

**As Adopted by the Senate**

**131st General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2015-2016**

**H. C. R. No. 3**

**Representative Amstutz**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Anielski, Antani, Antonio, Ashford, Baker, Blessing, Boose, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Buchy, Burkley, Butler, Celebrezze, Clyde, Conditt, Craig, Cupp, Curtin, Derickson, Dever, DeVitis, Dovilla, Driehaus, Duffey, Gerberry, Ginter, Green, Grossman, Hackett, Hagan, Hall, Hambley, Hayes, Hill, Howse, Johnson, G., Johnson, T., Koehler, Kraus, Kuhns, Kunze, Landis, LaTourette, Leland, Lepore-Hagan, Maag, McClain, McColley, O'Brien, M., Patterson, Phillips, Reineke, Rezabek, Roegner, Rogers, Romanchuk, Ruhl, Ryan, Schaffer, Scherer, Sears, Sheehy, Slaby, Slesnick, Smith, R., Sprague, Strahorn, Sweeney, Thompson, Young, Zeltwanger, Speaker Rosenberger, Representative Sykes**  
**Senators Coley, Eklund, Hughes, Lehner, Obhof, Patton, Widener, Faber**

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**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

To adopt the Legislative Code of Ethics for the 1  
members and employees of both chambers of the 2  
131st General Assembly, employees of any 3  
legislative agency, and candidates for the 132nd 4  
General Assembly. 5

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

WHEREAS, The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee, 6  
appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and 7  
the President of the Senate pursuant to section 101.34 of the 8

Revised Code, is required to recommend a Code of Ethics that is  
consistent with the law to govern all members and employees of  
each chamber of the General Assembly and all candidates for the  
office of member of each chamber; and

WHEREAS, The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee is the  
appropriate ethics committee for matters relating to members and  
employees of the General Assembly, employees of any legislative  
agency, including the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board,  
Correctional Institution Inspection Committee, Joint Committee  
on Agency Rule Review, Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee,  
Legislative Information Systems, Legislative Inspector General,  
Legislative Service Commission, and Ohio Constitutional  
Modernization Commission, and candidates for the office of  
member of the General Assembly; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives and the Senate  
of the 131st General Assembly adopt the following Legislative  
Code of Ethics:

LEGISLATIVE CODE OF ETHICS

FOR MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE

131st OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

EMPLOYEES OF ANY LEGISLATIVE AGENCY,

AND CANDIDATES FOR THE 132nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SECTION 1. CONDUCT

All members of the Senate or the House of Representatives  
shall conduct themselves at all times so as to reflect credit  
upon the member's respective chamber of the General Assembly,  
shall obey all rules of the member's respective chamber of the  
General Assembly, and shall conform the member's conduct to this  
Code of Ethics. All employees of the Senate or House of  
Representatives and all employees of any legislative agency

shall conduct themselves at all times so as to reflect credit 39  
upon the employee's respective chamber of the General Assembly 40  
or institution of employment, shall obey all rules of the 41  
employee's respective chamber of the General Assembly or 42  
institution of employment, and shall conform the employee's 43  
conduct to this Code of Ethics. 44

SECTION 2. DISCLOSURE STATEMENT 45

(A) The Office of the Legislative Inspector General shall 46  
accept disclosure statements filed by members and employees of 47  
the General Assembly and employees of any legislative agency 48  
pursuant to section 102.02 of the Revised Code and shall 49  
maintain a file of all disclosure statements that are filed 50  
pursuant to that section. Every member of the General Assembly 51  
and every employee of the General Assembly and any legislative 52  
agency who is required to file a financial disclosure statement, 53  
within the period prescribed by law, shall file with the Office 54  
of the Legislative Inspector General, a disclosure statement as 55  
provided for by section 102.02 of the Revised Code. Each member 56  
and each employee of the General Assembly and employee of any 57  
legislative agency required to file a financial disclosure 58  
statement, within the period and in the manner prescribed by 59  
section 102.02 of the Revised Code, shall receive from the 60  
Office of the Legislative Inspector General the form on which 61  
the statement shall be prepared. 62

(B) Division (A) (2) (c) of section 102.02 of the Revised 63  
Code applies to members of the General Assembly who are 64  
attorneys or physicians or who otherwise engage in the practice 65  
of a profession and to the clients, patients, and other 66  
recipients of professional services of members of the General 67  
Assembly who are attorneys or physicians or who otherwise engage 68  
in the practice of a profession, even if those clients, 69  
patients, and other recipients of professional services are 70  
legislative agents. 71

(C) Division (A) (8) of section 102.02 of the Revised Code 72  
requires a member of the General Assembly and an employee of the 73  
General Assembly or any legislative agency required to file a 74  
disclosure statement under section 102.02 of the Revised Code to 75  
identify on a disclosure statement the source and amount of any 76  
payment of expenses incurred for travel to destinations inside 77  
or outside this state that the member or employee receives in 78  
the member's or employee's own name or that another person 79  
receives for the member's or employee's use or benefit in 80  
connection with the member's or employee's official duties, 81  
except for expenses for travel to meetings or conventions of a 82  
national or state organization to which any state agency, 83  
including, but not limited to, any legislative agency or state 84  
institution of higher education as defined in section 3345.011 85  
of the Revised Code, pays membership dues, or any political 86  
subdivision or any office or agency of a political subdivision 87  
pays membership dues. 88

