegate to the investigation subcommittee appointed 673
pursuant to division (A) (1) of this section the authority to 674
issue subpoenas regarding a given complaint or other matter. The 675
chairperson of the committee shall notify the accused of the 676
referral. Unless eight members of the committee find that the 677
complaint before the committee alleges facts that, on their 678
face, constitute a breach of privilege, misconduct, a violation 679
of this Code of Ethics, or a violation of Chapter 102. or 680
sections 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, the committee 681
shall dismiss the complaint. 682

(B) The Office of the Legislative Inspector General shall 683
investigate each complaint referred to it by the committee and 684
shall investigate any other matters as directed by the 685
committee. The Office of the Legislative Inspector General may 686
request further information from the complainant, any person 687
presenting charges to the committee, the accused person if the 688
information sought is directly relevant to a complaint or 689
charges received by the committee pursuant to this section, and 690

any other person it believes may have information pertaining to 691
the complaint or other matter referred for investigation to the 692
Office of the Legislative Inspector General. It may request the 693
committee to issue a subpoena to obtain any necessary 694
information. Upon the approval of the investigation subcommittee 695
appointed pursuant to division (A)(1) of this section, the 696
Office of the Legislative Inspector General may depose any 697
person. Any person interviewed or deposed by the Office of the 698
Legislative Inspector General may be represented by an attorney. 699
The substance of any request for further information and the 700
information provided pursuant to any request are confidential. 701
Except as otherwise provided in this section, the person from 702
whom information is requested shall not divulge the substance of 703
the committee's request to any person other than the person's 704
attorney and shall not divulge the information provided in 705
response to the request to any person other than the person's 706
attorney and any person necessary to prepare the information for 707
delivery to the committee. Except as otherwise provided in this 708
section, no attorney or person who prepares information for 709
delivery to the committee shall divulge the substance of the 710
committee's request or the information provided in response to 711
the request. 712

Upon the completion of an investigation based on a 713
complaint referred to the Office of the Legislative Inspector 714
General, the executive director, or the executive director's 715
designee, shall present to the committee the executive 716
director's or designee's preliminary findings with respect to 717
the facts and evidence gathered regarding the complaint. Upon 718
receiving the preliminary findings, the committee, upon a vote 719
of at least eight members of the committee, may refer the 720
complaint back to the Office of the Legislative Inspector 721
General for further investigation, hold a hearing pursuant to 722
divisions (E) and (G) of this section, order remedial action 723

pursuant to division (E) of this section, or dismiss the 724
complaint. 725

Upon the completion of an investigation of any other matter 726
referred to the Office of the Legislative Inspector General, the 727
executive director or the executive director's designee shall 728
present to the committee the executive director's or designee's 729
preliminary findings with respect to the facts and evidence 730
gathered regarding the matter referred. Upon receiving the 731
preliminary findings, the committee, upon a vote of at least 732
eight members of the committee, may refer the matter back to the 733
Office of the Legislative Inspector General for further 734
investigation, request that a complaint be drafted by the legal 735
counsel of the Office of the Legislative Inspector General, 736
terminate the investigation, or hold a hearing pursuant to 737
division (E) of this section. 738

Before the fifth day of each month, the executive director 739
of the Office of the Legislative Inspector General shall make a 740
report, in writing, to the committee regarding the status of any 741
ongoing investigation that the committee referred to the Office 742
of the Legislative Inspector General. 743

(C) Before the committee takes any formal action against a 744
person who is the subject of an investigation based upon a 745
complaint filed with the committee, the committee shall consider 746
the complaint. 747

(D) The committee may defer action on a complaint against 748
members and employees of and candidates for the General Assembly 749
and employees of any legislative agency when the complaint 750
alleges conduct that at least eight members of the committee 751
find reason to believe is being reviewed by appropriate law 752
enforcement or regulatory authorities, or when at least eight 753
members of the committee determine that it is appropriate for 754
the conduct alleged in the complaint to be reviewed initially by 755

law enforcement or regulatory authorities. 756

(E) (1) If, in any case in which a complaint is filed with 757
the committee, at least eight members of the committee find that 758
the complaint is not frivolous and there is reasonable cause to 759
believe that the facts alleged in the complaint constitute a 760
breach of privilege, misconduct, or a violation of Chapter 102. 761
or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, or this Code 762
of Ethics, the committee shall hold a hearing. At the hearing, 763
the legal counsel of the Office of the Legislative Inspector 764
General shall present to the committee the case against the 765
accused person, introduce evidence, call witnesses, and cross- 766
examine witnesses. The chairperson of the committee shall make 767
all rulings regarding procedure and the admissibility of 768
evidence. The hearing and all related proceedings of the 769
committee are absolutely confidential as provided under this 770
Code of Ethics and section 102.06 of the Revised Code. No member 771
or employee of the committee, person who staffs or otherwise 772
serves the committee, witness, or other person shall divulge any 773
information about the hearing or related proceedings, except 774
that a witness and the complainant may consult with an attorney 775
before and after the hearing and any related proceeding, any 776
witness may be represented by an attorney while the witness is 777
being examined or cross-examined, the accused person may be 778
represented by an attorney at all stages of the proceedings, and 779
the attorney of the accused person may attend all hearings and 780
related proceedings of the committee. 781