(D) Division (A) (9) of section 102.02 of the Revised Code 89  
requires a member of the General Assembly and an employee of the 90  
General Assembly or any legislative agency required to file a 91  
disclosure statement under section 102.02 of the Revised Code to 92  
identify on a disclosure statement the source of payment of 93  
expenses for meals and other food and beverages that are 94  
incurred in connection with the person's official duties and 95  
that exceed one hundred dollars aggregated per calendar year, 96  
except for expenses for meals and other food and beverages 97  
provided at a meeting at which the member or employee 98  
participated in a panel, seminar, or speaking engagement or at a 99  
meeting or convention of a national or state organization to 100  
which a state agency, including, but not limited to, any 101  
legislative agency or state institution of higher education as 102  
defined in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code, pays membership 103  
dues, or any political subdivision or any office or agency of a 104

political subdivision pays membership dues. 105

(E) (1) Except as otherwise provided in division (E) (2) of 106  
this section, in accordance with section 102.02 of the Revised 107  
Code, every member of the General Assembly and every employee of 108  
the General Assembly or any legislative agency required to file 109  
an annual statement under section 102.02 of the Revised Code 110  
shall disclose the source of a gift or gifts, where the value of 111  
the gift or gifts aggregated per calendar year exceeds seventy- 112  
five dollars, except gifts received by will or by virtue of 113  
section 2105.06 of the Revised Code, or received from spouses, 114  
parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, siblings, 115  
nephews, nieces, uncles, aunts, cousins, brothers-in-law, 116  
sisters-in-law, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, fathers-in-law, 117  
mothers-in-law, step-relations, or any person to whom the member 118  
or employee of the General Assembly or employee of any 119  
legislative agency stands in loco parentis, or received by way 120  
of distribution from any inter vivos or testamentary trust 121  
established by a spouse or by an ancestor. 122

(2) In accordance with section 102.02 of the Revised Code, 123  
every member of the General Assembly and every employee of the 124  
General Assembly or any legislative agency required to file an 125  
annual statement under section 102.02 of the Revised Code shall 126  
disclose the source of a gift or gifts from a legislative agent, 127  
where the value of the gift or gifts aggregated per calendar 128  
year exceeds twenty-five dollars. 129

SECTION 3. LICENSE DISCLOSURE 130

Any member of the General Assembly who engages in the 131  
conduct or practice of a particular business, profession, trade, 132  
or occupation that is subject to licensing or regulation by any 133  
branch, department, division, institution, instrumentality, 134  
board, commission, or bureau of the state shall file a notice 135  
that the member is the holder of a particular license, or is 136

engaged in such activity, as part of the financial disclosure statement required by section 102.02 of the Revised Code. 137  
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SECTION 4. VOTING ABSTENTION 139

(A) A member who has reason to believe that the member has a substantial personal interest in legislation may request permission of the chair to abstain from voting on the legislation and may state the member's reason for the request. The request shall be granted by the chair or the member's respective chamber of the General Assembly pursuant to the rules of that chamber. The request and permission to abstain shall be entered in the House or Senate Journal, as is appropriate. 140  
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(B) No member of the General Assembly shall vote on any legislation that the member knows is then being actively advocated if the member is one of the following with respect to a legislative agent or employer that is then actively advocating on that legislation: 148  
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(1) An employee, as defined in section 102.031 of the Revised Code; 153  
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(2) A business associate, as defined in section 102.031 of the Revised Code; 155  
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(3) A person, other than an employee, who is hired under contract to perform certain services, and such position involves a substantial and material exercise of administrative discretion in the formulation of public policy. 157  
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(C) The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee may impose a fine of not more than one thousand dollars upon a member of the General Assembly who violates division (B) of this section. 161  
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SECTION 5. COMPENSATION 164

(A) Except as provided in division (D) of section 102.04 of the Revised Code, no person elected to or employed by the 165  
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General Assembly or employed by any legislative agency shall 167  
receive or agree to receive, directly or indirectly, 168  
compensation other than from the house with which the person 169  
serves or from any legislative agency, if the person is a 170  
legislative agency employee, for any service rendered or to be 171  
rendered by the person personally in any case, proceeding, 172  
application, or other matter that is before the General Assembly 173  
or any department, division, institution, instrumentality, 174  
board, commission, or bureau of the state, excluding the courts. 175

Division (A) of this section shall not be construed to 176  
prohibit the performance of ministerial functions, including, 177  
but not limited to, the filing or amendment of tax returns, 178  
applications for permits and licenses, incorporation papers, 179  
security registrations, and other documents. 180

Except as provided in division (D) of section 102.04 of the 181  
Revised Code, no person elected to or employed by the General 182  
Assembly or employed by any legislative agency shall sell or 183  
agree to sell, except through competitive bidding, any goods or 184  
services to the General Assembly or any department, division, 185  
institution, instrumentality, board, commission, or bureau of 186  
the state, excluding the courts. 187

(B) No member or employee of the General Assembly or 188  
employee of any legislative agency shall knowingly accept any of 189  
the following from a legislative agent: 190

(1) The payment of any expenses for travel or lodging 191  
except as otherwise authorized by division (H) of section 102.03 192  
of the Revised Code; 193

(2) More than seventy-five dollars aggregated per calendar 194  
year as payment for meals and other food and beverages, other 195  
than for those meals and other food and beverages provided to 196  
the member or employee at a meeting at which the member or 197  
employee participates in a panel, seminar, or speaking 198

engagement, at a meeting or convention of a national 199  
organization to which either house of the General Assembly or 200  
any state agency, including, but not limited to, any legislative 201  
agency or state institution of higher education as defined in 202  
section 3345.011 of the Revised Code, pays membership dues, or 203  
at a dinner, party, or function to which all members of the 204  
General Assembly or all members of either house of the General 205  
Assembly are invited. 206

(C) No member or employee of the General Assembly or 207  
employee of any legislative agency shall knowingly accept from a 208  
legislative agent a gift of any amount in the form of cash or 209  
the equivalent of cash, or a gift or gifts of any other thing of 210  
value where the value of the gift or gifts aggregated per 211  
calendar year exceeds seventy-five dollars. As used in this 212  
division, "gift" does not include any contribution as defined in 213  
section 3517.01 of the Revised Code or any gifts of meals and 214  
other food and beverages or the payment of expenses incurred for 215  
travel to destinations either inside or outside this state that 216  
is received by a member of the General Assembly and that is 217  
incurred in connection with the member's official duties. 218

(D) It is not a violation of division (B) (2) of this 219  
section if, within sixty days after receiving notice pursuant to 220  
division (F) (2) of section 101.73 of the Revised Code from a 221  
legislative agent that the legislative agent has provided a 222  
member of the General Assembly or an employee of the General 223  
Assembly or any legislative agency with more than seventy-five 224  
dollars aggregated in a calendar year as payment for meals and 225  
other food and beverages that were purchased for consumption on 226  
the premises in which the food and beverages were sold, the 227  
member or employee of the General Assembly or employee of any 228  
legislative agency returns to that legislative agent the amount 229  
received that exceeds seventy-five dollars. 230

SECTION 6. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION 231



No present or former member or employee of the General Assembly or present or former employee of any legislative agency shall disclose or use for the member's or employee's personal profit, without appropriate authorization, any information acquired by the member or employee in the course of the member's or employee's official duties that has been clearly designated to the member or employee as confidential when such confidential designation is warranted because of the status of the proceedings or the circumstances under which the information was received and preserving its confidentiality is necessary to the proper conduct of government business. No present or former member or employee of the General Assembly or present or former employee of any legislative agency shall disclose or use, without appropriate authorization, any information acquired by the member or employee in the course of the member's or employee's official duties that is confidential because of statutory provisions, except as provided in section 101.30 of the Revised Code or Section 12 or 13 of Article II, Ohio Constitution.

SECTION 7. IMPROPER INFLUENCE

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

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

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

(D) In the absence of bribery or another offense under the Revised Code or a purpose to defraud, the receipt of contributions, as defined in section 3517.01 of the Revised Code, made to a campaign committee, political party, legislative campaign fund, political action committee, or political contributing entity on behalf of a member of or candidate for the General Assembly does not violate divisions (A) and (B) of this section.

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

does not violate division (A), (B), or (C) of this section. 298

SECTION 8. STAFF USE 299

(A) A member of the General Assembly shall utilize General 300  
Assembly employees only for the official purposes for which they 301  
are employed. 302

(B) (1) In accordance with section 3517.092 of the Revised 303  
Code, no member of or candidate for the General Assembly, no 304  
campaign committee of a member of or candidate for the General 305  
Assembly, no legislative caucus campaign committee, and no other 306  
person or entity shall knowingly solicit or accept a 307  
contribution on behalf of that member or candidate, that 308  
member's or candidate's campaign committee, or a legislative 309  
caucus campaign committee from any of the following: 310

(a) A state employee whose appointing authority is the 311  
member of the General Assembly; 312

(b) A state employee whose appointing authority is 313  
authorized or required by law to be appointed by the member of 314  
the General Assembly; 315

(c) A state employee who functions in or is employed by the 316  
Ohio Senate, the Ohio House of Representatives, or any 317  
legislative agency; 318

(d) A state employee at the time of the solicitation, whose 319  
appointing authority will be the candidate for the General 320  
Assembly, if elected; 321

(e) A state employee at the time of the solicitation, whose 322  
appointing authority will be appointed by the candidate for the 323  
General Assembly, if elected, as authorized or required by law; 324

(f) A state employee at the time of the solicitation, who 325  
will function in or be employed in or by the same public agency, 326  
department, division, or office as the candidate for the General 327

Assembly, if elected. 328

(2) As used in this section, "contribution" does not 329  
include services provided by individuals volunteering a portion 330  
of their time on behalf of a campaign. 331

(C) In addition to any complaint brought or penalty that 332  
may be imposed under sections 3517.152 to 3517.157 of the 333  
Revised Code, the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee may receive 334  
and initiate complaints against members and employees of, and 335  
candidates for, the General Assembly and employees of any 336  
legislative agency concerning conduct alleged to be in violation 337  
of this section. Upon a finding of a violation of this section, 338  
the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee may recommend whatever 339  
sanction is appropriate with respect to a particular member, 340  
employee, or candidate as will best maintain in the minds of the 341  
public a good opinion of the conduct and character of members 342  
and employees of the General Assembly. 343

SECTION 9. SEPARATION OF FUNDS 344

(A) No member of or candidate for the General Assembly 345  
shall convert, receive, or accept for personal or business use 346  
anything of value from the member's or candidate's campaign 347  
fund, as defined in section 3517.01 of the Revised Code, 348  
including, without limitation, payments to the member or 349  
candidate for services personally performed by the member or 350  
candidate, except as reimbursement for any of the following: 351

(1) Legitimate and verifiable prior campaign expenses 352  
incurred by the member or candidate; 353