(2) If, in any case in which a complaint is filed with the 782
committee, at least eight members of the committee find that the 783
complaint is frivolous or that there is no reasonable cause to 784
believe that the charge or complaint constitutes a breach of 785
privilege, misconduct, or a violation of Chapter 102. or section 786
2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, or this Code of Ethics, 787
the committee shall dismiss the complaint and notify the accused 788

person in writing of the dismissal of the complaint. If the 789
committee so dismisses the complaint, the committee shall not 790
issue a report of its findings unless the accused person 791
requests a report. If the accused person requests a report, the 792
committee shall issue a report in accordance with division (F) 793
(2) of this section. 794

(3) If, in any case in which a complaint is filed with the 795
committee, the committee finds by unanimous concurrence of its 796
membership that there is reasonable cause to believe that the 797
charges presented constitute a breach of privilege, misconduct, 798
or a violation of this Code of Ethics but do not constitute a 799
violation of Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the 800
Revised Code and also finds by unanimous concurrence of its 801
membership that the breach of privilege, misconduct, or 802
violation was in good faith and without wrongful intent and the 803
person has taken or will take suitable remedial action, it may 804
order the person to take any further remedial action it 805
considers necessary and, upon satisfaction that any order it 806
makes is complied with, terminate the investigation, with the 807
concurrence of the accused person. If an investigation is so 808
terminated, the committee shall not issue a report of its 809
findings unless the accused person requests a report. If the 810
accused person requests a report, the committee shall issue a 811
report in accordance with division (F) (2) of this section. If 812
the accused person fails to comply with an order of the 813
committee, the committee, upon concurrence of at least eight of 814
its members, shall proceed with the original complaint filed 815
against the person. 816

(F) (1) If, upon the basis of the hearing, at least eight 817
members of the committee find, based upon a preponderance of the 818
evidence, that the facts alleged in the complaint are true and 819
constitute a violation of Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 820
2921.43 of the Revised Code, the committee, upon concurrence of 821

at least eight of its members, shall order the Office of the 822
Legislative Inspector General to prepare a report of the 823
committee's findings to the appropriate prosecuting authority or 824
other appropriate body for proceedings in prosecution of the 825
violations and, in accordance with division (F)(1) of this 826
section, issue a report to the General Assembly recommending 827
reprimand, censure, expulsion, or other sanction the committee 828
considers appropriate. Upon acceptance by at least eight members 829
of the committee of the report to the appropriate prosecuting 830
authority or other appropriate body, the committee shall report 831
its findings to the appropriate prosecuting authority, the 832
Elections Commission, or other appropriate body. This report is 833
the investigative report described in division (E) of section 834
101.34 of the Revised Code and shall contain any findings of 835
fact and conclusions of law made by the committee. This report 836
shall not contain any papers, records, affidavits, or documents 837
upon any complaint, inquiry, or investigation relating to the 838
proceedings of the committee. If at least eight members of the 839
committee find, based upon a preponderance of the evidence, that 840
the facts alleged in the complaint are true and constitute a 841
violation of division (B) of section 102.031 of the Revised 842
Code, the committee may impose a fine of not more than one 843
thousand dollars upon the member. 844

(2) If, upon the basis of the hearing, at least eight 845
members of the committee find, based upon a preponderance of the 846
evidence, that a breach of privilege has been committed or that 847
a member or employee of or candidate for the General Assembly or 848
employee of any legislative agency has violated a provision of 849
this Code of Ethics that is not a violation of Chapter 102. or 850
section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, or has committed 851
misconduct, the committee, upon concurrence of at least eight of 852
its members and in accordance with division (F)(1) of this 853
section, may issue a report recommending reprimand, censure, 854

expulsion, or other sanction the committee considers appropriate 855
or, upon a finding by unanimous concurrence of its membership 856
that the breach of privilege, misconduct, or violation was in 857
good faith and without wrongful intent and the person has taken 858
or will take suitable remedial action, may order the person to 859
take any further remedial action it considers necessary and, 860
upon satisfaction that any order it makes is complied with, 861
dismiss the complaint without issuing a report of its findings, 862
unless the accused person requests a report. If the accused 863
person requests a report, the committee shall issue a report in 864
accordance with division (F) (2) of this section. If the person 865
fails to comply with an order of the committee, the committee, 866
upon concurrence of eight of its members, shall recommend some 867
sanction. 868