(2) Legitimate and verifiable, ordinary, and necessary 354  
prior expenses incurred by the member or candidate in connection 355  
with duties as the holder of a public office, including, without 356  
limitation, expenses incurred through participation in 357  
nonpartisan or bipartisan events where the participation of the 358

holder of a public office would normally be expected;	359
(3) Legitimate and verifiable, ordinary, and necessary	360
prior expenses incurred by a member or candidate while doing any	361
of the following:	362
(a) Engaging in activities in support of or opposition to	363
another candidate, political party, or ballot issue;	364
(b) Raising funds for a political party, political action	365
committee, campaign committee, legislative campaign fund,	366
political contributing entity, or other candidate;	367
(c) Participating in the activities of a political party,	368
political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political	369
contributing entity, or campaign committee;	370
(d) Attending a political party convention or other	371
political meeting.	372
(B) For purposes of division (A) of this section, an	373
expense is incurred whenever a member or candidate has either	374
made payment or is obligated to make payment, as by the use of a	375
credit card or other credit procedure, or by the use of goods or	376
services received on account.	377
(C) No member of or candidate for the General Assembly	378
shall knowingly receive or accept reimbursement for an expense	379
under division (A) of this section to the extent that the	380
expense previously was reimbursed or paid from another source of	381
funds. If an expense is reimbursed under division (A) of this	382
section and is later paid or reimbursed, wholly or in part, from	383
another source of funds, a member or candidate shall immediately	384
repay the reimbursement received under division (A) of this	385
section to the extent of the payment made or reimbursement	386
received from the other source.	387
(D) A member of the General Assembly may be reimbursed	388
under division (A) (1) or (3) of this section for expenses	389

incurred for the member's meals and lodging in Franklin County 390  
if the expenses otherwise meet the requirements for 391  
reimbursement under division (A) (1) or (3) of this section and 392  
were not incurred while the member was in Franklin County to 393  
attend floor sessions of the General Assembly or meetings of its 394  
committees, except that a member may be reimbursed under 395  
division (A) (1), (2), or (3) of this section for expenses 396  
incurred for the member's meals in Franklin County at any time 397  
if the expenses otherwise meet the requirements for 398  
reimbursement under division (A) (1), (2), or (3) of this section 399  
and were incurred for meals at which the member hosted other 400  
persons. 401

(E) No member of or candidate for the General Assembly 402  
shall accept for personal or business use anything of value from 403  
a political party, political action committee, legislative 404  
campaign fund, political contributing entity, or campaign 405  
committee other than the member's or candidate's own campaign 406  
committee, except for the following: 407

(1) Reimbursement for legitimate and verifiable, ordinary, 408  
and necessary prior expenses not otherwise prohibited by law 409  
incurred by the member or candidate while engaged in any 410  
legitimate activity of the political party, political action 411  
committee, legislative campaign fund, political contributing 412  
entity, or such campaign committee. Without limitation, 413  
reimbursable expenses under this division include those incurred 414  
while doing any of the following: 415

(a) Engaging in activities in support of or opposition to 416  
another candidate, political party, or ballot issue; 417

(b) Raising funds for a political party, campaign 418  
committee, legislative campaign fund, or another candidate; 419

(c) Attending a political party convention or other 420  
political meeting. 421

(2) Compensation not otherwise prohibited by law for actual 422  
and valuable personal services rendered under a written contract 423  
to the political party, political action committee, legislative 424  
campaign fund, political contributing entity, or the member's or 425  
candidate's own campaign committee for any legitimate activity 426  
of the political party, political action committee, legislative 427  
campaign fund, political contributing entity, or such campaign 428  
committee. 429

Reimbursable expenses under this division do not include, 430  
and it is a violation of this division for a member or candidate 431  
to accept from a political party, political action committee, 432  
legislative campaign fund, political contributing entity, or 433  
campaign committee other than the member's or candidate's own 434  
campaign committee, anything of value for activities primarily 435  
related to the member's or candidate's own campaign for 436  
election, except for contributions to the member's or 437  
candidate's campaign committee. 438

For purposes of this division, an expense is incurred 439  
whenever a member or candidate has either made payment or is 440  
obligated to make payment, as by the use of a credit card or 441  
other credit procedure, or by the use of goods or services 442  
received on account. 443

(F) (1) Divisions (A) and (C) of this section do not 444  
prohibit a member's or candidate's campaign committee from 445  
making a direct advance or post payment from the member's or 446  
candidate's campaign fund to vendors for goods and services for 447  
which reimbursement is permitted under division (A) of this 448  
section, except that no campaign committee shall pay a member or 449  
candidate for services personally performed by the member or the 450  
candidate. 451

(2) When any expense that may be reimbursed under division 452  
(A), (C), or (E) of this section is part of other expenses that 453

may not be paid or reimbursed, the separation of the two types 454  
of expenses for the purpose of allocating for payment or 455  
reimbursement those expenses that may be paid or reimbursed may 456  
be by any reasonable accounting method, considering all of the 457  
surrounding circumstances. 458

(3) For purposes of divisions (A), (C), and (E) of this 459  
section, mileage allowance at a rate not greater than that 460  
allowed by the Internal Revenue Service at the time the travel 461  
occurs may be paid instead of reimbursement for actual travel 462  
expenses allowable. 463

(G) The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee shall report 464  
violations of this section to the Elections Commission pursuant 465  
to division (E) (1) of Section 13 of this Code of Ethics. 466

SECTION 10. HONORARIA AND TESTIMONIALS 467

(A) No member of the General Assembly, employee of the 468  
General Assembly who is required to file a financial disclosure 469  
statement under section 102.02 of the Revised Code, or employee 470  
of any legislative agency who is required to file a financial 471  
disclosure statement under section 102.02 of the Revised Code 472  
shall solicit or accept an honorarium. This division and 473  
divisions (A), (B), and (C) of Section 7 of this Code of Ethics 474  
do not prohibit a member or employee who is required to file a 475  
financial disclosure statement under section 102.02 of the 476  
Revised Code from accepting the payment of actual travel 477  
expenses, including any expenses incurred in connection with the 478  
travel for lodging, and meals, food, and beverages provided to 479  
the member or employee at a meeting at which the member or 480  
employee participates in a panel, seminar, or speaking 481  
engagement or provided to the member or employee at a meeting or 482  
convention of a national organization to which either house of 483  
the General Assembly, or any state agency, including, but not 484  
limited to, any legislative agency or state institution of 485



higher education as defined in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code, pays membership dues. This division and divisions (A), (B), and (C) of Section 7 of this Code of Ethics do not prohibit an employee of the General Assembly or employee of any legislative agency who is not required to file a financial disclosure statement under section 102.02 of the Revised Code from accepting an honorarium or the payment of travel, meal, and lodging expenses if the honorarium, expenses, or both were paid in recognition of demonstrable business, professional, or esthetic interests of the employee that exist apart from the employee's public employment, including, but not limited to, such a demonstrable interest in public speaking and were not paid by any person or other entity, or by any representative or association of such person or entities, that is regulated by, doing business with, or seeking to do business with the General Assembly or any legislative agency.

(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 518

If any person attempts to induce a member or employee of or 519  
candidate for the General Assembly or employee of any 520  
legislative agency to violate any provision of this Code of 521  
Ethics, the member, employee, or candidate shall report the 522  
matter to the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee. 523

SECTION 12. ADVISORY BODY 524

(A) The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee may recommend 525  
legislation relating to ethics, conflicts of interest, and 526  
financial disclosure and, upon a vote of a majority of its 527  
members, may render advisory opinions with regard to questions 528  
concerning these matters for members and employees of and 529  
candidates for the General Assembly and for employees of any 530  
legislative agency. 531

(B) When the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee renders an 532  
advisory opinion that has been publicly sought and that relates 533  
to a special set of circumstances involving ethics, conflicts of 534  
interest, or financial disclosure under Chapter 102. or section 535  
2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, the person to whom the 536  
opinion was directed or who was similarly situated may 537  
reasonably rely upon such opinion and shall be immune from 538  
criminal prosecutions, civil suits, or actions for removal from 539  
the person's office or position of employment for a violation of 540  
Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code 541  
based on facts and circumstances covered by the opinion, if the 542  
opinion states that there is no violation of Chapter 102. or 543  
section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code. The committee 544  
shall include in every advisory opinion it renders a statement 545  
as to whether the set of circumstances described in the advisory 546  
opinion constitutes a violation of section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of 547  
the Revised Code. When the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee 548  
renders an opinion that has been publicly sought, the advisory 549  
opinion is a public record available under section 149.43 of the 550  
Revised Code. 551

(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.

The person to whom a written opinion is issued under this division may request the committee to issue the written opinion as an advisory opinion. The person may make the request at any time within thirty days after the written opinion is issued and 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. 585

(E) All requests for an opinion shall be submitted in 586  
writing by the member or employee of or candidate for the 587  
General Assembly or employee of any legislative agency who 588  
desires the opinion and shall state in the request whether the 589  
opinion is being publicly or privately sought. If the request 590  
fails to state whether the opinion is being publicly or 591  
privately sought, the committee shall consider the opinion to be 592  
privately sought. The committee shall issue in writing all 593  
advisory opinions that have been publicly sought, appropriately 594  
number them, and make them available for public inspection. The 595  
Joint Legislative Ethics Committee shall conduct all of its 596  
proceedings surrounding the rendering of an opinion so as to 597  
protect the confidentiality of those named in the request for 598  
the opinion. 599

SECTION 13. CONSIDERATION AND HEARING OF COMPLAINTS 600

(A) (1) The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee shall 601  
receive, and may initiate, complaints concerning breach of 602  
privilege and complaints against members and employees of and 603  
candidates for the General Assembly and employees of any 604  
legislative agency concerning conduct alleged to be misconduct, 605  
a violation of Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the 606  
Revised Code, or this Code of Ethics, ~~or the House or Senate~~ 607  
~~rules~~. All complaints except those by the committee shall be by 608  
affidavit made on personal knowledge, subject to the penalties 609  
of perjury. A complaint by the committee shall be by affidavit, 610  
based upon facts that constitute reasonable cause to believe 611  
that a breach of privilege, misconduct, or a violation of ~~the~~ 612  
~~House or Senate rules,~~ this Code of Ethics, ~~or~~ Chapter 102. or 613  
section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, ~~7~~ has occurred. 614  
The complaint shall not contain innuendo, speculative 615  
assertions, or conclusory statements. 616

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

(2) A complaint other than a complaint by the committee shall be filed with the executive director of the Office of the Legislative Inspector General of the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee. Upon receiving the complaint, the executive director or the executive director's designee shall gather, if necessary, preliminary facts surrounding the complaint for presentation to the chairperson or committee. Thereafter, the executive director shall seal the complaint and deliver it to the chairperson of the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee. A complaint by the committee shall be drafted by the legal counsel of the Office of the Legislative Inspector General, and, if at least eight members of the committee approve the draft complaint, the draft complaint shall be a complaint by the committee and shall be filed with the Office of the Legislative Inspector General and delivered to the chairperson of the committee.