(3) If, upon the basis of the hearing, at least eight 869
members of the committee do not find, based upon a preponderance 870
of the evidence, that the facts alleged in a complaint 871
constitute a breach of privilege, misconduct, or a violation of 872
Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code 873
or this Code of Ethics, the committee shall dismiss the 874
complaint. The complaint shall also be dismissed if the 875
committee has not conducted a hearing within ninety days after 876
the complaint is filed with the committee, or if the committee 877
has not finally disposed of the complaint within six months 878
after the complaint is filed with the committee. The committee 879
shall notify the accused person in writing of the dismissal of 880
the complaint. The committee shall not issue a report of its 881
findings unless the accused person requests a report. If the 882
accused person requests a report, the committee shall issue a 883
report in accordance with division (F) (2) of this section. If 884
the committee issues the report, all evidence and the record of 885
the hearing shall remain confidential unless the accused person 886
also requests that the evidence and record be made public. Upon 887

request by the accused person, the committee shall make the 888
evidence and the record available for public inspection. 889

(G) (1) Any report of the committee that is issued pursuant 890
to division (E) (1) of this section and contains a finding that 891
the facts in the complaint are true and constitute a violation 892
of Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised 893
Code, or that is issued pursuant to division (E) (2) of this 894
section and contains a finding that a breach of privilege, 895
misconduct, or violation of this Code of Ethics has occurred and 896
recommends reprimand, censure, expulsion, or another appropriate 897
sanction, shall be entered in the House Journal and the Senate 898
Journal. The House of Representatives and the Senate shall vote 899
on approval of any report entered in the House or Senate Journal 900
in accordance with this division. Concurrence of two-thirds of 901
the members of both the House and the Senate shall be necessary 902
for approval of the report, and, upon approval, any recommended 903
sanction shall be imposed immediately. 904

(2) If the investigation of the committee results in a 905
finding that a complaint that is filed is frivolous or that no 906
misconduct, breach of privilege, or violation of Chapter 102. or 907
section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code or this Code of 908
Ethics has been committed or if the committee terminates an 909
investigation or dismisses a complaint pursuant to division (E) 910
(2) or (3) of this section, the committee shall not issue a 911
report of its findings unless the accused person requests a 912
report. If the accused person requests a report, the committee 913
shall issue a report and publish it in the House Journal, if the 914
accused person is a member or employee of, or candidate for, the 915
House of Representatives, or the Senate Journal, if the accused 916
person is a member or employee of, or candidate for, the Senate 917
or an employee of any legislative agency. A report published in 918
the House or Senate Journal under division (F) (2) of this 919
section does not require a vote by the House or Senate. 920

(H) A person against whom a complaint is filed shall be 921
given by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by 922
personal service reasonable notice of the date, time, and place 923
of the hearing and a statement of the charges and the law or 924
provision directly involved, and shall be granted the following 925
rights: to be represented by counsel, to have counsel appointed 926
for the person if the person is unable to afford counsel without 927
undue hardship, to examine the evidence against the person, to 928
have access to all information relative to the complaint that is 929
in the possession or knowledge of the committee or the Office of 930
the Legislative Inspector General, to produce evidence and to 931
call and subpoena witnesses in the person's defense, to confront 932
the person's accusers, to cross-examine witnesses, to have a 933
stenographic record made of the hearing, to have the hearing 934
follow the rules of evidence applicable to the courts of this 935
state, and to have the hearing closed to the public. A person, 936
with the approval of the committee, may waive any or all of such 937
rights by executing a written waiver and filing it with the 938
committee. 939

(I) The chairperson of the committee and the executive 940
director and chief legal counsel of the Office of the 941
Legislative Inspector General may administer oaths, and the 942
committee or the investigation subcommittee appointed pursuant 943
to division (A) (1) of this section may issue subpoenas to any 944
person in the state compelling the attendance of witnesses and 945
the production of relevant papers, books, accounts, and records. 946
The committee or the investigation subcommittee shall issue 947
subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the 948
production of documents upon the request of an accused person. 949
Section 101.42 of the Revised Code shall govern the issuance of 950
such subpoenas insofar as applicable. Upon the refusal of any 951
person to obey a subpoena, be sworn, or answer as a witness, the 952
committee or the investigation subcommittee may apply to the 953