Within fourteen days after the filing of a complaint by a complainant, the chairperson shall notify the complainant that the complaint has been filed with the committee, that all further proceedings of the committee are confidential, that the committee is required to dismiss the complaint if it is not disposed of within six months after the complaint is filed, and that, if a report dealing with the complaint has not been published in the House or Senate Journal, as appropriate, within that time, the complaint has been dismissed because no violation

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 the House or~~ 669  
~~Senate Rules~~, or a violation of Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 670  
or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, the committee shall refer the 671  
complaint to the Office of the Legislative Inspector General for 672  
further investigation and may delegate to the investigation 673  
subcommittee appointed pursuant to division (A)(1) of this 674  
section the authority to issue subpoenas regarding a given 675  
complaint or other matter. The chairperson of the committee 676  
shall notify the accused of the referral. Unless eight members 677  
of the committee find that the complaint before the committee 678  
alleges facts that, on their face, constitute a breach of 679  
privilege, misconduct, a violation of this Code of Ethics ~~or the~~ 680  
~~House or Senate Rules~~, or a violation of Chapter 102. or 681  
sections 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, the committee 682

shall dismiss the complaint. 683

(B) The Office of the Legislative Inspector General shall 684  
investigate each complaint referred to it by the committee and 685  
shall investigate any other matters as directed by the 686  
committee. The Office of the Legislative Inspector General may 687  
request further information from the complainant, any person 688  
presenting charges to the committee, the accused person if the 689  
information sought is directly relevant to a complaint or 690  
charges received by the committee pursuant to this section, and 691  
any other person it believes may have information pertaining to 692  
the complaint or other matter referred for investigation to the 693  
Office of the Legislative Inspector General. It may request the 694  
committee to issue a subpoena to obtain any necessary 695  
information. Upon the approval of the investigation subcommittee 696  
appointed pursuant to division (A) (1) of this section, the 697  
Office of the Legislative Inspector General may depose any 698  
person. Any person interviewed or deposed by the Office of the 699  
Legislative Inspector General may be represented by an attorney. 700  
The substance of any request for further information and the 701  
information provided pursuant to any request are confidential. 702  
Except as otherwise provided in this section, the person from 703  
whom information is requested shall not divulge the substance of 704  
the committee's request to any person other than the person's 705  
attorney and shall not divulge the information provided in 706  
response to the request to any person other than the person's 707  
attorney and any person necessary to prepare the information for 708  
delivery to the committee. Except as otherwise provided in this 709  
section, no attorney or person who prepares information for 710  
delivery to the committee shall divulge the substance of the 711  
committee's request or the information provided in response to 712  
the request. 713

Upon the completion of an investigation based on a 714  
complaint referred to the Office of the Legislative Inspector 715

General, the executive director, or the executive director's 716  
designee, shall present to the committee the executive 717  
director's or designee's preliminary findings with respect to 718  
the facts and evidence gathered regarding the complaint. Upon 719  
receiving the preliminary findings, the committee, upon a vote 720  
of at least eight members of the committee, may refer the 721  
complaint back to the Office of the Legislative Inspector 722  
General for further investigation, hold a hearing pursuant to 723  
divisions (D) and (G) of this section, order remedial action 724  
pursuant to division (D) of this section, or dismiss the 725  
complaint. 726

Upon the completion of an investigation of any other matter 727  
referred to the Office of the Legislative Inspector General, the 728  
executive director or the executive director's designee shall 729  
present to the committee the executive director's or designee's 730  
preliminary findings with respect to the facts and evidence 731  
gathered regarding the matter referred. Upon receiving the 732  
preliminary findings, the committee, upon a vote of at least 733  
eight members of the committee, may refer the matter back to the 734  
Office of the Legislative Inspector General for further 735  
investigation, request that a complaint be drafted by the legal 736  
counsel of the Office of the Legislative Inspector General, 737  
terminate the investigation, or hold a hearing pursuant to 738  
division (E) of this section. 739

Before the fifth day of each month, the executive director 740  
of the Office of the Legislative Inspector General shall make a 741  
report, in writing, to the committee regarding the status of any 742  
ongoing investigation that the committee referred to the Office 743  
of the Legislative Inspector General. 744

(C) Before the committee takes any formal action against a 745  
person who is the subject of an investigation based upon a 746  
complaint filed with the committee, the committee shall consider 747  
the complaint. 748



(D) The committee may defer action on a complaint against 749  
members and employees of and candidates for the General Assembly 750  
and employees of any legislative agency when the complaint 751  
alleges conduct that at least eight members of the committee 752  
find reason to believe is being reviewed by appropriate law 753  
enforcement or regulatory authorities, or when at least eight 754  
members of the committee determine that it is appropriate for 755  
the conduct alleged in the complaint to be reviewed initially by 756  
law enforcement or regulatory authorities. 757

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

person may attend all hearings and related proceedings of the 782  
committee. 783

(2) If, in any case in which a complaint is filed with the 784  
committee, at least eight members of the committee find that the 785  
complaint is frivolous or that there is no reasonable cause to 786  
believe that the charge or complaint constitutes a breach of 787  
privilege, misconduct, or a violation of Chapter 102. or section 788  
2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, or this Code of Ethics, 789  
~~or the House or Senate Rules,~~ the committee shall dismiss the 790  
complaint and notify the accused person in writing of the 791  
dismissal of the complaint. If the committee so dismisses the 792  
complaint, the committee shall not issue a report of its 793  
findings unless the accused person requests a report. If the 794  
accused person requests a report, the committee shall issue a 795  
report in accordance with division (F) (2) of this section. 796

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

(2) of this section. If the accused person fails to comply with 815  
an order of the committee, the committee, upon concurrence of at 816  
least eight of its members, shall proceed with the original 817  
complaint filed against the person. 818