Court of Common Pleas of Franklin County under section 2705.03 954
of the Revised Code. The court shall hold proceedings in 955
accordance with Chapter 2705. of the Revised Code. The 956
committee, the Office of the Legislative Inspector General, or 957
the accused person may take the depositions of witnesses 958
residing within or without the state in the same manner as 959
prescribed by law for the taking of depositions in civil actions 960
in the court of common pleas. 961

(J) (1) All complaints, papers, records, affidavits, and 962
documents upon any complaint, inquiry, or investigation relating 963
to the proceedings of the committee shall be sealed and are 964
private and confidential, except as otherwise provided in this 965
section. The substance of any charges received by the committee 966
and of any request made by the committee for further 967
information, any information received by the committee, all 968
testimony and other evidence presented during a hearing, and all 969
committee discussions are private and confidential, except as 970
otherwise provided in this section. No person serving on or 971
employed in the service of the committee, or employee of the 972
Office of the Legislative Inspector General who staffs or 973
otherwise assists the committee or the Office of the Legislative 974
Inspector General employee who staffs the committee shall 975
divulge any of the following: 976

(a) Any matter concerning a complaint after it is filed 977
with the executive director of the Office of the Legislative 978
Inspector General; 979

(b) In the case of complaints initiated by the committee, 980
any matter concerning a complaint after the matter is under 981
investigation by the committee, whether before or after a 982
complaint is filed; 983

(c) Any other information that is made private and 984
confidential by this section. 985

(2) The requirement of confidentiality set forth in	986
division (I)(1) of this section includes without limitation	987
divulging any matter to members or employees of the House or	988
Senate or employees of any legislative agency who are not	989
members of or assigned to the committee or to any employees of	990
the Office of the Legislative Inspector General who are not	991
assigned to staff the committee or do not assist any Office of	992
the Legislative Inspector General employee assigned to staff the	993
committee, but does not prevent any of the following:	994
(a) The issuance of a final report by the committee or any	995
commentary upon the contents of the final report;	996
(b) Discussion of any complaint, request for an advisory	997
opinion, charges presented to the committee, information related	998
to a complaint, to an advisory opinion request, or to charges	999
presented to the committee, proceedings of the committee, or	1000
other papers, records, affidavits, documents, or proceedings	1001
that are made private and confidential by this section between	1002
the members of the committee and any of the following:	1003
(i) Any employees or staff of the committee;	1004
(ii) Any employees of the General Assembly assigned to	1005
serve the committee, and any employee who serves as legal	1006
counsel for a caucus of the General Assembly;	1007
(iii) Any employees of the Office of the Legislative	1008
Inspector General assigned to staff the committee;	1009
(iv) Any other persons employed by or assigned to serve the	1010
committee.	1011
(c) The preparation of any documents necessary for the	1012
operation of the committee by employees of the General Assembly	1013
assigned to the committee chairperson, employees of the General	1014
Assembly assigned to staff the committee, or employees of the	1015
Office of the Legislative Inspector General who assist the	1016

Office of the Legislative Inspector General employee assigned to 1017
staff the committee, except that any confidentiality 1018
requirements of this section applicable to the members of the 1019
committee shall apply to the employees of the General Assembly, 1020
committee, or Office of the Legislative Inspector General who 1021
prepare those documents. 1022

(K) If a complaint filed with the committee alleges a 1023
violation by a member of the committee, the member against whom 1024
the allegation is made shall not vote on the matter. The 1025
committee shall conduct no business concerning complaints unless 1026
a majority of its members are present. 1027

(L) The committee shall deliver all notices and other 1028
documents by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by 1029
personal service. 1030

(M) Within fourteen days after the final disposition of a 1031
complaint, either by dismissal or by referral to the appropriate 1032
prosecuting authority, the committee shall notify the 1033
complainant of the dismissal or referral by certified mail, 1034
return receipt requested, or by personal service. 1035

Section 14. AMENDMENTS TO THE ETHICS CODE 1036

The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee may recommend 1037
amendments to this Code of Ethics at any time by proposing to 1038
the General Assembly a concurrent resolution containing the 1039
desired amendments. 1040

Section 15. DISTRIBUTION OF ETHICS CODE 1041

Each member and employee of the General Assembly and each 1042
employee of any legislative agency shall be given a copy of this 1043
Code of Ethics within ten days after its adoption. 1044

Section 16. APPLICATION TO ~~136th~~137th GENERAL ASSEMBLY 1045

The Code of Ethics for the ~~135th~~136th General Assembly 1046

shall be effective until the ~~136th~~137th General Assembly adopts 1047
the Code of Ethics for the ~~136th~~137th General Assembly. 1048