(F) (1) If, upon the basis of the hearing, at least eight 819  
members of the committee find, based upon a preponderance of the 820  
evidence, that the facts alleged in the complaint are true and 821  
constitute a violation of Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 822  
2921.43 of the Revised Code, the committee, upon concurrence of 823  
at least eight of its members, shall order the Office of the 824  
Legislative Inspector General to prepare a report of the 825  
committee's findings to the appropriate prosecuting authority or 826  
other appropriate body for proceedings in prosecution of the 827  
violations and, in accordance with division (F) (1) of this 828  
section, issue a report to the General Assembly recommending 829  
reprimand, censure, expulsion, or other sanction the committee 830  
considers appropriate. Upon acceptance by at least eight members 831  
of the committee of the report to the appropriate prosecuting 832  
authority or other appropriate body, the committee shall report 833  
its findings to the appropriate prosecuting authority, the 834  
Elections Commission, or other appropriate body. This report is 835  
the investigative report described in division (E) of section 836  
101.34 of the Revised Code and shall contain any findings of 837  
fact and conclusions of law made by the committee. This report 838  
shall not contain any papers, records, affidavits, or documents 839  
upon any complaint, inquiry, or investigation relating to the 840  
proceedings of the committee. If at least eight members of the 841  
committee find, based upon a preponderance of the evidence, that 842  
the facts alleged in the complaint are true and constitute a 843  
violation of division (B) of section 102.031 of the Revised 844  
Code, the committee may impose a fine of not more than one 845  
thousand dollars upon the member. 846

(2) If, upon the basis of the hearing, at least eight 847

members of the committee find, based upon a preponderance of the 848  
evidence, that a breach of privilege has been committed or that 849  
a member or employee of or candidate for the General Assembly or 850  
employee of any legislative agency has violated a provision of 851  
this Code of Ethics ~~or the House or Senate Rules~~ that is not a 852  
violation of Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the 853  
Revised Code, or has committed misconduct, the committee, upon 854  
concurrence of at least eight of its members and in accordance 855  
with division (F) (1) of this section, may issue a report 856  
recommending reprimand, censure, expulsion, or other sanction 857  
the committee considers appropriate or, upon a finding by 858  
unanimous concurrence of its membership that the breach of 859  
privilege, misconduct, or violation was in good faith and 860  
without wrongful intent and the person has taken or will take 861  
suitable remedial action, may order the person to take any 862  
further remedial action it considers necessary and, upon 863  
satisfaction that any order it makes is complied with, dismiss 864  
the complaint without issuing a report of its findings, unless 865  
the accused person requests a report. If the accused person 866  
requests a report, the committee shall issue a report in 867  
accordance with division (F) (2) of this section. If the person 868  
fails to comply with an order of the committee, the committee, 869  
upon concurrence of eight of its members, shall recommend some 870  
sanction. 871

(3) If, upon the basis of the hearing, at least eight 872  
members of the committee do not find, based upon a preponderance 873  
of the evidence, that the facts alleged in a complaint 874  
constitute a breach of privilege, misconduct, or a violation of 875  
Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, ~~—~~ 876  
or this Code of Ethics, ~~or the House or Senate Rules,~~ the 877  
committee shall dismiss the complaint. The complaint shall also 878  
be dismissed if the committee has not conducted a hearing within 879  
ninety days after the complaint is filed with the committee, or 880

if the committee has not finally disposed of the complaint 881  
within six months after the complaint is filed with the 882  
committee. The committee shall notify the accused person in 883  
writing of the dismissal of the complaint. The committee shall 884  
not issue a report of its findings unless the accused person 885  
requests a report. If the accused person requests a report, the 886  
committee shall issue a report in accordance with division (F) 887  
(2) of this section. If the committee issues the report, all 888  
evidence and the record of the hearing shall remain confidential 889  
unless the accused person also requests that the evidence and 890  
record be made public. Upon request by the accused person, the 891  
committee shall make the evidence and the record available for 892  
public inspection. 893

(G) (1) Any report of the committee that is issued pursuant 894  
to division (E) (1) of this section and contains a finding that 895  
the facts in the complaint are true and constitute a violation 896  
of Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised 897  
Code, or that is issued pursuant to division (E) (2) of this 898  
section and contains a finding that a breach of privilege, 899  
misconduct, or violation of this Code of Ethics ~~or the House or~~ 900  
~~Senate Rules~~ has occurred and recommends reprimand, censure, 901  
expulsion, or another appropriate sanction, shall be entered in 902  
the House Journal and the Senate Journal. The House of 903  
Representatives and the Senate shall vote on approval of any 904  
report entered in the House or Senate Journal in accordance with 905  
this division. Concurrence of two-thirds of the members of both 906  
the House and the Senate shall be necessary for approval of the 907  
report, and, upon approval, any recommended sanction shall be 908  
imposed immediately. 909

(2) If the investigation of the committee results in a 910  
finding that a complaint that is filed is frivolous or that no 911  
misconduct, breach of privilege, or violation of Chapter 102. or 912  
section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, or this Code of 913

~~Ethics, or the House or Senate Rules~~ has been committed or if 914  
the committee terminates an investigation or dismisses a 915  
complaint pursuant to division (E) (2) or (3) of this section, 916  
the committee shall not issue a report of its findings unless 917  
the accused person requests a report. If the accused person 918  
requests a report, the committee shall issue a report and 919  
publish it in the House Journal, if the accused person is a 920  
member or employee of, or candidate for, the House of 921  
Representatives, or the Senate Journal, if the accused person is 922  
a member or employee of, or candidate for, the Senate or an 923  
employee of any legislative agency. A report published in the 924  
House or Senate Journal under division (F) (2) of this section 925  
does not require a vote by the House or Senate. 926

(H) A person against whom a complaint is filed shall be 927  
given by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by 928  
personal service reasonable notice of the date, time, and place 929  
of the hearing and a statement of the charges and the law or 930  
provision directly involved, and shall be granted the following 931  
rights: to be represented by counsel, to have counsel appointed 932  
for the person if the person is unable to afford counsel without 933  
undue hardship, to examine the evidence against the person, to 934  
have access to all information relative to the complaint that is 935  
in the possession or knowledge of the committee or the Office of 936  
the Legislative Inspector General, to produce evidence and to 937  
call and subpoena witnesses in the person's defense, to confront 938  
the person's accusers, to cross-examine witnesses, to have a 939  
stenographic record made of the hearing, to have the hearing 940  
follow the rules of evidence applicable to the courts of this 941  
state, and to have the hearing closed to the public. A person, 942  
with the approval of the committee, may waive any or all of such 943  
rights by executing a written waiver and filing it with the 944  
committee. 945

(I) The chairperson of the committee and the executive 946

director and chief legal counsel of the Office of the 947  
Legislative Inspector General may administer oaths, and the 948  
committee or the investigation subcommittee appointed pursuant 949  
to division (A) (1) of this section may issue subpoenas to any 950  
person in the state compelling the attendance of witnesses and 951  
the production of relevant papers, books, accounts, and records. 952  
The committee or the investigation subcommittee shall issue 953  
subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the 954  
production of documents upon the request of an accused person. 955  
Section 101.42 of the Revised Code shall govern the issuance of 956  
such subpoenas insofar as applicable. Upon the refusal of any 957  
person to obey a subpoena, be sworn, or answer as a witness, the 958  
committee or the investigation subcommittee may apply to the 959  
Court of Common Pleas of Franklin County under section 2705.03 960  
of the Revised Code. The court shall hold proceedings in 961  
accordance with Chapter 2705. of the Revised Code. The 962  
committee, the Office of the Legislative Inspector General, or 963  
the accused person may take the depositions of witnesses 964  
residing within or without the state in the same manner as 965  
prescribed by law for the taking of depositions in civil actions 966  
in the court of common pleas. 967

(J) (1) All complaints, papers, records, affidavits, and 968  
documents upon any complaint, inquiry, or investigation relating 969  
to the proceedings of the committee shall be sealed and are 970  
private and confidential, except as otherwise provided in this 971  
section. The substance of any charges received by the committee 972  
and of any request made by the committee for further 973  
information, any information received by the committee, all 974  
testimony and other evidence presented during a hearing, and all 975  
committee discussions are private and confidential, except as 976  
otherwise provided in this section. No person serving on or 977  
employed in the service of the committee, or employee of the 978  
Office of the Legislative Inspector General who staffs or 979

otherwise assists the committee or the Office of the Legislative 980  
Inspector General employee who staffs the committee shall 981  
divulge any of the following: 982

(a) Any matter concerning a complaint after it is filed 983  
with the executive director of the Office of the Legislative 984  
Inspector General; 985

(b) In the case of complaints initiated by the committee, 986  
any matter concerning a complaint after the matter is under 987  
investigation by the committee, whether before or after a 988  
complaint is filed; 989

(c) Any other information that is made private and 990  
confidential by this section. 991

(2) The requirement of confidentiality set forth in 992  
division (I)(1) of this section includes without limitation 993  
divulging any matter to members or employees of the House or 994  
Senate or employees of any legislative agency who are not 995  
members of or assigned to the committee or to any employees of 996  
the Office of the Legislative Inspector General who are not 997  
assigned to staff the committee or do not assist any Office of 998  
the Legislative Inspector General employee assigned to staff the 999  
committee, but does not prevent any of the following: 1000

(a) The issuance of a final report by the committee or any 1001  
commentary upon the contents of the final report; 1002

(b) Discussion of any complaint, request for an advisory 1003  
opinion, charges presented to the committee, information related 1004  
to a complaint, to an advisory opinion request, or to charges 1005  
presented to the committee, proceedings of the committee, or 1006  
other papers, records, affidavits, documents, or proceedings 1007  
that are made private and confidential by this section between 1008  
the members of the committee and any of the following: 1009

(i) Any employees or staff of the committee; 1010



(ii) Any employees of the General Assembly assigned to serve the committee, and any employee who serves as legal counsel for a caucus of the General Assembly; 1011  
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(iii) Any employees of the Office of the Legislative Inspector General assigned to staff the committee; 1014  
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(iv) Any other persons employed by or assigned to serve the committee. 1016  
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(c) The preparation of any documents necessary for the operation of the committee by employees of the General Assembly assigned to the committee chairperson, employees of the General Assembly assigned to staff the committee, or employees of the Office of the Legislative Inspector General who assist the Office of the Legislative Inspector General employee assigned to staff the committee, except that any confidentiality requirements of this section applicable to the members of the committee shall apply to the employees of the General Assembly, committee, or Office of the Legislative Inspector General who prepare those documents. 1018  
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(K) If a complaint filed with the committee alleges a violation by a member of the committee, the member against whom the allegation is made shall not vote on the matter. The committee shall conduct no business concerning complaints unless a majority of its members are present. 1029  
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(L) The committee shall deliver all notices and other documents by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by personal service. 1034  
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(M) Within fourteen days after the final disposition of a complaint, either by dismissal or by referral to the appropriate prosecuting authority, the committee shall notify the complainant of the dismissal or referral by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by personal service. 1037  
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SECTION 14. AMENDMENTS TO THE ETHICS CODE 1042

The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee may recommend 1043  
amendments to this Code of Ethics at any time by proposing to 1044  
the General Assembly a concurrent resolution containing the 1045  
desired amendments. 1046

SECTION 15. DISTRIBUTION OF ETHICS CODE 1047

Each member and employee of the General Assembly and each 1048  
employee of any legislative agency shall be given a copy of this 1049  
Code of Ethics within ten days after its adoption. 1050

SECTION 16. APPLICATION TO ~~131st~~ 132nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY 1051

The Code of Ethics for the ~~130th~~ 131st General Assembly 1052  
shall be effective until the ~~131st~~ 132nd General Assembly adopts 1053  
the Code of Ethics for the ~~131st~~ 132nd General Assembly. 1054